



## OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE


Marc Elrich  
County Executive

Tiffany Ward  
Director and Chief Equity Officer

### MEMORANDUM

April 30, 2024

To: Jennifer Bryant, Director  
Office of Management and Budget

From: Tiffany Ward, Director  
Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice 

Re: Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #24-81  
Relocatable Classrooms

- I. FINDING:** In March 2023, the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) for Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #23-84 Relocatable Classrooms (\$7.5m). Available information about SA #24-81 indicates that an increase for the Relocatable Classrooms Capital Improvements Program (CIP) project is necessary so that MCPS can begin contracting work related to FY25 Capital Budget Expenditures during FY24. This will enable relocatable classrooms to be ready for use for the next school year beginning in August 2024. Because there are no significant differences between SA #23-84 and SA #24-81, and there is no new information about how schools are selected, ORESJ's finding statement and analysis remain unchanged:

*The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finds that Supplemental Appropriation #23-84 Relocatable Classrooms provides a countywide resource and benefit to Montgomery County Public Schools. However, insufficient information exists to determine the extent to which this supplemental appropriation is likely to advance racial equity and social justice, so ORESJ's analysis is, therefore, inconclusive.*

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ORESJ, recommends that those considering SA #24-81 do so by reviewing the REIA that ORESJ submitted for SA #23-84, which is provided below.

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- II. **FINDING:** The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finds that Supplemental Appropriation #23-84 Relocatable Classrooms provides a countywide resource and benefit to Montgomery County Public Schools. However, insufficient information exists to determine the extent to which this supplemental appropriation is likely to advance racial equity and social justice, so ORESJ's analysis is, therefore, inconclusive.
- III. **BACKGROUND:** The purpose of Supplemental Appropriation #23-84 Relocatable Classrooms is to initiate the allocation of \$7.5m (which includes a \$2.5m increase in the FY24 Capital Budget expenditure) for Relocatable Classrooms (Capital Improvements Program P846540). This is a countywide project to address overutilization, class-size reduction, special education, and pre-kindergarten programs throughout the school system<sup>1</sup>. Accelerating the FY24 expenditure is requested so that contracts for leasing, relocation, and maintenance work can take place early in Summer 2023, and that units will be ready for the start of the 2023-2024 school year. Available information indicates that appropriation for this project first took place in FY84 and will indefinitely continue.

Typically, to determine the extent to which a supplemental appropriation like this is likely to advance racial equity and social justice in the County, ORESJ would assess available information that responds to the following questions:

1. How will the distribution of resources be determined?
2. What criteria are used to determine the prioritization of schools for relocatable maintenance and replacement?
3. How will inequities in opportunity and achievement disproportionately impact students of color, students approved for the Free and Reduced Meals Program (FARMS), and students enrolled in English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), influencing the prioritization of schools for relocatable maintenance and replacement?
4. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future addresses five main policy areas, in what ways will this allocation support the implementation of Blueprint for Maryland's Future?

Responses to these questions, along with an understanding of the intersection of school environment and achievement, are essential for conducting a racial equity analysis of the

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<sup>1</sup> RESJ Template Response. February 2023.

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Relocatable Classroom project. At the time of this assessment, information related to the above questions was not available for analysis making it difficult to assess whether the processes related to this project are equitable or how historical inequities in school resource allocation are considered.

For more information about the intersection of school environment and achievement, please see REIA of Supplemental Appropriation #22-63 MCPS Lifecycle Upgrades<sup>2</sup> and Supplemental Appropriation #23-05 MCPS Major Capital Projects -- Secondary. The main highlights from these REIAs confirm that school quality—including facilities that make up the school environment—impacts teacher recruitment and retention and other indicators like student attendance, test scores, effort, and health of the overall school community<sup>34</sup>.

cc: Monique Felder, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools  
Ken Hartman, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/22-63.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/22-63.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/23-05.pdf>