



OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE


Marc Elrich
County Executive

Tiffany Ward
Director and Chief Equity Officer

MEMORANDUM

June 5, 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) #24-89 E-Rate Technology Modernization Project (No. 036510), \$1,522,038

- I. **FINDING:** In June 2023, the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice completed a Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) for Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #23-103, FY23 Capital Budget Montgomery County Public Schools Technology Modernization. Available information about SA #23-103 indicates that an increase for the Technology Modernization Capital Improvements Program (CIP) project is necessary so that MCPS can receive Federal rebates for eligible internet and telephone purchases and support technology upgrades and expansion. There are no significant differences between SA #24-89 and SA #23-103, and the supplemental funding is a continuation of Federal funding MCPS has received since FY2010. Therefore, ORESJ's finding statement and analysis remain unchanged:

Finding REIA #23-103 has the potential to advance racial equity and social justice in Montgomery County as it targets resources to households most burdened by the digital divide to help increase access to computers and reduce opportunity and achievement gaps in education such as the Homework Gap. Of note, the absence of demographic data makes it difficult to determine to what extent this supplemental will mitigate racial disparities in educational outcomes for low-income MCPS students identified as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC).

- II. **BACKGROUND:** The purpose of SA #24-89 is to fund internet, wireless and landline telephone, and network connection costs that are eligible under the Federal program for E-Rate rebates. The Technology Modernization project is a level of effort project

Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice

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Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #24-89 E-Rate
Technology Modernization Project (No. 036510)

June 5, 2024

Page 2 of 2

that funds technology upgrades, expansion, and innovation improvements throughout the school system. ¹ Technology Modernization projects include buying Chromebooks, teacher laptops, lab tech, network gear, software, and other innovative technologies.

ORESJ, recommends that those considering SA #24-89 do so by reviewing the REIA that ORESJ submitted for SA #23-103, which is available at the following link:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/23-103.pdf>.

cc: Monique T. Felder, Interim Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools
Ken Hartman, Director, Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive

¹ Technology Modernization Available at:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OMB/Resources/Files/omb/pdfs/fy25/ciprec/P036510.pdf>.