



OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Tiffany Ward
Director and Chief Equity Officer

MEMORANDUM

October 29, 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) for Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #25-24 FY25 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Improving Adolescent Health and Well-Being Grant, \$367,500

I. **FINDING:** The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finds that *Supplemental Appropriation #25-24 FY25 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Improving Adolescent Health and Well-Being Grant* has the potential to advance equitable outcomes for Montgomery County students identified as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC). MCPS students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer (LGBTQ+) in addition to MCPS students with intellectual and developmental disabilities also stand to benefit from this supplemental request as these groups of students are prioritized in the funding request.

II. **BACKGROUND:** *Supplemental Appropriation #25-24 FY25 Operating Budget, MCPS, Improving Adolescent Health and Well-Being Grant* provides funds intended to foster healthy behaviors in students and prevent and buffer the impact of adverse experiences by building schools capacity to: provide quality health education; connect students to health services (including mental and behavioral health services); and create safe and supportive environments.¹ Specifically, the funds will be used to provide for:

- Position and non-position salaries;

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/whatworks/what-works-overview.htm>

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- Associated employee benefits;
- Contractual services;
- Instructional supplies and materials;
- Local travel mileage reimbursement;
- Travel for professional development; and
- Indirect costs

This supplemental request also aims to support elementary and secondary health education, ongoing professional learning, partnership establishment, and outreach initiatives. Funding will also support the collection and use of school-based surveillance data. Data collected through the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance² System and School Health Profiles³ will track student behaviors and experiences in an effort to better understand program and policy impact while also assessing the need to improve adolescent health over time. Program strategies have been linked to improvements in mental health for students and reductions in sexual risk behaviors, experiences of violence, and substance abuse.⁴

ANALYSIS: Information accompanying this supplemental request specifically states that the grant will *enhance equitable access to comprehensive health education and resources for all students and facilitate a range of health services – including mental and behavioral health support – with an emphasis on establishing safe and supportive environments particularly for students identifying as LGBTQ+, students from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds, and those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.* Limited background information accompanied this supplemental request that would have better enabled ORESJ to fully assess any potential impacts that could lead to more equitable outcomes for MCPS students related to health and well-being. ORESJ has previously written on similar supplemental requests and implores MCPS and other readers to refer to the following REIAs as they begin to implement the program:

1. REIA of Supplemental Appropriation #24-64 Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Programs—Healthy Schools Facility Fund
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/24-64.pdf>
2. REIA of Supplemental Appropriation #24-44 Department of Health and Human Services Increase Somatic Services at Montgomery County Public Schools, \$1,168,672 to the FY24 Operating Budget
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/24-44.pdf>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/yrbs/about/index.html>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/school-health-profiles/about/index.html>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/whatworks/what-works-overview.htm>

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3. REIA of Supplemental Appropriation #23-98 School-Based Health and Linkages to Learning Centers
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/23-98.pdf>
4. REIA of Supplemental Appropriation #23-68 – Amendment to the FY23 Operating Budget for Maryland School-Based Health Center Program
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/23-68.pdf>

cc: Dr. Thomas W. Taylor, Superintendent of Schools, Montgomery County Public Schools
Tricia Swanson, Director, Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive