

Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Rockville, Maryland

October 24, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Policy FAA, Education Facilities Planning, Demographic Composition of Schools  
(09-24-18-02-A)

During the discussion of Policy FAA, *Educational Facilities Planning*, Board members requested the following information:

**Question A**

Mrs. Evans requested information regarding how making changes to the demographic composition of all schools would impact the school system's federal funding.

**Response**

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is expected to receive \$76,114,327 in grant funding from the federal government. This represents 2.9 percent of the MCPS FY 2019 Operating Budget.

Generally, federal grants that MCPS receives are based on the demographics of our total student enrollment districtwide such as students living in poverty, students who speak English as a second language, and students with disabilities. A change in demographics of an individual school, as mentioned in Policy FAA, *Educational Facilities Planning*, does not change the total funding amount that MCPS as a district receives for an individual federal grant.

One of the largest grants that MCPS receives from the federal government is Title I of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* that was replaced by the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA). Title I, Improving Basic Programs Operated by State and Local Education Agencies, provides funding to close the achievement gap for students from low-income families. Based on the Title law, only schools comprised of at least 40 percent of students from low-income families can receive Title I funding. MCPS is projected to receive \$29,102,789 in Title I funding in FY 2019.

For the 2018–2019 school year, MCPS has 60 elementary schools with an enrollment of at least 40 percent of students from low-income families. In order to allocate this Title I funding for the greatest impact on reducing the achievement gap by maximizing the per pupil allocation, MCPS allocates its Title I funding to 23 schools that range from a low of 68.2 percent (Bel Pre Elementary School) students from low-income families to a high of 89.6 percent (JoAnn Leleck Elementary School at Broad Acres).

Under the new Policy FAA, one of the factors to be considered in selecting sites for new schools, changing school boundaries, or establishing geographic student choice assignment plans is the demographic characteristics of the student population. This includes consideration of striving to promote the creation of a diverse student body in each of the affected schools. It is possible that as a result of changing the demographics of a student body in a school to promote diversity, the enrollment of students from low-income families in a particular school could change from one year to the next.

As previously stated, the Title I funding amount that MCPS receives in a given year is based on the total number of MCPS students from low-income families districtwide and not the intensity in a particular school. As a result, Policy FAA will have no impact on the total annual amount of Title I funding that MCPS receives in a given year. Because MCPS allocates Title I funding to elementary schools with the highest enrollment of students from low-income families, unless a substantial number of students from low-income families were moved from one school to a neighboring school, it is unlikely that an elementary school receiving Title I funding would decrease from more than 68 percent to less than the 40 percent minimum requirement for Title I funding.

Each year, MCPS reevaluates which schools receive Title I funding. A school that had a reduction in its percentage of students from low-income families due to Policy FAA, but still greater than 40 percent of students from low-income families would be part of that reevaluation process. Moreover, it should be noted that MCPS provides focus school funding to 46 schools in the 2018–2019 school year including 37 schools with an enrollment of students from low-income families between the Title I minimum of 40 percent and the Title I school with the lowest enrollment of students living in poverty.

If you have questions, please contact Ms. Nicola Diamond, chief financial officer, at 240-740-3160.

JRS:ND:TPK:jp

Copy to:

Dr. Navarro	Dr. Johnson
Dr. Statham	Ms. Diamond
Dr. Zuckerman	Mr. Turner
Mr. Civin	