

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: Current Status of ESOL (09-24-18-01-D)

During Board Comments, Ms. Ortman-Fouse requested the following information:

**Question D**

The current status of our ESOL (English as a Second Language) students after the reorganization of the ESOL department.

**Response**

During the last three years, several adjustments have been made to the organization of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services to maximize direct supports to students, families, and schools. In addition, the structure was modified to align ESOL curriculum and instructional staff with other content areas in the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs (OCIP).

For example, 36 full-time parent community coordinators (PCCs) in the Division of Student, Family, and School Services in the Office of Student and Family Support and Engagement (OSFSE) support families to secure information and assistance to support their children and to ensure their success. PCCs represent a variety of cultures, languages, and races and are assigned to selected schools within clusters to help optimize family outreach services in school communities most impacted by poverty and with high concentrations of English language learners. PCCs also provide systemwide parent/guardian outreach support in English and the following languages: Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, French, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

During the 2017–2018 school year, in addition to conducting parent workshops and supporting schools with parent engagement activities, PCCs served 14,038 families through direct support to individual students and families. According to PCC data collection, 68 percent of the families served had students in the ESOL program.

In addition, 10 full-time ESOL transition counselors in International Admissions and Enrollment, OSFSE, directly support ESOL students at schools with Multidisciplinary Educational Training and Support programs, with the largest populations of ESOL students, and also through districtwide referrals from all other schools. ESOL transition counselors are bilingual/multilingual mental health professionals trained in counseling and multicultural issues; deliver ESOL counseling services including individual and group counseling, classroom guidance, consultation; and provide regularly scheduled supports in schools. ESOL transition counselors also support unaccompanied immigrant children dealing with the effects of trauma and family reunification and collaborate with PCCs to support families and increase parental involvement.

ESOL instructional specialists in OCIP work alongside instructional specialists in all content areas to ensure that curricular resources are aligned to rigorous standards and instructional supports for ESOL students are embedded across content areas. Content area teams and ESOL instructional specialists work together to provide support to schools, elevate pedagogy and instructional practices that best serve ESOL students, develop rigorous instructional materials and assessments, and plan and deliver professional learning for teachers and leaders.

We will schedule a discussion at an upcoming Committee on Special Populations meeting about the programs Montgomery County Public Schools has in place to support ESOL student achievement, how students are doing, and mental health supports. Furthermore, to better understand the impact of these organizational structures, staff in the Office of Shared Accountability will conduct an evaluation to study the impact on student achievement and to gather data and stakeholder voices about how the current structure is serving students and schools. I anticipate the evaluation will be completed in spring 2019 and will help inform our organizational models moving forward.

If you have additional questions, please contact Dr. Maria V. Navarro, chief academic officer, at 240-740-3040.

JRS:MVN:BJC:jpm

Copy to:

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