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INFORMATION

Office of the Chief Technology Officer
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

August 6, 2015

MEMORANDUM

To: All Principals

From: Sherwin A. Collette, Chief Technology Officer 

Subject: INFORMATION—Chromebook and Technology Modernization Program
Changes Due to Budget Reductions

Summary

This memorandum is to inform you of the adjustments to the Summer 2015 Technology Modernization (Tech Mod) and Chromebook rollout programs. These adjustments are necessary because the \$3 million that had been included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Operating Budget was eliminated from the FY 2016 Operating Budget. As you know, in FY 2015 we funded an initiative to acquire mobile devices to support the transformation of our learning environments for teaching and learning in the digital age. We purchased and deployed more than 40,000 Chromebooks in FY 2015 in Grades 3, 5, 6, and social studies classes in high schools. The plan for the 2015–2016 school year was to purchase Chromebooks for Grades 2, 4, 7, and for another subject in high schools.

However, as a result of the \$3 million operating budget reduction, we must revise the plans for purchasing and rolling out Chromebooks for the 2015–2016 school year. To maintain even a partial rollout of Chromebooks for our students, we have restructured some of the expenditures within the FY 2016 Capital Budget that funds the Tech Mod project. As a result, none of the existing computers that were scheduled for this summer's Tech Mod services will be replaced in schools. We will replace printers as scheduled, run diagnostics, and update the existing 4-year old computers with a new image.

By not replacing the computers and reprioritizing other expenditures in the Tech Mod budget, we are able to move forward with rolling out Chromebooks to Grade 4 and approximately 150 middle school classrooms. In the coming weeks, we will confer and coordinate with middle school principals on the selection of high utilization classrooms in which to assign the limited number of Chromebooks available for middle schools.

In addition, high schools participating in Tech Mod this summer will receive three carts of Chromebooks to be used to support individual school program needs. Although there is not sufficient funding to include all high schools at this time, we will work with high school principals on a process to reallocate some Chromebook carts from schools' current allocations. Several high school principals have inquired about reallocating Chromebook carts from some social studies classrooms. We support this redistribution as an opportunity to provide these instructional experiences to students and teachers who will consistently and meaningfully integrate these technologies into the instructional program. It is important that we work closely together to reallocate the carts to ensure we plan for the professional development for teachers who will be integrating the Chromebooks and Google Apps for Education into their classrooms. Moreover, through this coordination we can ensure readiness for the start of school and maintain accurate accounting of the inventory of assigned devices. Please note that the technology plans for new and modernized schools and schools with new additions remain unchanged and will proceed as planned.

Staff members in my office have begun the process of contacting schools scheduled for Tech Mod this summer to discuss specific needs, to begin refurbishing existing computers, and to revise activities scheduled for this summer. Again, because of the operating budget reduction and the necessary restructuring of the Tech Mod funding, this summer's technology updates will not include providing schools with new desktop computers. To the extent feasible, the upgrades to existing hardware and other software modifications will occur on the dates previously arranged for this summer's Tech Mod schools.

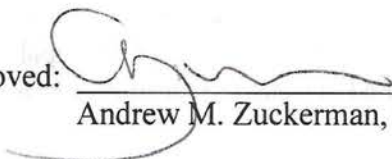
Questions

If you have any immediate questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Jennifer L. Skoda, supervisor, Department of Technology Integration and Support, at 240-314-3880 or via e-mail, or I can be reached at 301-279-3581 or via e-mail.

SAC:sjk

Copy to:

Executive Staff
Mrs. Camp
School Administrative Secretaries
Mrs. Skoda
Dr. Trenkamp
Mrs. Cuttitta
Mr. Koutsos
Mr. Lloyd

Approved: 

Andrew M. Zuckerman, Chief Operating Officer