

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

December 21, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Monifa B. McKnight, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Virtual Academy (10-28-2021-01-C, -D)

During the ESSER grant funding discussion, Board members requested the following information:

Question C

Ms. O’Looney requested a copy of the enrollment changes that may be happening in the Virtual Academy, since students should be able to switch in and out at the end of each quarter.

Response

Virtual Academy (VA) staff worked with stakeholder groups to outline three return to in-person learning dates for students desiring to return to their home school. These defined windows are scheduled around natural transition times within marking period two, provide consistent processes for all schools as to expectations for student scheduling and grade transfers, and alleviate the expected larger than normal volume of transfer requests at the end of semester one. As students return to in-person learning, the VA will invite students who are on the waitlist to enroll. Currently, there are approximately 500 students on the waitlist.

Two data points are provided:

- [Return to In Person Learning Requests](#)
- Current Enrollment in the Virtual Academy (as of December 15th)

Grade	Students			Race	Percent
K	141			AS	24%
1	230			BL	32%
2	244			HI	25%
3	221			MU	6%
4	257			PI	0%
5	279			WH	13%
6	225				
7	208				
8	190			Services	Percent
9	159			FARMS	43%
10	190			IEP	15%
11	150			LEP	12%
12	178				
Total	2672				

Question D

Ms. Silvestre requested data regarding the Virtual Academy: Who is attending and at what times? Also include demographic breakdowns of the attendees.

Response

The VA runs a synchronous program daily and mirrors the instructional times that in-person learning offers. The enrollment for this program is included in the preceding chart.

There currently are 788 students enrolled in a total of 1,114 courses in Online Pathway to Graduation (OPTG), the afterschool and evening program where students can take up to two classes at a time for credit recovery, first time credit, grade improvement, and electives/interest. This afterschool and evening program is a blended learning model where students work asynchronously on units, practice, and quizzes, and participate in class at least once per week with a teacher. Required, synchronous sessions are one hour in length and meet at regularly scheduled times between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Support sessions are available every afternoon and evening from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. as students work through course material and assignments. The OPTG Program will expand this year and next year to include high interest courses, additional foreign language courses, and a wide variety of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math elective courses.

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Copy to:

Executive Staff

Mrs. Webb