

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

January 16, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education  
From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools  
Subject: Recovery and Academic Program Update

**Question**

Mrs. Rebecca Smondrowski requested an update on the Recovery Academic Program at the Landing.

**Response**

The following information provides you with an update on the Recovery and Academic Program (RAP).

**Grant Activities**

- Purchased classroom furniture;
- Purchased technology for students (e.g., Chromebooks and printer);
- Developed brochure, application form, exchange of information form;
- Conducted more than 20 intake meetings to discuss program and develop recovery and academic plans;
- Enrolled students (16 currently enrolled and 3 in the intake process);
- Coordinated daily transportation for students to The Landing for RAP;
- Coordinated daily meal delivery and submitted weekly food counts to staff in the Division of Food and Nutrition Services;
- Hired certificated teachers (three currently employed and one [mathematics] starting at the end of January);
- Purchased copies of textbooks and reading list books for student use at The Landing;
- Purchased seats in APEX Learning for students who need to take online classes that currently are not available on the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) platform; and
- Identified an additional classroom at The Landing for program participants.

Goals and objectives included opening RAP and beginning to serve the educational and recovery needs of students. This is an ongoing goal and objective to continue to serve the needs of students in recovery.

Opening RAP to begin serving students took longer than anticipated and the first students enrolled at the beginning of the 2018–2019 school year. Once students were enrolled, timelines were followed.

Spending was slower than anticipated because of the delay in preparing the site and enrolling students. Costs for transportation and teacher pay initially were underestimated. Students attend for a longer day than originally proposed (i.e., students begin the day at 10:00 a.m., and not at 12 noon, as originally proposed). Transportation accounts for a large portion of the budget as enrolled students reside in various locations throughout Montgomery County and need to be transported to The Landing in Gaithersburg. Transportation costs have been greater than anticipated. Further, we spent less than expected on Chromebooks for student use, which allowed for the purchase of a printer and additional technology and instructional materials that students required in order to complete assignments.

### **Progress**

RAP is meeting the needs of the majority of the students enrolled and attending the program each day. The pick-up locations were difficult for some students to access; we were able to alter the plan to meet individual needs. We are receiving student referrals from the Department of Juvenile Justice, schools, parents/guardians, counselors, pupil personnel workers, and other treatment programs in the area. We are in the process of conducting individual family meetings to share the recovery and academic progress for each student. When adequate progress is not being made, we discuss other alternative programs designed to meet the needs of students who are not ready, willing, or able to access recovery support.

As with any recovery support program, we have experienced student relapse. We work collaboratively with The Landing peer support specialists, program director, therapist, and the family to address each individual situation. Another challenge for a small number of students is attendance. We are utilizing the academic and recovery goals to address attendance challenges and are working with the Department of Juvenile Justice where appropriate. Our daily schedule has been updated to include a student-led recovery group during the school day to coincide with lunch. MCPS is requesting that grant funds not currently expended be carried over to the next year.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Jonathan T. Brice, associate superintendent for student and family support and engagement, Office of the Chief Academic Officer, at 240-453-2426.

JRS:MVN:JTB:ear

Copy to:  
Executive Staff  
Ms. Webb