

**Caroline County
Board of Supervisors Agenda
Executive Summary**

Meeting Date: **June 8, 2021**

Title: **New Business – Proposed Supplemental Appropriations to FY
2020/2021 School Budget**

(Check Mark)

<input type="checkbox"/> Consent	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed Meeting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing
<input type="checkbox"/> No Action (Information Only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint Presentation

Summary: Caroline County Public Schools (CCPS) is requesting the following three budget amendments (supplemental appropriations) to the FY 2020/2021 school budget to reflect grants received from the state and federal government:

- Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER)/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grants in the amount of \$229,654
- Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) in the amount of \$722,225
- School Security Grant Program funds in the amount of \$60,186 to the Maintenance Category

According to CCPS, the Coronavirus Relief Funds have been spent in their entirety in accordance with the original deadline of December 30, 2020. The School Security Grant will be spent in full by the end of the current fiscal year. The GEERS/ESSER grants have been only partially spent. The remaining carryover funds have already been placed in the FY22 budget. However, CCPS is requesting an appropriation in the current fiscal year as some funds have already been spent and the schools will receive the revenues in FY21.

Additional information is attached. CCPS representatives will attend the June 8 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Budget Impact: No additional County funds are required related to this request

Action(s) Requested of Board: Discuss and direct staff

Budget Amendment #3 for GEER/ESSER grants

On October 2, 2020, CCPS was awarded GEER (Governor's Emergency Education Relief)/ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) fund allocations to be expended by September 30, 2022 in the following categories:

- Special Education Services & Support - \$16,314.12
- SE Universal Screen - \$12,600
- Summer Academic Academy - \$74,642
- Instruction Delivery Support - \$14,532.75
- School Nutrition - \$20,392.33
- Vision - \$38,277
- Cleaning Supplies - \$15,394
- Facility Upgrades - \$37,500
- Total \$229,652.20

The GEER/ESSER grants were competitive grants to assist with the needs due to the coronavirus pandemic in the specific categories. CCPS applied for the grants in all nine available categories and were awarded funds in eight categories. Staff is presenting a budget amendment to increase special grant funds revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$229,654. Once approved by the school board, this budget amendment will need to be presented to the Board of Supervisors for appropriation.

Budget Amendment #4 for Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)

On October 9, 2020, CCPS was notified the receipt of \$722,225 in Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) which must be expended by December 30, 2020. These funds are received based on \$175 per pupil based on the state projected fall membership of 4,127.

The CRF awarded to school divisions must be spent on the following categories of allowable uses:

- **Testing Supplies** - expenses related to COVID-19 testing kits/testing costs for staff and students.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** - general PPE supplies and equipment for staff and students for use in safely returning to and attending school for in-person instruction.
- **Facility Cleaning and Sanitization** - expenses for supplies and equipment needed to clean and sanitize public school facilities, particularly those used for instruction. Includes signage for buildings and grounds providing safety directions.
- **Technology to Support Distance Learning** - includes one-time upgrades to division networks to improve virtual instruction delivery; additional student and staff devices needed to fully implement virtual instruction in the remote environment; refresh/replacement of student/staff computer devices near end of life or damaged to enable effective virtual instruction delivery; purchase of digital instructional content used in virtual instruction; and additional hotspot or MiFi devices enabling internet access for remote instruction.
- **Staffing** - supplemental staffing costs (salaries, wage, benefits) for staff with duties related to COVID-19 response/mitigation for a temporary period, including hazard pay or overtime, or to avoid layoffs or furloughs of staff with duties related to COVID-19 preparation/response/mitigation (e.g., extra teachers or instructional aides needed to maintain social distancing; additional substitute teachers needed to support virtual classes and/or teacher absences, as well as substitutes for absences of support personnel; aides that monitor students during the day; teachers providing

virtual instruction due to the pandemic; health services staff addressing COVID-related health needs; extra custodial, bus drivers, school nutrition staff, or other staff on temporary assignment for COVID-related duties). (Note: general, across-the-board, one-time employee bonuses are not an allowable use of CRF. See Question #29 in the U.S. Treasury FAQ guidance document.)

- **Capital Facility Upgrades** - includes school building HVAC cleaning, upgrades, and purchases related to COVID-19 mitigation; installation of plexiglass barriers, wall dividers, hot water service, and other building upgrades such as isolation areas to mitigate COVID-19; facility upgrades needed to prepare for in-person instruction. Any capital costs paid with CRF should be reasonable and necessary and tied directly to COVID-19 preparation, response, and mitigation.
- **Pupil Transportation** - includes school bus upgrades and purchases (purchases of additional buses needed due to capacity restrictions/extra route runs for social distancing and not routine bus replacements); also includes additional operating costs for extra bus routes due to capacity restrictions/social distancing. Any capital costs paid with CRF should be reasonable and necessary and tied directly to COVID-19 preparation, response, and mitigation. School buses should not be modified in any manner that would conflict with state or federal bus specification requirements.
- **Emphasize Special Student Populations** - In spending the CRF for the above uses, school divisions should emphasize the use of the funds in schools so that they impact as much as possible English Learner (EL) students, students receiving special education, and young learners in grades PK-3.

Staff is presenting a budget amendment to increase special grant funds revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$722,225. Once approved by the school board, this budget amendment will need to be presented to the Board of Supervisors for appropriation.

Budget Amendment #6 for School Security grant

On December 4, 2020, CCPS was awarded \$160,186 from the 2020 School Security Grant Program authorized by the 2013 General Assembly. The school division required match for this program is 25% or \$40,046.50. The funds are approved for the purchase and installation of the school security equipment requested on applications for Bowling Green Elementary, Caroline High, Caroline Middle, and Madison Elementary.

Currently, the operating budget has \$100,000 budgeted for the School Security Grant program and \$25,000.00 budgeted for the local match. Staff is presenting a budget amendment to increase the maintenance category in the amount of \$60,186.00. CCPS will also make an adjustment within the maintenance and technology categories for the additional required local match in the amount of \$15,046.50.

Increase: Maintenance Category - \$60,186

Increase: School Security Grant Revenues - \$60,186