



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Craig Howard, Deputy Director
Purpose: To receive testimony/final action - vote expected
Keywords: MCPS

AGENDA ITEM #12
June 23, 2020
Public Hearing/Action

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the FY20 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program, Montgomery County Public Schools, \$1,281,117 for the Technology Modernization Project (Source of Funds: Federal E-Rate Reimbursement)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The County Council will hold a public hearing and consider action on a special appropriation to MCPS' FY20 Capital Budget for the Technology Modernization project. The source of funds is Federal E-Rate reimbursement.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Board of Education requested this appropriation and CIP amendment on May 28, and the Council introduced this appropriation on June 16.
- This E-Rate reimbursement funding will be used to contribute to the effort of providing connectivity to students and families. To date, MCPS has distributed more than 5,000 internet hotspots to families. E-Rate reimbursements will be used to offset some of the costs incurred and will be used to support expanding the number of devices MCPS will be able to purchase and provide as families and staff who need them.

This report contains:

Draft Special Appropriation Resolution
Board of Education Request (May 28, 2020)

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Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: County Council

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the FY20 Capital Budget, and
Amendment to the FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program,
Montgomery County Public Schools,
Technology Modernization Project, \$1,281,117
Source of Funds: Federal E-Rate Reimbursement

Background

1. Section 5-105 (d) of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland provides for the expenditure of non-local funds by the County Board of Education after adoption of the budget, only with the approval of the County fiscal authority.
2. Section 308 of the County Charter provides that a special appropriation is an appropriation which states that it is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency, or to act without delay in the public interest. Each special appropriation shall be approved by not less than six Councilmembers. The Council may approve a special appropriation at any time after public notice by news release. Each special appropriation shall specify the source of funds to finance it.
3. Section 302 of the County Charter provides that the Council may amend an approved capital improvements program at any time by an affirmative vote of no fewer than six members of the Council.
4. On May 28, the Board of Education requested a special appropriation for the Montgomery County Public Schools' FY20 Technology Modernization Capital Project as follows:

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
Technology Modernization	P036510	\$1,281,117	Federal E-Rate Reimbursement

5. This increase is needed to support MCPS' programs to provide access to technology for students beyond the school day and to expand access to interactive panels to all secondary classrooms.
6. Notice of public hearing was given and a public hearing was held.
7. The County Council declares this request is in the public interest to be acted upon without delay as provided for under special appropriation requirements described in Article 3, Section 308 of the Montgomery County Charter.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

A special appropriation for the FY20 Capital Budget and amendment to the FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program of the Montgomery County Public Schools is approved as follows:

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
Technology Modernization	P036510	\$1,281,117	Federal E-Rate Reimbursement

This is a correct copy of Council action.

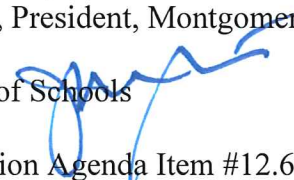
Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council

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

June 4, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Marc Elrich, County Executive
The Honorable Sidney A. Katz, President, Montgomery County Council

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Transmittal of Board of Education Agenda Item #12.6

Fiscal Year 2021 Supplemental Appropriation Request for Technology Modernization

BOE Meeting Date: May 28, 2020

Amount: \$1,281,117

Type of Action: Supplemental Appropriation—Technology Modernization

JRS:AMZ:PC

Attachment

Copy to:

Dr. Zuckerman

Ms. McGuire

Mr. Cevenini

Mr. Adams

Ms. Karamihas

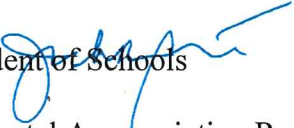
Montgomery County Office of Management and Budget

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

May 28, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Fiscal Year 2021 Supplemental Appropriation Request for Technology Modernization

Background

The County Council has approved the expenditure of Federal Education Rate (E-Rate) funds in the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Technology Modernization (Tech Mod) Project since Fiscal Year 2010. E-Rate, the Federal Communication Commission's Schools and Libraries Program, provides incentives for the use of technology in schools by offering rebates on Internet and telecommunication service costs. MCPS has been using E-Rate rebates for many years to expand student access to technology by purchasing technology hardware and software as part of the larger technology modernization plan. These rebates apply to expenditure costs that the district incurs for Internet, telephone (landlines and wireless) services, and network connections.

The continued strategic investment in the use of technology for teaching and learning has never been a more important strategy in actualizing the initiatives articulated in our system's Strategic Priorities. For many years, MCPS has focused on investing in a robust learning infrastructure that provides "anywhere and anytime" access to digital teaching and learning resources for all staff and students. Specifically, this work has enabled the expansion of wireless infrastructure for all school buildings and all classrooms. It also was coupled with the implementation of mobile devices for classrooms including Chrome Books and iPads. Most recently, these technologies have been reconfigured to create a learning infrastructure that connects students with teachers, learning resources, and wraparound services beyond the school building. During this unprecedented time, the role of learning technologies to provide continuity of learning, services, and well-being checks to students and their families in a remote learning environment has never been more essential. The investments made in the past seven years to build this robust learning infrastructure have positioned MCPS with the ability to provide this continuity of learning during spring 2020. Funding to maintain, expand, and improve this level of service to ensure we eliminate any digital divide is critical.

Specifically, the Tech Mod budget immediately was realigned to try to meet the current needs of staff and students as they engage in remote learning and service experiences. More than 70,000 Chrome Books have been loaned to students and staff, and we know that recovery and accounting for partial replacement of these devices will be critical moving forward into the 2020–2021 school year. In addition, significant expenditures were made to assist with connecting families to online registration for enrolling in school; providing Individual Education Program and Section 504 services; ensuring students are connected to learning experiences with teachers and school staff; and providing resources in accessible formats, including multiple languages. Technology purchases to build this infrastructure include hotspots for families and staff who need internet connectivity; video conferencing technologies to enable connecting in real time; and instructional applications that facilitate teaching, learning, and accessibility. Current Tech Mod expenditures are aimed at eliminating what has been described as the digital divide or the “homework gap” that exists in Montgomery County, and has been a core strategy for MCPS as we have implemented an umbrella of services for several years. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the implementation of this strategy and funding was realigned to begin to meet this need.

This E-Rate reimbursement funding will be used in the Tech Mod budget to contribute to the effort of providing connectivity to students and families now and as we go forward. To date, MCPS has distributed more than 5,000 internet hotspots to families who need this connectivity to learning and support resources. E-Rate reimbursements will be used to offset some of the costs incurred and will be used to support expanding the number of devices we will be able to purchase and provide as families and staff need them. To that end, a supplemental appropriation request in the amount of \$1,281,117 is necessary to offset costs and support the continued work of the Tech Mod CIP Project. The source of revenue is Federal E-Rate Reimbursement funding.

Therefore, I recommend that the Board approve the following resolution.

WHEREAS, Federal Education Rate funds in the amount of \$1,281,117 are available as a Fiscal Year 2021 appropriation to provide additional funding necessary to assist with the purchase of and service payment of mobile internet hotspots; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education request a Fiscal Year 2021 supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$1,281,117 for the Technology Modernization Capital Improvements Program Project to expend Federal Education Rate funds received in Fiscal Year 2021 to support the needed and continued expansion of mobile internet hotspots to families and staff who do not have internet connectivity; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the county executive and the Montgomery County Council; and be it further

Resolved, That the county executive be requested to recommend approval of this resolution to the County Council.

JRS:AMZ:sjk