



Committee: E&C
Committee Review: At a future date
Staff: Nicole Rodriguez-Hernandez, Legislative Analyst
Purpose: Public Hearing- receive testimony
Keywords: #MCPS #Capital Projects

AGENDA ITEM #8
October 25, 2022
Public Hearing
REVISED

SUBJECT

FY23 Capital Budget Supplemental Appropriation and Amendment to the FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program: Montgomery County Public Schools, \$750,000, Technology Modernization (Source of funds: Current Revenue: MCPS)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The Council will receive testimony on a FY23 capital budget supplemental appropriation and amendment to the MCPS FY23-28 CIP Technology Modernization project. The source of funds for this project is current revenue.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- On September 22, the Board of Education (BOE) approved the appropriation and amendment request. MCPS transmitted the request on September 30. The County Executive transmitted his recommendation on October 20. The Council originally introduced this as a special appropriation and amendment on October 11, however, with the receipt of the Executive's recommendation it can now be considered as a supplemental appropriation and amendment request.
- The Education & Culture Committee discussed the BOE's request and County Executive's recommendation on October 24. The Committee (3-0) recommend approving the request with the reappropriation of current fund balance as the source of funds, not undesignated reserves. The County Executive's recommendation also identified existing fund balance as the source of funds. The Office of Management & Budget has stated the funding source can be shown as Current Revenue: MCPS for the reappropriation of fund balance.
- The request will support a Teacher Device Choice Pilot program in one elementary, middle, and high school as a teacher retention strategy. The pilot will study: if device choice impacts teacher retention; impact on technology support; infrastructure; equitable teaching and learning; and budget. The appropriation will fund devices, licensing, repair, cables, and connectors to monitors and interactive boards.
- The Council is tentatively scheduled consider action on November 1.

This report contains:

October 24 E&C staff report
County Executive Transmittal
Board of Education Request
Revised PDF

©1
©5
©8
©11

Alternative format requests for people with disabilities. If you need assistance accessing this report you may [submit alternative format requests](#) to the ADA Compliance Manager. The ADA Compliance Manager can also be reached at 240-777-6197 (TTY 240-777-6196) or at adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov

MEMORANDUM

October 21, 2022

TO: Education and Culture Committee

FROM: Nicole Rodríguez-Hernández, Legislative Analyst
Essie McGuire, Senior Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation for the FY23 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)- \$750,000 for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Technology Modernization Project

PURPOSE: Make Committee recommendation on supplemental appropriation

Expected Participants:

- Stephanie Sheron, Chief, Strategic Initiatives, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
- Dr. Kara Trenkamp, Director, Department of Digital Innovation, MCPS
- Rob Reilly, Associate Superintendent of Finance, MCPS
- Mary Beck, Office of Management & Budget
- Veronica Jaua, Office of Management & Budget

The Committee will hold a worksession on a FY23 capital budget supplemental appropriation and FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) amendment request to provide \$750,000 through the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Technology Modernization project for a Teacher Device Choice Pilot program. The Board of Education (BOE) approved this request on September 22. The County Executive transmitted his recommendation on October 20. The transmittals, draft resolution, and revised draft PDF are attached at ©1-7.

The Committee may recommend action on the appropriation and amendment request and specify the funding source for the full Council.

A. Summary of Proposed Special Appropriation

The proposed FY23 capital budget appropriation and FY23-28 CIP amendment request would provide MCPS with \$750,000 in the Technology Modernization project for the Teacher Device Choice Pilot program. The Technology Modernization project funds technology needs to support the following four goals: 1) students will use technology to become actively engaged in learning; 2) schools will address the digital divide through equitable access to technology; 3) staff will

improve technology skills through professional development; and 4) staff will use technology to improve productivity and results.

The BOE approved the request on September 22 and it was officially transmitted on September 30. The County Executive transmitted his recommendation on October 20. The County Executive recommends approval of the appropriation and amendment request.

The Council originally introduced the request as a special appropriation and amendment on [October 11](#). However, now that the Council has received the County Executive's recommendation and draft resolution, the request can now be considered as a supplemental appropriation.

The public hearing on this request is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 25.

Teacher Device Choice Pilot Program Purpose Summary.

In their FY23 appropriation and amendment request, MCPS states they are continuing to expand ways to recruit and retain high quality staff to maintain a strong educational program. One new strategy is the requested Teacher Device Choice Pilot program.

The \$750,000 pilot will include funding for devices, licensing, repair, cables, and connectors to monitors and interactive boards for three schools: one elementary school, one middle school, and one high school. In a response to Council staff's questions, MCPS notes that the specific schools will be identified within the coming weeks. Based on stakeholder input, criteria for school selection includes but is not limited to: "established leadership, strong technical and instructional support, and schools with a diverse student population."

MCPS estimates 400-500 teachers will benefit from the pilot. However, the actual total is dependent on both the schools selected and how many teachers choose to take advantage of the new device.

As this is a pilot, MCPS will use it as a study to "determine whether offering choice of device serves as a retention strategy for teachers." Additional study factors include:

- Impact on technology support
- Infrastructure
- Equitable teaching and learning
- Budget

B. Fiscal Considerations

1. Requested Expenditures & Expansion

The supplemental appropriation request is for \$750,000 in the Technology Modernization project in FY23. The funding request was built on "consumer off-the-shelf pricing from several popular devices" for an average one-time device cost of \$1,400. The total also includes funding for licensing, repair, cables, and connectors to monitors and interactive boards, and potential

training/professional development. Specific pricing will be negotiated with the vendors after device selection (to be decided with stakeholder input). MCPS notes they have created a Request for Information (RFI) to solicit information on current and future product lines from several vendors for the device choice pilot.

If the evaluative study determines the pilot should be expanded, MCPS expects to start phasing in teacher device choice in their FY25 technology refresh cycle. Council staff’s rough estimate for one-time school districtwide expansion costs (\$250,000 per school for 210 schools) is \$52.5 million.

As the funding request is for the Technology Modernization project (not an operating budget appropriation), an increase would not directly impact the per pupil local contribution amount used to calculate Maintenance of Effort.

2. MCPS Fiscal Context and Appropriation Funding Source

The Technology Modernization project utilizes three funding sources within the project: Current Revenue; Recordation Tax; and Federal Aid. Current Revenue is the main funding source for this project.

Fund Balance. The County Executive recommends approval of the \$750,000 appropriation and amendment and specifies the source of funds as “Current Revenue: MCPS which is available from excess fund balance as of the end of FY22.”

On August 26, MCPS transmitted the BOE approved FY22 Operating Budget End-of-Year Categorical Summary and Transfer request. The [memorandum](#) also included the most recent summary of the projected FY22 end-of-year fund balance and the beginning FY23 fund balance as of June 2022 (table below).

	As of June 2022
FY 2020 End-of-Year Fund Balance	\$31,281,287
Amount Used to Fund FY 2022 Operating Budget	(25,000,000)
Beginning FY 2022 Fund Balance	6,281,287
FY 2022 Revenue Deficit	(1,837,355)
FY 2022 Expenditure Surplus	40,534,647
FY 2022 End-of-Year Available Fund Balance as of 6/30/2022	44,978,579
Amount Used to Fund FY 2023 Operating Budget	(35,000,000)
Beginning FY 2023 Fund Balance	9,978,579

As shown in the table, MCPS identifies \$9,978,579 in beginning FY23 fund balance. Compared to recent prior June beginning fund balance totals, the FY23 amount is substantially larger. In FY22, the beginning fund balance was \$2,185,852. In FY21, the beginning fund balance was \$2,565,093. MCPS’ memorandum notes the beginning fund balance is higher than expected due to reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Interagency Coordinating Board for the Community Use of Public Facilities as well as late-in-FY22 revenue receipts.

The County Executive’s recommendation specifies the FY23 beginning fund balance as the source of funds, reducing the total fund balance to \$9,228,579. The Office of Management & Budget has confirmed the reappropriation of fund balance can be allocated to the Technology Modernization project through the Current Revenue funding source.

It is important to note that the Council must approve the reappropriation of fund balance for MCPS to utilize it in the current or future fiscal years.

FY23 Approved Funding & Federal Aid. During final budget approval for the FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and FY23 Capital Budget, the Council approved a total of \$26.7 million in FY23 for the Technology Modernization project. The FY23 amount is consistent with the amount allocated in the Amended FY21-26 CIP for the Technology Modernization project.

In addition, MCPS expects to continue to utilize a portion of their Federal and State Aid received as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic towards technology costs for students and staff.

3. Committee Decision Point

The Committee may consider a recommendation and specified funding source for full Council on the proposed FY23 capital budget appropriation and FY23-28 CIP amendment request which would provide MCPS with \$750,000 in the Technology Modernization project for the Teacher Device Choice Pilot program.

Council staff concurs with the Executive’s recommendation—approve the appropriation and amendment request and specify the source of funds as MCPS’ existing fund balance (Current Revenue: MCPS).

This report contains:

County Executive Transmittal
Draft Resolution (Supplemental)
BOE Transmittal
Draft Revised PDF


Page #

©1
©2
©4
©7

MEMORANDUM

October 20, 2022

TO: Gabe Albornoz, President
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive 

SUBJECT: Amendment to the FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program and
Special Appropriation #23-51 to the FY23 Capital Budget
Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
Technology Modernization (No. 036510), \$750,000

I am recommending a special appropriation to the FY23 Capital Budget and an amendment to the FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program in the amount of \$750,000 for the Technology Modernization project (No. 036510). Appropriation for this project will fund the implementation of the Teacher Device Choice pilot program as a retention strategy.

This increase is needed to fund the Teacher Device Choice pilot program to attract and retain high-quality educators to ensure the delivery of first-class educational programs. MCPS will identify one elementary, middle, and high school where to pilot this initiative. The recommended amendment is consistent with the criteria for amending the CIP because it offers the opportunity to achieve significant cost avoidance related to teacher turnover.

I recommend that the County Council approve this special appropriation and amendment to the FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program in the amount of \$750,000 and specify the source of funds as Current Revenue: MCPS which is available from excess fund balance as of the end of FY22.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

ME: vmj

Enclosures

Resolution No: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Amendment to the FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program and
Special Appropriation #23-51 to the FY23 Capital Budget
Montgomery County Public Schools
Technology Modernization (No. 036510), \$750,000

Background

1. Section 308 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that a special appropriation: (a) may be made at any time after public notice by news release; (b) must state that the special appropriation is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency or to act without delay in the public interest; (c) must specify the revenues necessary to finance it; and (d) must be approved by no fewer than six members of the Council.
2. Section 302 of the Montgomery 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.
3. The County Executive recommends the following capital project appropriation increases:

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Number</u>	<u>Cost Element</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
Technology Modernization	036510	Planning, Design and Supervision	\$750,000	Current Revenue: MCPS
TOTAL			<u>\$750,000</u>	

Special Appropriation #23-51 and Amendment to the FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program
 Page Two

4. This special increase is needed to fund the Teacher Device Choice pilot program to attract and retain high quality educators to ensure the delivery of first-class educational programs. MCPS will identify one elementary school, one middle school, and one high school where to pilot this initiative. The recommended amendment is consistent with the criteria for amending the CIP because it offers the opportunity to achieve significant cost avoidance related to teacher turnover.
5. The County Executive recommends an amendment to the FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program and a special appropriation in the amount of \$750,000 for Technology Modernization project (No. 036510) and specify that the source of funds Current Revenue: MCPS which is available from excess fund balance as of the end of FY22.
6. Notice of public hearing was given and a public hearing was held.

Action

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

1. The FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program of the Montgomery County Government is amended as reflected on the attached project description form and a special appropriation is approved as follows:

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Number</u>	<u>Cost Element</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
Technology Modernization	036510	Planning, Design and Supervision	\$750,000	Current Revenue: MCPS
TOTAL			<u>\$750,000</u>	

2. The County Council declares that this action is necessary to be acted upon without delay in the public interest, and that this appropriation is needed to implement the Teacher Device Choice pilot.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Judy Rupp
 Clerk of the Council

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

September 30, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Marc Elrich, County Executive
The Honorable Gabe Alborno, President, Montgomery County Council

From: Monifa B. McKnight, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Transmittal of Board of Education Agenda Item # 9.5



Fiscal Year 2023 Supplemental Appropriation Request for Teacher Device Choice Pilot Program

Historically, the Technology Modernization program has been supported and funded by the County Council through the Capital Budget. In order to implement this pilot initiative, the Montgomery County Public Schools Capital Budget will be supplemented by the County Council with an additional amount of \$750,000 which will be used to stand up and research the Teacher Device Choice Pilot Program.

BOE Meeting Date: September 22, 2022

Amount: \$750,000

Type of Action: Approval

MBM:MBH:RR:jp

Attachment

Copy to:

Mr. Hull

Mr. Reilly


Montgomery County Office of Management and Budget

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

September 22, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Monifa B. McKnight, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Fiscal Year 2023 Supplemental Appropriation Request for Teacher Device Choice Pilot Program

The expanded use of technology is a significant strategy in providing equitable access to resources and content within and beyond the school day. It provides staff and students the ability to communicate, collaborate, and learn anywhere and anytime. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) leveraged its learning infrastructure, that is a direct result of multiple years of strategic investments from several funding sources, including the valued, ongoing partnership with the Montgomery County Council. The strategic investments have allowed for the expansion of technology to include providing internet hotspots to students needing connectivity at home; software that allows for teachers and students to engage in interactive, personalized learning experiences; the continued replacement of interactive boards that are more than 15 years old; and providing devices for students and staff, including Chromebooks and laptops. These initiatives have provided greater access to the school system's expanding digital curriculum and are enabling our instructional staff to cultivate innovative learning spaces in all of our schools. In addition, they directly support and align to the district's focus on using technology as an accelerator for equity of access, opportunity, outcomes, and achievement.

As we continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, recruiting and retaining high quality staff has been a challenge for many businesses, including the business of education. MCPS continues to expand ways to attract and retain high quality educators and employees to ensure the delivery of a first-class educational program. In this effort, MCPS is focused on supporting teacher wellbeing, promoting teacher engagement, and creating a supportive culture. As we examine strategies to promote engagement and culture, one strategy that MCPS is interested in piloting is providing a choice of technology device for teachers as a retention strategy. One elementary school, one middle school, and one high school will be identified for the pilot. The pilot will be studied to determine whether offering choice of device serves as a retention strategy for teachers. Additional factors will be studied, including the impact on technology support, infrastructure, equitable teaching and learning, and budget. In order to implement this pilot teacher device choice program, funding in the amount of \$750,000 is requested as a supplemental appropriation from the County Council. This allocation includes funding

for devices, licensing, repair, cables, and connectors to monitors and interactive boards. Should this initiative be expanded in the future to include more schools, additional funding also will need to be allocated.

It is recommended that the Members of Board of Education request a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$750,000 to assist with the funding necessary to implement a pilot program on teacher choice of devices as a teacher retention strategy. Therefore, I recommend that the Board of Education approve the following resolution.

WHEREAS, funding in the amount of \$750,000 is needed as a Fiscal Year 2023 supplemental appropriation to provide additional funding necessary to assist with the purchase of devices, licensing, repair, cables, and connectors for a pilot program focused on teacher device choice as a retention strategy; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education request a Fiscal Year 2023 supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$750,000 to pilot the implementation of teacher choice of devices as a teacher retention strategy; and be it further

Resolved, That this request be forwarded to the county executive and the County Council for action; and be it further

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

MBM:PKM:SSS:lgp



Technology Modernization (P036510)

Category	Montgomery County Public Schools	Date Last Modified	05/20/22
SubCategory	Countywide	Administering Agency	Public Schools
Planning Area	Countywide	Status	Ongoing

Total	Thru FY21	Est FY22	Total 6 Years	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	Beyond 6 Years
-------	-----------	----------	---------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	----------------

EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Planning, Design and Supervision	530,355	345,251	28,866	156,238	29,574	26,664	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	530,355	345,251	28,866	156,238	29,574	26,664	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	-

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Current Revenue: General	234,993	84,542	16,165	134,286	20,995	26,623	23,231	21,544	22,401	19,492	-
Current Revenue: MCPS	750	-	-	750	750	-	-	-	-	-	-
Federal Aid	27,262	25,695	(511)	2,078	2,078	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recordation Tax	267,350	235,014	13,212	19,124	5,751	41	1,769	3,456	2,599	5,508	-
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES	530,355	345,251	28,866	156,238	29,574	26,664	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	-

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA (\$000s)

Appropriation FY 23 Request	26,746	Year First Appropriation	FY03
Appropriation FY 24 Request	26,664	Last FY's Cost Estimate	476,221
Supplemental Appropriation Request	750		
Cumulative Appropriation	378,010		
Expenditure / Encumbrances	-		
Unencumbered Balance	378,010		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Technology Modernization (Tech Mod) project is a key component of the Montgomery County Public School strategic technology plan, Educational Technology for 21st Century Learning. This plan builds upon the following four goals: students will use technology to become actively engaged in learning, schools will address the digital divide through equitable access to technology, staff will improve technology skills through professional development, and staff will use technology to improve productivity and results. An FY 2019 appropriation was approved to continue this project and the technology modernization program to our schools throughout the system. However, due to fiscal constraints, the County Council approved a reduction of \$3.622 million in FY 2019 from the Board of Education's request. An FY 2020 appropriation was approved to continue this project; however, due to fiscal constraints, the County Council shifted expenditures from FY 2021 and FY 2022 to FY 2023 and FY 2024. An FY 2021 appropriation was approved to continue this project and provide technology modernization to schools throughout the system. However, due to fiscal constraints, the County Council, in the adopted FY2021-2026 CIP, reduced the FY2021 and FY2022 expenditures for this project with respect the Board of Education's request. An FY 2022 appropriation was approved to continue this level of effort project and provide technology modernization to schools throughout the system. An FY 2023 appropriation was approved to continue this level of effort project and provide technology modernization to schools systemwide.

FISCAL NOTE

FY19 and FY20 funding switch between Recordation Tax and Current Revenue General for \$10,296,000 and \$6,280,000 respectively. FY21 reduction in requested Current Revenue: General for \$3.616 million and in FY22 for \$1.0 million with the assumption that in FY21 there will be \$1.2 million in Federal E-Rate.

FY21 supplemental for \$1,815,267 under Federal E-Rate Reimbursement

FY23 supplemental in Federal Aid for the amount of \$2,077,854.96

FY23 supplemental in Current Revenue: MCPS for the amount of \$750,000 from MCPS fund balance.

COORDINATION

FY 2023 -- Salaries and Wages: \$5M, Fringe Benefits: \$893K, Workyears: 36.5 FY 2024-2028 -- Salaries and Wages \$24M, Fringe Benefits \$5M, Workyears: 182.5.