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From: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

To: Mr. Mark Jinks, Alexandria City Manager

Topic: Virtual Plus+ Childcare Program (In-person student support) for school-aged children

Overview

To support Alexandria City Public Schools' (ACPS) vulnerable families during the COVID-19 pandemic, ACPS is partnering with the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority, The Campagna Center and Community Lodgings, Inc. to offer an ACPS Virtual PLUS+ Childcare proposed program for some of our most vulnerable school-aged students. The Virtual PLUS+ Childcare Program would offer free full-day childcare from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday for elementary (Kindergarten-fifth-grade) students at select sites citywide. Proposed programming will run 71 full days beginning September 8, 2020, the first day of the ACPS school year, and ending December 18, 2020, the last day before the ACPS winter break.

To ensure ACPS' most vulnerable students and families are served, the ACPS Virtual PLUS+ Childcare Program will be an invitation and enrollment program. ACPS will use a qualification rubric for each potential student, including students' academic need and parents' status as essential workers. Students who attend an identified Title I School and score the highest on the qualification rubric will be invited to complete a full application for enrollment at one of the nine sites.

ACPS' Virtual PLUS+ Childcare Program sites have been identified based on various factors, including geographic location, community need, provider capacity and designation as an ACPS 21st Century Community Learning Center (21 CCLC) - which allows for the use of federal Title IV, Part B grant funding to provide supplemental learning supports to disadvantaged students - to offset overall costs. ACPS will work closely with the City of Alexandria and the Alexandria Department of Health to determine the safety and feasibility of students returning to school following the division's winter break. Likewise, ACPS will work in collaboration with its Virtual PLUS+ Childcare Partners to determine, if needed, the capacity to extend services into the new year. There will also be consideration for expanding the number of students served at these and other possible sites as health and safety guidelines allow.

Qualifications/Recruitment

Capacity to provide full-day childcare services to ACPS students is largely limited by the number of provider staff currently available to support full-day programming. In total, this proposal would serve up to **350** of our most vulnerable students at no cost to the families. To qualify for the free program, ACPS Title I families would need to complete a simple online screening application. ACPS will launch a targeted outreach campaign to market this opportunity to our most vulnerable families. Families who need assistance completing the online screening will be directed to call bilingual parent liaisons that will assist them to complete the online form.

While all Title I ACPS kindergarten through fifth-grade students will be able to apply for the ACPS Virtual PLUS+ Childcare Program, a rubric will be used to ensure the highest need students are served. Applicants will receive three points for each of the following categories they fall into: 1) belong to racial/ethnic group, 2) eligible for free/reduced meals, 3) English Learner, 4) have an IEP, 5) did not meet PALS benchmark or reading below grade level; 6) experiencing homelessness; 7) in foster care; and/or 8) in a single parent household where parent/guardian is an essential worker or two-parent household where both parents/guardians are essential workers. An additional three points will be allotted to students at 21CCLC sites who were deemed eligible using similar criteria in 2019-20 school year and were active participants of the 21 CCLC program. Students with the highest rankings will be selected to participate in the free ACPS Virtual PLUS+ Childcare Program. If more students are determined highly eligible and space is available, a lottery system will be implemented for random selection among those students scoring the highest on the eligibility rubric.

For all other families who have indicated the need for childcare/school day and afterschool supervision, ACPS will list additional options through a resource list on our website.

Services Provided

The ACPS Virtual PLUS+ Childcare Program will provide supervision for ACPS kindergarten-fifth-grade students in a safe and nurturing environment while their parents serve our community as essential workers. Drop off will be curbside and students will be directed to designated rooms where they will be served along with a small cohort of their peers for the entirety of the day and throughout the program. These cohorts will help to ensure adherence to social distancing guidelines and allow for as minimal impact as possible in the case that a staff/student tests positive for COVID-19. During all times, besides meals, masks will be mandatory for both students and staff.

Virtual PLUS+ childcare staff will facilitate access to virtual learning during the school day following ACPS' elementary school schedule from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. While students may request assistance with accessing online materials, childcare staff are **not** expected to provide any instructional support. ACPS will provide necessary training for program staff to ensure they are comfortable navigating the various online learning platforms. Students will need to bring their ACPS-issued device to the program daily. Devices will be wiped down at the beginning and end of each day. ACPS will ensure WIFI access at all program sites for ease of connectivity as well as headsets to facilitate student learning within a shared space. Students will also be provided individual school supplies to access as needed during the school day so that there is no sharing of materials.

Following the virtual school day, students will participate in a range of enrichment activities and be provided the opportunity to socialize in small groups while adhering to social distancing guidelines. At seven of the nine program sites designated as 21 CCLC sites, enrichment will include a variety of elective clubs offered by outside partners and vendors to promote physical, social, emotional and cognitive

development, imagination and creative expression. Students will be able to choose from a variety of project-based activities, including robotics, coding, debate club, world art club, chess club, mathletes, creative writing and healthy cooking. All enrichment opportunities facilitated by community partners/vendors will be offered virtually. While some clubs will be facilitated completely online (chess, coding, animation, etc.), individual kits will be provided for hands-on projects. Utilizing the individual material kits provided by the partner/vendor, students will engage in project-based learning under the supervision of program staff. Outdoor recreational activities will also be offered in person by partners/vendors such as Alexandria Soccer Association, PK Move and Local Motion.

A nutritious breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner will also be provided during the program by the ACPS Office of Nutrition. Transportation services will **not** be offered. Students will need to be dropped off each day between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. so they can receive breakfast, be logged on to their device and be ready to learn when the virtual school day begins. Students must be picked up by 6:00 p.m. daily.

Budget Narrative

ACPS is seeking funding to support the cost of full-day services offered by Virtual PLUS+ Partners who are being asked to extend their traditional programs beyond the afterschool hours of 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to a full-day program. Specifically, the amount requested covers the cost of staffing full-day services at a 10:1 student-staff ratio as well as the cost of one supervisor position per site. Staffing rates are calculated using a rate of \$20 per hour, including FICA and Medicaid costs. In instances where sites are also designated as 21st Century Learning Community Centers, federal Title IV funding is available to support afterschool enrichment and academic support from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Funding requested for 21 CCLC sites, therefore, is limited to the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. In total, the cost of the proposed ACPS Virtual PLUS+ Childcare Program for school-aged children is over \$1.2 million.

Fortunately, we have approval from the state to use our 21st Century After School Grant Money (Title IV) to help offset the total cost. Because we are offering it at our Title I locations and because it is free for students, we can utilize that funding. That offset from this grant is approximately \$743,000. In addition to that offset amount, our Title I team has confirmed with state connections that we can also use Title I money in the amount of approximately \$200,000 dollars.

Although we continue to work with partners to officially confirm sites and program capacity numbers, currently with these offset amounts, we are still in need of approximately \$288,000.

Attached at the end of this document is the spreadsheet that further details the costs of the Virtual PLUS+ Childcare program. It also includes ACPS' cost per student for technology and nutrition.

Geographic Location	Site	Major Partners	Daily Student Capacity	Staff Needs @ 10:1 Ratio + Coord	Total Estimated Cost	Offset based on funding from ACPS 21st CCLC Funding	Offset from Title I Funding	Additional Supports for Students provided by ACPS	Potential Funding still Needed after ACPS offset based on 350 students	Potential Needed Funding Description
Old Town / Central = 70 served	ARHA - Ruby Tucker (21 CCLC Site)	ARHA, Campagna, DRPCA, Community Lodgings	10	2	\$275,562	\$186,102	\$0	Technology Costs that are covered by ACPS Include Technology: 2nd-5th graders - \$285 per chromebook PreK-2 - \$150 per tablet and \$14.95 per case = \$224.50 on average ACPS Nutrition is also looking to supply breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner to all families, and this runs about \$11.00 a day.	\$19,880	2 staff x \$20/hour x 7 hrs/day x 71 day
	Jefferson-Houston School (21 CCLC Site)		60	7					\$69,580	7 staff x \$20/hour x 7 hrs/day x 71 day
West End = 180 served	Ferdinand T Day School (21 CCLC Site)		60	7	\$246,393	\$176,813	\$0		\$69,580	7 staff x \$20/hour x 7 hrs/day x 71 day
	Patrick Henry		60	7	\$264,047	\$194,467	\$0		\$69,580	7 staff x \$20/hour x 7 hrs/day x 71 day
	William Ramsay Recreation Center		60	7	\$99,400	\$0	Approximately \$200,000		\$0	7 staff x \$20/hour x 11 hrs/day x 71 day
Chick Armstrong / Cora Kelly Recreation Center	40		5	\$109,340	\$0	\$0			7 staff x \$20/hour x 11 hrs/day x 71 day	
East Side / Chirilagua - 85 served	Community Lodgings - Fifer (21 CCLC Site)		15	2	\$245,281	\$185,641	\$0		\$59,640	6 staff x \$20/hour x 7 hrs/day x 71 days
	Community Lodgings - New Brookside (21 CCLC Site)		15	2			\$0			
	Community Lodgings - Beverly Hills (21 CCLC Site)		15	2			\$0			
			335	41	\$1,240,023	\$743,023	\$200,000		See above for additional ACPS funded areas.	\$288,260