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**PGCPS to Receive \$1.5 Million in Additional CARES Act Funding  
from Prince George County to Support School Division Needs**

PRINCE GEORGE, Va. - Prince George County Public Schools is due to receive approximately \$1.5 million in additional Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding from the Prince George County Board of Supervisors to help support a wide range of the school division's current needs, including technological and health-related spending.

On Tuesday, September 8, 2020, the county Board of Supervisors appropriated \$3.3 million toward a number of requests from county departments as part of Prince George's second round of CARES Act funding. PGCPS accounted for \$1,567,500.69 of funding requests submitted to the county for consideration.

CARES Act funds are able to be used to cover costs that are necessary expenditures in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, that were not accounted for in the budget most recently adopted as of March 27, 2020 (the date of the CARES Act's enactment), and were incurred during the period between March 1 through December 31, 2020.

Of the approximately \$1.56 million in CARES Act funding being provided by Prince George County to the school district, \$1.27 million is tied to technology-related spending. This funding supports PGCPS as they adapt to the current educational landscape due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic by further incorporating technology and other supports to help continue delivering high-quality instruction to students both on-campus and virtually. Some of those technology costs include:

- Providing internet access to 450 homes who currently lack access
- Providing devices to 1,170 elementary students to support those who chose virtual/remote instruction at the elementary level who have expressed the need to have a school-issued device
- Purchasing 2,299 additional devices needed to complete having one device per student in Grades K-4
- Cameras, microphones, and other equipment to support teachers instructing virtually
- Various assistive technology tools to support students with disabilities

Additionally, \$82,800 of the county-appropriated funding will be used toward contracting certified nursing assistants (CNAs) to serve in a clinic environment to allow separation from students and staff who do not exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 from those who may.

To support the school division's commitment to maintaining a clean and safe environment for our school communities, \$76,275.00 of the CARES Act funding will pay for additional custodial staff through the temporary use of substitutes to allow for nine additional custodians per day, one per school, for 75 days through December 2020. PGCPS will also use \$28,061 to fund the purchase of face masks and face shields for students, faculty, and staff. The school district will use approximately \$69,000 to pay for 70 air filtration systems that will be installed on all PGCPS buses to remove airborne infections and contaminants and Health Essentials MIST (Multi-Functional Innovative Sanitizing Technology) units, which are technological advances used to deter SARS, COV-2, and other viruses that cause COVID-19.

Approximately \$53,700 of the CARES Act funding will be spent for water fountains with purification systems at all county schools to ensure they are in compliance with health regulations and the school division's mitigation plans for preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

Finally, \$15,589 would be allocated toward virtual study hall/child care for staff on Fridays, which are considered virtual/collaboration/planning days, through December 31, 2020. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) allows staff to take leave due to childcare closures from service providers due to COVID-19-related reasons through the end of the calendar year.

"We are thankful to our partners on the Prince George County Board of Supervisors for providing this additional CARES Act funding to the school division," **Prince George County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Lisa Pennycuff said.** "This funding allows us to be able to make purchases that support our efforts to provide high-quality instruction to our students on campus and virtually in a manner that protects the health and safety of our entire school community."

"The Prince George School Board joins the school division in thanking the Prince George County Board of Supervisors for approving our COVID-19-related requests with CARES Act funding," **Prince George School Board Chairman Chris Johnson said.** "One of the blessings to come from this extraordinary time in our world is our ability to accelerate getting technology into the hands of our students to support their educational needs. These funds will help further the school division's technological goals, as well as purchase equipment that helps keep our students and staff safe."

"We are pleased to be able to assist Prince George County Public Schools and do some positive things during this unfortunate time with the CARES Act funding Prince George County has received," **Prince George County Board of Supervisors Chairman Donald Hunter said.** "While things like technology and personal protective equipment were among the school system's requests, there are several health and safety aids that were included through the school division's thought process to make effective use of the funding we are sharing with them. We will continue to support the school division in their efforts of educating our children."

This is the second disbursement of CARES Act funding from Prince George County to Prince George County Public Schools, On May 20, 2020, the Board of Supervisors allocated \$552,636 to Prince George County Public Schools as part of the county's first round of CARES Act funding disbursements.