

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 26, 2012

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #19: SCHOOL BOARD'S SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATOR POSITION

At the Joint City Council/School Board work session held on February 29, 2012 the Alexandria School Board presented a supplemental funding request to City Council seeking \$154,815 to pay for the annual cost of the School's Early Childhood Coordinator position. The Coordinator position was created by the Schools in FY 2010 with State Fiscal Stabilization (SFS) funds provided by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), better known as economic stimulus. Stimulus funding supported the Coordinator position during FY 2010 and FY 2011 before funding from the SFS grants expired in September 2011.

Knowing stimulus funds supporting the Coordinator position were set to expire, during the FY 2012 budget process the Coordinator position (along with other Early Childhood/Preschool program positions and costs) was categorized by the Schools as "shared program priorities" and identified as unfunded priorities. The Schools then sought City General Fund support from City Council to cover the cost of the Coordinator position for FY 2012. This request was formally presented to City Council during the joint Council/School Board budget work session held on March 30, 2011.¹ City Council did not provide funding in the FY 2012 Approved budget for this position, and the Schools absorbed this cost into their operating budget.

The Schools did not include funding for the Coordinator position (\$154,815) in their FY 2013 Approved budget adopted February 23, 2012. The School Board is requesting that City Council provide City General Funds to pay for the full cost of the Early Childhood Coordinator position in FY 2013.

Background: VPI Transfer from DCHS to the Schools

The Schools took over lead agency responsibility for the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) on July 1, 2011 following the execution of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the City. With this change, the Schools became responsible for the management of VPI and the State revenue associated with the program, which previously passed through the City's budget. Management of VPI includes determining the eligibility of the participants, enrolling them with

¹ Background information about this request was also published in the Superintendent's FY 2012 Proposed budget, page 116.

