

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

September 13, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Monifa B. McKnight, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: Financial Literacy

During the May 25, 2023, discussion regarding agenda item 7.1, *Financial Literacy Recommendation*, Board members requested the following information.

Question

Requested information regarding the demographics of those accessing the current offerings.

Response

The linked file, [Students Registered for Finance Courses for School Year 2023–2024](#), provides a chart with demographic information of students who are registered for finance courses in the 2023–2024 school year.

Question

Requested information regarding why the non-credit course gets no Student Service Learning (SSL) hours.

Response

To assign SSL hours, a staff member must review each SSL project to determine whether or not the student has met the requirement before credit can be awarded to the student. Staff members are not assigned to non-credit courses.

Question

Requested information regarding if the administration has looked into offering the courses in Spanish, and if not, why not?

Response

While Personal Finance and Financial Mathematics are not taught in Spanish at this time, student-facing lesson materials for the two courses are translated in Spanish. Montgomery County Public Schools does not have enough credentialed bilingual staff members to teach the courses in Spanish in all schools.

Question

Provide disaggregated data regarding the students who are not completing the course.

Response

The linked file, [Students Registered for Finance Courses for School Year 2023–2024](#), provides charts with disaggregated data for the past three school years regarding students who have not completed the course.

Question

Provide a list of all SSL programs currently available to students and explain whether any of the offerings are available in other languages.

Response

The following information provides an overview of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) SSL program. Every student may earn a minimum of 50 SSL hours within their school schedule. One hundred eighty-six elective courses award 5–30 additional SSL hours. Students also may earn SSL hours through pre-approved school and districtwide service learning projects and through any of the 1,028 pre-approved non-profit agencies.

Core Course Embedded Student Service Learning

Grade/Level	Course	Number of Hours
Grade 6	Investigations to Science 6	10
Grade 7	English 7	10
Grade 8	US History 8	10
*Middle School Emergent Multilingual Students	English for English Learners I (grades 6, 7, 8) English for English Learners II (grades 6, 7, 8) English for English Learners III (grades 6, 7, 8)	Double Period–10 Triple Period–10
High School	National, State, and Local Government	15 Semester A–7 Semester B–8

Grade/Level	Course	Number of Hours
High School	Health A	5
Total Hours		50

*Note: * Emergent Multilingual students potentially can earn this credit more than once as the student may be enrolled in any of the level courses multiple times as needed for their academic level. As a result, the student may earn more than 30 SSL while in middle school.*

Student Service Learning Opportunities Outside of Core Courses

Means	Special Notes																		
Elective Courses	There are 186 course codes (semester and yearlong courses) awarding 5, 7, 8, 10, or 15 SSL hours per semester/year (dependent upon the course) Examples:																		
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MCPS Hosted Virtual/ Remote SSL Experiences	For the 2022–2023 school year MCPS offered 20 virtual/remote service learning experiences equaling a potential 75.5 SSL hours . Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Awareness Week–9 • Student-to-Student ECA Series–10 • Choose Respect PSA submission–10 • Culture of Respect Student Module–2 																		

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<p>School/MCPS Hosted SSL Opportunities</p>	<p>Examples for School Hosted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argyle Middle School International Day of Peace Projects (2 SSL hours) William H. Farquhar Middle School Sandy Spring Museum Project (3 SSL hours) Tilden Middle School Day of Service (4 SSL hours) <p>Examples for MCPS Hosted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fentanyl Forums (2–3 SSL hours) Youth Climate Summit (7 SSL hours) Martin Luther King Jr. Week of Service (5 SSL hours) 				
<p>MCPS Approved Registered Non-Profits on the Montgomery County Volunteer Center webpage</p>	<p>MCPS works in collaboration with the Montgomery County Volunteer Center (MCVC) and co-hosts a countywide database of MCPS approved service learning organizations and opportunities. https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/volunteers/SSL.html</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="443 802 1416 993"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="443 802 915 863">Sample One-time Experiences</th> <th data-bbox="915 802 1416 863">Sample Recurring Experiences</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="443 863 915 993"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5K runs Cleanups Community events </td> <td data-bbox="915 863 1416 993"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food distribution Tutoring Community sports programs </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>There are 1,028 registered non-profit organizations currently approved as MCPS SSL service providers. Each organization must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend a mandatory SSL orientation Complete the MCPS Organization Responsibility and Assurance Certification Document Create an organizational page on the MCVC webpage Submit in-person or virtual/remote opportunities for review and approval 	Sample One-time Experiences	Sample Recurring Experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5K runs Cleanups Community events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food distribution Tutoring Community sports programs
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SSL is not explicitly available in other languages. There are some registered non-profit organizations that are seeking the support of students who may speak another language or are multilingual.

Example: Bilingual office and food pantry assistant-Spanish for MUM—the Mid-county United Ministries.

The English for English Learners I, II, and III courses were designed beginning in 2020 to provide SSL experiences embedded within the scope of the school day.

Question

Please provide a timeline of what staff hopes to accomplish during the next year as they explore the use of an online (financial literacy) module before this (topic) comes back to the Board.

Response

Currently, a credit-bearing Edmentum, online curriculum course is available for students. The Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs has submitted procurement documents for the non-credit bearing EVERFI financial literacy module and is waiting for a formal agreement to be made between EVERFI and MCPS before making the module available for students.

If you have any further questions, please contact Dr. Peggy A. Pugh, chief academic officer, Office of the Deputy Superintendent, via email.

MBM:PKM:PAP:NTH:smw

Copy to:

Executive Staff

Dr. Logan

Ms. Webb