

KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS
ANDREW JOHNSON BUILDING

Bob Thomas, Superintendent



MEMORANDUM

To: Chair and Members
Knox County Board of Education

From: Bob Thomas
Superintendent

Date: April 26, 2018

Subject: Revised FY19 General Fund Budget Recommendations

On April 11, 2018, I presented my recommendation for Knox County Schools Fiscal Year 2019 (FY2019) General Fund Budget to the Board of Education. The \$483.3 million budget represented our efforts to best meet the needs of our district while addressing a projected \$2.5 million shortfall. During the April 11 meeting, the Board voted to defer action on the recommended FY2019 budget in order for the district to explore various funding options.

We have since received an initial Basic Education Program (BEP) allocation estimate from the state. BEP is the state-funding formula for school districts. This estimate was \$1.9 million higher than we originally projected. (See attachment A)

However, Knox County Finance informed us that their latest analysis of projected property tax collections could only support a FY2019 forecast of \$99,760,000 for the Schools General Purpose Fund. This is \$516,000 lower than the \$100,276,000 included in the April 4 forecast. The net impact of these updates is an increase of \$1.4 million in the total revenue forecast.

We have used this additional information to revise the FY2019 budget recommendation. I have also listened to the concerns voiced by our families and community about the proposed cuts and have made some adjustments that are reflected in this budget.

This new budget recommendation will allow us to:

- Fund Project GRAD's revised proposal for FY2019 at the requested \$500,000 to provide a dedicated focus on increasing college and career readiness at two of our high schools, including increasing graduation rates, increasing post-secondary enrollment rates and increasing the number of scholarship recipients. (See attachment B, page 2)
- Provide an additional \$270,000 toward three educational assistants (9 total) at each of our three elementary priority schools. This is in addition to the \$230,000 already allocated for three full-time dedicated literacy facilitators being provided to support literacy instruction. (See attachment B, page 1)
- Set aside \$160,000 for magnet programs to submit competitive proposals to be granted based on the proposal's aligned mission and vision of the school and district. (See attachment B, page 2)
- Maintain 10 Gifted and Talented (GT) coaching positions as the district transitions to a new model in 2019-2020 that will allow them to better serve advanced students. We will spend next year transitioning GT Coaches into Advanced Academic Resource Teachers (AART). (See attachment B, page 1)
- Provide an estimated \$330,000 to place an adult monitor on every bus that transports students ages 6 weeks through pre-K. This is necessitated by a recent change to state Board of Education rules regarding student transportation. Another \$170,000 has been placed in reserve to cover any additional costs related to this expenditure. (See attachment C)

I respectfully request you approve this revised FY2019 budget, which incorporates feedback from the Board's April 11 meeting. The revised budget total is \$484,530,000. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.