

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

April 18, 2023

SUBJECT:

Head Start Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) & Quality Improvement Funding Application – FY-23

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The school district was approved for a five-year Head Start/Early Head Start grant in May of 2020, and the 5-year project period began on July 1, 2020, and extends through June 30, 2025. Governing bodies have a legal and fiscal responsibility to administer and oversee the agency's Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The governing body is responsible for activities specified in section 642(c)(1)(E) of the Head Start Act. Based on community needs, the grant program may need to be modified, and board approval will be sought for these changes. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, signed into law on December 29, 2022, provides a funding level for programs under the Head Start Act (the Act) of \$11,996,820,000, an increase of \$960 million over fiscal year (FY) 2022. This increase includes \$596 million to provide all Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start-Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnership grant recipients a **5.6% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for grant recipients to provide HS/EHS employees**, \$262 million for **quality improvement**, and \$100 million for expansion of Head Start, Early Head Start, and EHS-CC Partnership programs.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

Since the HS/EHS program became part of Aiken County Public Schools, salaries for HS/EHS employees follow the same approved salary schedule as other ACPSD employees, the school board shall decline these funds and will not submit a grant application for COLA/QI funding.

RECOMMENDATION:

Decline funds associated with the funding opportunity under The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, signed into law on December 29, 2022.

PREPARED BY:

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