

## **BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**May 10, 2022**

### **SUBJECT:**

Head Start Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Funding Application

### **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.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 contains an increase for Head Start of approximately \$289 million over the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 level. This includes a cost of living adjustment (COLA) of 2.28% for grant recipients to provide for HS/EHS employees. Since the HS/EHS program became part of Aiken County Public Schools, salaries for these employees follow the same approved salary schedule as other ACPSD employees. Governing bodies that do not plan to provide the COLA at 2.28% must notify the Office of Head Start.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Decline of Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) funding

### **PREPARED BY:**

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