

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

November 13, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Referral Process and Recovery and Academic Program (SPC-10-10-19-04)

Please Note: Ms. Silvestre was unable to attend the meeting in person. She was able to watch the video webcast and has the following question:

Question

It appears our referral process is working well for Hispanic and White students – what have we learned from this process that we can apply to other groups not currently represented equitably (African American, Asian, etc.) in the RAP program?

Response

The Recovery and Academic Program (RAP) Program specifically is for students who have experienced substance abuse and are seeking support through active recovery. Presently, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) staff plans to work with the additional part-time administrator and staff in the Office of Communications to:

- Forward information directly to parents/guardians through Blackboard Connect;
- Invite county and state legislators, judges and state's attorney's office staff to visit the program, possibly via a press release similar to the May 2018 process;
- Continue to share information and build partnerships with treatment programs and advisory groups through Montgomery County; and
- Share information with area churches to diversify our outreach efforts to increase the enrollee demographics.

The referral process has not gleaned information about any barriers for specific racial groups. However, we have begun to schedule meetings with smaller school teams to discuss RAP and give leadership teams the opportunity to take the time to identify appropriate students for the program. This action potentially will increase the number of referrals and further inform the school community about RAP and its services. In addition, staff in the Office of Communications is working with us to post information about RAP on the MCPS Facebook and Twitter accounts.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Ruschelle Reuben, associate superintendent for student and family support and engagement, Office of the Chief Academic Officer, at 240-740-5624.

JRS:MBM:MVN:RR:KB:amm

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Executive Staff

Ms. Webb