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Prince George County Public Schools to Receive \$1 Million in CARES Act Funding from State

PRINCE GEORGE, Va. - Prince George County Public Schools is expected to receive \$1 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding from the state following Governor Ralph Northam's announcement of funding disbursements aimed at helping K-12 public schools in Virginia.

As part of this latest round of funding from the commonwealth, Prince George County Public Schools will receive \$1,081,955. The money will help support COVID-19 preparedness and response measures for the current school year, including personal protective equipment, sanitation, technology for distance learning, and other needs.

In an October 8 <u>press release</u>, the Governor's Office stated more than \$220 million in federal CARES Act funding would be disbursed to all 132 public school districts using an allocation formula of \$175 per pupil based on fall enrollment, with a minimum of \$100,000 for each school system.

"Students, teachers, principals, and parents are going to great lengths to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic amid a new school year, and we must do everything we can to support them," **said Governor Northam.** "This additional \$220 million in federal funding will give our schools the resources they need to continue operating and provide Virginians with a world-class education, whether safely in person or remotely from home."

"This funding is critical as we continue to provide safe, high-quality education for Virginia students," **said Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. James Lane.** "I am grateful to Governor Northam for his ongoing support of public education—and I can assure you that his funding will immediately be put to good use."

CARES Act funds can be used to cover costs that are necessary expenditures in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency that were not accounted for in the budget most recently adopted as of March 27, 2020 (the date of the CARES Act's enactment), and were incurred during the period between March 1 through December 31, 2020.

On October 15, the Prince George School Board voted to allocate the funding toward technology-related purchases to support virtual learning alongside instructional material purchases.

"We are appreciative of Governor Ralph Northam and the additional CARES Act funding being provided to Prince George County Public Schools," **Division Superintendent Dr. Lisa Pennycuff said.** "This funding will support our efforts to continue providing high-quality instruction in-person and virtually in a manner that protects the health of our school communities."

This is the third time the school division has received CARES Act funding this year. In May, \$552,636 in CARES Act funding was allocated to Prince George County Public Schools by the Prince George County Board of Supervisors. Later in September, a follow-up disbursement of CARES Act funding totaling approximately \$1.5 million was appropriated to the school division by the Board of Supervisors to help support a wide range of the school division's current needs, including technological and health-related spending.

For more information on Governor Northam's announcement, visit the Office of the Governor's website at https://governor.virginia.gov/. More information on the amount of funding allocated to each of the commonwealth's school divisions can be found here.

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