



**YPI CHARTER SCHOOLS  
Inter-Office Correspondence**

**TO:** Board of Directors

**DATE:** February 1, 2021

**FROM:** Yvette King-Berg  
Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to apply for in-Person Instruction Grant (BCCS and MORCS) and Approve COVID Safety Plan for YPICS (BCCS, MORCS, and BCCHS)

**BACKGROUND**

Governor Newsom released the 2021-2022 state budget proposal on January 8, 2021. In addition to the “Expanded Learning Time and Academic Intervention” funding, the budget proposes \$2 billion to establish the “In-Person Instruction Grant” program for LEAs during the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Grant Requirements

LEAs, except for non-classroom-based charter schools, shall be eligible for grants if they meet all the following requirements:

- Submit a completed COVID-19 Safety Plan (CSP), which consists of two elements:
  - 1) COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP), pursuant to CalOSHA requirements;
  - 2) CDPH COVID-19 Guidance Checklist and accompanying documents;
- LEAs seeking to open while in the Purple Tier, must submit plans to the local health officer (LHO) and the State School Safety Team. The CSP must be posted on the LEA website.
- LEAs must certify to their COEs that they have verified that each of their pupils participating in distance learning has access to a computing device, software and high-speed internet access necessary to participate in online instruction by February 1, 2021.
- LEAs must conduct ongoing asymptomatic testing for staff and pupils consistent with the state supported cadences set in the COVID-19 industry sector guidance for schools issued by CDPH.
- LEAs applying for a grant on February 1, 2021, can begin to provide in-person instruction by February 16, 2021. LEAs applying for a grant on March 1, 2021, can begin to provide in-person instruction by March 15, 2021.
- LEAs in counties in the Widespread (Purple) Tier must submit their CSPs to their local health jurisdictions, which must notify LEAs and their COEs within five business days if an LEA’s plan is not approved. If a plan is not disapproved

within five business days, in-person instruction may commence on the sixth business day. These requirements do not apply to LEAs already opened for in-person instruction as permitted by state and local health directives prior to February 1, 2021. Disapproval of a CSP will render an LEA no longer eligible to receive grant funding, but they can reapply by March 1, 2021.

#### Student Prioritization for In-Person Instruction.

The optional in-person instruction, using the CDPH Guidance Related to Cohorts (updated September 4, 2020), can be provided to at least all pupils in the following pupil groups:

- Individuals with exceptional needs as defined in Education Code Section 56026.
- Foster youth as defined in subdivision (b) of Education Code Section 42238.01.
- Homeless children and youths as defined in Section 725 of the federal McKinney-Vento Act.
- Students without access to a computing device, software or high-speed internet access as determined by the LEA.
- All K-2 students for the February 16, 2021, timeframe and all elementary school students up to grade 6 for the March 15, 2021, timeframe.

#### Funding Allocation.

The COE shall submit an LEA's information to CDE by February 5, 2021, for applications received by February 1, 2021, and by March 5, 2021, for applications received by March 1, 2021. CDE will develop a form that COEs will use to submit an LEA's information. CDE will notify each LEA of the grant amount no later than 15 days after the submission deadlines for each application round, and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall allocate funds to eligible LEAs based on the following formula:

- February 1, 2021, Application Cycle: \$450 base grant per 2020-21 ADA, augmented for grade span adjustment and 2020-21 LCFF supplemental and concentration grant percentages.
- March 1, 2021, Application Cycle: \$337.50 base grant per 2020-21ADA, augmented for grade span adjustment and 2020-21 LCFF supplemental and concentration grant percentages.

#### Fund Uses and Audit Requirement.

The funds shall be available to use until December 31, 2021, and for any purpose consistent with providing in-person instruction for any pupil participating in in-person instruction, including but not limited to:

- COVID-19 testing
- Personal protective equipment
- Ventilation and other site upgrades
- Salaries for certificated and classified employees providing in-person instruction or services
- Social and mental health support services provided in conjunction with in-person instruction

LEAs shall report final expenditures of these funds to CDE by January 31, 2022, and the State Superintendent shall initiate collection proceedings for unexpended funds.

For the 2021-22 fiscal year audits, the State Controller shall include instructions in their audit guide that include procedures for complying with the grant requirements. For an LEA that is found to be noncompliant, the State Superintendent shall withhold from the LEA's principal apportionment a percentage of funds based on a formula.

## **ANALYSIS**

Public pressure from parents, community members, and civil rights activist continue to mount to safely reopen schools. LA County has remained in the Purple Tier throughout the closure of schools across the state of California. Schools in the Purple Tier are currently unable to reopen unless they have already been open. It is unknown when LA County will be out of the Purple Tier. Two of our schools (Bert Corona Charter High School and Monseñor Romero Charter School) are on LAUSD sites. Currently, LAUSD is reluctant to allow staff on district property amidst the surge in COVID-19 cases.

In-Person Grant funds are available to use until December 31, 2021. Given the distribution of the vaccine and early signs that COVID-19 numbers are beginning to decline, it is likely that students will receive in-person instruction prior to December 31, 2021. LEAs that apply for In-Person Instruction Grant by February 1, 2021 will receive a higher allotment at \$450 base grant per 2020-21 ADA compared to LEAs that apply by March 1, 2021 with an allotment of \$337.50 base grant per 2020- 21ADA.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors approve the COVID Safety Plan for Bert Corona Charter School, Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School, and Bert Corona Charter High School.

### **Separate Attachments:**

- 1. YPICS COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP);**
- 2. 2021 COVID-19 School Guidance Checklist;**
- 3. Reopening Protocols for K-12 Schools**