

EL CAMINO REAL ALLIANCE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 27, 2020

AGENDA ITEM:

V.F. Discuss and Vote on Bus Passes

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE:

Many of our students use public transportation to get to ECR. Last year we began a program to provide qualified students with a free bus pass to get to school. In the last two years, 55% of our students have been coming to ECR from outside our residential boundaries through the lottery. Currently, we have 1221 students in the Free and Reduced Meal Program (FRPM) as compared to last year when we had 1213. We anticipate an increase of FRPM applications due to the current health and financial situation. Last academic year, the TAP program (bus pass) was able to help students improve their attendance; 100/242 students had 99% attendance rate while the rest of the students were able to maintain a 95% attendance rate. Additionally, 60% of the students saw an improvement or maintained their GPA.

This year, we want to continue providing the free bus pass for students who qualify. In doing so, we are providing them with the transportation that they need to receive services that ECR would normally provide, such as meal distribution. In continuing the program, students will receive the support they need to travel to a place near their community that provides meals, or free Wi-Fi if there is none at the home. This should ultimately result in students being able to keep or increase their current attendance rate. Additionally, once we come back in person, students will have the transportation they need to get to school. This would make the transition from virtual to hybrid or in-person smoother and prevent students from missing school.

PERSONNEL INVOLVED:

Intervention Team, Teachers, and Administrators; Business Office for the purchase of the passes.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS (IF ANY):

Last year, about 20% of the eligible students applied and received the bus pass. Continuing the program for 20% of the eligible students for 10 months at a monthly cost of \$24 would equal a total cost of \$58,560 for the academic school year. ECR would like to add a buffer of 5% of the number of currently enrolled FRPM students, to cover any additional students that may qualify for the program. This would equate to approximately 61 additional students that may qualify and fill out an application for a free bus pass at a later date. Total potential fiscal impact would be \$73,200.

IMPACT ON SCHOOL MISSION, VISION OR GOALS (IF ANY):

Providing the bus pass to qualified students enhances and improves the support we provide to our students and alleviates the anxiety and stress students experience in trying to find a way to get to school or around the community. Although students may not have the need to move around as much during COVID-19, this pass would give them the ability to do so. The students and parents have appreciated our ability to have this type of program at the school and it will make for a smooth transition when we return to a hybrid or in-person model of instruction.

OPTIONS OR SOLUTIONS:

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the motion to continue providing bus passes to qualified students for the 2020-2021 school year, at a cost of up to \$73,200. This additional resource takes a proactive approach in helping students get to school and eliminating a hindrance to their education.

PROPOSED MOTION:

Motion to approve the free bus pass program for the 2020-2021 school year up to a total cost of \$73,200.