

Budget Narrative

Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) is seeking the maximum of \$222,607 in COLA funding for the FY18 funding year. This funding will reimburse the district for salary increases awarded to Head Start staff in the 2017-18 school year. The average raise given to staff in the 17-18 school year was 0.4% totaling \$18,552. The COLA funds allocated to salaries is \$158,066 which includes the salary increases awarded to staff during the 2017-18 school year and increase to district benefits for every employee, while \$44,246 will be allocated to operational costs and \$1,743 for Training and Technical Assistance.

In addition to staff raises, the district has transitioned ten K3 classrooms to full-day programs. The \$158,066 for staff wages will cover salary increases as well as the increased staffing expenses associated with full day implementation for K3 teachers and teacher assistants. Additional staff time supported increase program services and COLA funds will be applied to offset this cost.

Funds allocated for operational costs of \$44,246 support program costs for all MPS Head Start sites. In addition to teaching staff, family partnership associates, nurse associates and coordinators, are supporting the Head Start programs across Milwaukee Public Schools. This support specifically benefits sites during high enrollment periods as well as with other grant required activities (recruitment, canvassing, outreach, etc.). In addition, \$1,743 will be used for Training and Technical Assistance including staff time and training costs.

All MPS Head Start teachers are licensed through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and are highly qualified under ESEA reconstituted for No Child Left Behind. Other staffs, such as administrators, Nutrition Technician, nursing and social work staff, have appropriate licensure or certification. All employees have at least a high school education and undergo pre-employment criminal background checks and drug screening.

The funding will allow the MPS Head Start Program to continue to operate with a sound budget. Specifics of the Head Start staff affected by the increases and increments is listed in the Budget Justification.