

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY

FROM: MICHAEL A. GREGO, Ed. D., SUPERINTENDENT

Please approve the following for submission for funding at the School Board Meeting of:
April 23, 2013.

A. Title of Project: School Turnaround AmeriCorps Program Grant

If this is a contractual agreement requiring bids or formal quotes, the director of purchasing has authorized this agreement according to purchasing requirements.

 The "**Checklist for Contractual Agreements**" form has been signed by the Project Manager and the Director of Purchasing, and submitted to the Director of Special Projects.

 X N/A

Amount of Project: \$500,677.00

Status of Project:

New: X Renewal: Amendment:
If Amendment:

Additional Funds: Reduced Funds: Time Extension: Other:

Fund Source:

State: Federal: X Other:

Length of Project: 36 Months

Starting Date: August 1, 2013 Ending Date: July 31, 2016

Strategic Direction(s): Student Achievement

Program Description: The School Turnaround AmeriCorps initiative is a collaborative effort of the Corporation for National and Community Service and the U.S. Department of Education to increase educational achievement, high school graduation rates, and college readiness for students in our nation's lowest-performing elementary, middle, and high schools. The proposed project aligns with the goals of the School Improvement Grant for the targeted schools and matches the PCS vision for school turnaround. Twenty two full time AmeriCorps members and an additional 75 AmeriCorps member volunteers will support school turnaround efforts in three lowest-performing elementary schools: Fairmount Park, Lakewood, and Woodlawn. The grant will fund six full time onsite substitute teachers and one parent engagement coordinator at each school. The project will fund a University of South Florida St. Petersburg community liaison to recruit, coordinate, train and monitor 75 student volunteers to support the schools. Additionally, funding will be used to implement the evidence based programs Check and Connect and Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention System.

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Rationale: The higher percentage of failed to fill jobs at the identified schools places a burden on teachers that lose planning time to cover classes with no substitute or disrupts the learning of students who are placed throughout the school in other classrooms to work independently. The grant project will reduce the number of unfilled teaching vacancies when teachers are absent and increase common planning time for instructional staff. Academic engagement and achievement will also improve through additional tutoring and mentoring opportunities.

Usage in other districts: N/A Yes No

Visits by PCS Staff: N/A Date: Person:

Students to be served/Target Audience: Students at Fairmount Park, Lakewood, and Woodlawn

Performance Data, Research Findings, or Improvement Results:

Each identified school has a higher percentage of failed to fill jobs, when teachers are absent, than the district average. Total failed to fill jobs%: district (20), Fairmount Park (31), Lakewood (41), and Woodlawn (23). Studies find that teachers are typically absent nine or ten days per year. That means that between K and 12th grade, students are taught by someone else other than their regular teacher for the equivalent of two-thirds of a school year.

Contact Person: Charlene Einsel, Ph.D., Turnaround Officer

Grant Proposal/Contract Developer(s): Michelle Robinson, Special Projects

NO COST TO DISTRICT OPERATING FUNDS

Target Schools: Fairmount Park, Lakewood, and Woodlawn Elementary Schools

Budget

Personnel (Salaries & Fringe)	\$ 461,796.00
• 22 AmeriCorps Service Members	
Materials & Supplies	\$ 7,121.00
Travel & Registrations	\$ 541.00
• Required staff training	
Purchased Services	\$ 8,129.00
• University of Minnesota for Check & Connect	
• External evaluation	
Indirect Costs (Federal Funds Only)	\$ 23,090.00
TOTAL	\$ 500,677.00

SUPERINTENDENT TO SIGN 0 COPIES AS MARKED

BOARD CHAIRMAN TO SIGN 0 COPIES AS MARKED