

Donna Wright

From: Donna Wright [donna.wright@fcpsk12.org]
Sent: August 27, 2021 7:28 AM
To: Alisha Harris [alisha.harris@mcpsk12.org]
Subject: RE: Budget Request for MMS
Attachments:

Dr. Harris,

I have been auditing school service and staffing levels since our September district principal meeting where I shared the update on the special education funding levels in the district. According to the number of service hours on the IEPs from the children in your school, you appear to be staffed at an appropriate level. If you feel like you need more staff to meet the needs of the paraprofessional hours in the IEPs of the children you serve, then I suggest your team take some time to map the hours required (from the IEPs) and the available staff in the school and match that to the master schedule of the building. You will likely find areas where you can double up support time or reschedule courses to make staff available for paraprofessional support time. You need to make your current staffing level work, and I suggest that you carefully consider any new requests for paraprofessional support in your upcoming IEP meetings and ensure that you have data to support such a request in the IEP. Your request at this time for additional personnel or funding is denied.

Donna Wright, Ph.D.
Executive Director for Special Education
Maryville County Public Schools

On Mon, August 24, 2021 at 3:24 PM CDT, Alisha Harris <alisha.harris@fcpsk12.org > wrote:

Dr. Wright,

I am emailing today to request additional funding to hire additional paraprofessionals for our school. I have been working with my administrative team and our special education teachers to determine the outstanding funds available in our student-based budget and the required number of paraprofessional support hours in the school. We believe that our current budget is insufficient and that our current staffing level is not adequate to service the required paraprofessional hours on the IEPs. In fact, there are days when we struggle to get coverage for all the students requiring paraprofessional support in the building. I have a number of IEP meetings on the horizon where I feel parents may request a paraprofessional or additional service time. I strongly believe that we need additional funding to meet the needs of the students in our building.

Please let me know next steps to formally submit this request to the district.

Sincerely,

Alisha Harris, Ed.D.

Principal
Montclair Middle School

