

Connect Student Business Challenge Committee Report

Committee: Student Business Challenge Committee

Email: connectbusinesschallenge@mccpta.org

Update

As the MCCPTA President and MCCPTA VP Programs have already been informed, MCPS notified us that they will not be moving forward with the Connect Business Challenge this school year. The message we received is that schools have reached capacity of commitment and capability right now.

Both MCPS and JA expressed their understanding of the unique stress students and educators face this year and communicated their interest in continuing the program in 2022-2023.

Financial Literacy advocacy

In the larger context of financial literacy advocacy, the Financial Literacy Group received the support of the MCPS SMOB which introduced at the October BOE a resolution to expand Personal Finance courses to all high schools in MCPS. The Financial Literacy Group including InnovateX, MCPS, and other stakeholders, released a survey earlier this year on the current state of personal finance offerings for students across the county. We received more than 1,000 responses from 18 different schools with most respondents being in favor of expanding personal finance elective courses to all MCPS high schools. During the BOE meeting in January, MCPS presented the results of the study exploring the feasibility of creating the 0.5 credit financial literacy class and implementing the graduation requirement beginning with the graduating class of 2028. In its report to the BOE, district leaders said that the 0.5 credit could be added by increasing the number of credits required for graduation from 22 to 22.5, decreasing elective credits by 0.5 or decreasing the physical education requirement by 0.5. The discussions during the meeting included concerns regarding the staffing implications and the effect on the ESOL students and students “in danger of not graduating.” The BOE is expected to make a decision in the spring.

The Connect Business Challenge Committee is planning on continuing the engagement in financial literacy advocacy and work with MCPS and other stakeholders towards increasing accessibility to financial and entrepreneurial opportunities for MCPS students.