

AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE CLOSE UP WASHINGTON PROGRAM BY THE OFFICE OF HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND AUTHORIZE EXPENSES RELATED TO THE PROGRAM

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Authorize participation by CPS high school students and teachers in the Close Up Washington Program and authorize travel and other expenses related to the program not to exceed \$60,000.00. The Program is organized through the Office of High School Programs. Information pertinent to this Program is stated below:

USER: Office of High School Programs
125 S. Clark – 9th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Donald R. Pittman
773 553-3540

PROGRAM:

The Close Up Foundation is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, non-sectarian civic educational organization whose mission is to expose both teachers and students to the process of democracy and our national heritage and the Foundation offers a program called Close Up Washington. By participating in this program, students will gain greater understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a participatory democracy; students will be able to explain diverse points concerning current domestic and international policy questions facing Congress, the executive branch, and/or the courts; students will appreciate the complexity of political issues and processes; and more importantly, students will appreciate that one person can make a difference and that everyone should make the effort. The Program is held in Washington, D.C. It promotes civic education throughout the year through curriculum-based activities. Fully supervised programs begin Sunday p.m. and conclude the following Saturday a.m. Each day is completely scheduled and structured for students and teachers. Teachers are expected to participate in student/and or teacher seminars daily. Students recommended for the Program must be from the sophomore, junior or senior classes. It is suggested that student candidates be composed of student council members and students who demonstrate leadership qualities.

The following dates have been reserved for participation by Chicago Public Schools' students: February 27, 2005 – March 5, 2005, March 6 -12, 2005, March 13 – 19, 2005, April 3 – 9, 2005, and May 1 - 7, 2005.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE/OUTCOMES: Student participants will have a great opportunity to learn firsthand about the workings of the government and the responsibilities they hold as citizens of the United States. Activities are designed to introduce students to the history, politics and culture of the nation's capitol. Students will participate in small-group seminars and workshops, meetings with congressional members, lobbyists, and embassy officials and visit museums and monuments. This is an unparalleled learning experience that will enable both students and teachers to return to their home schools with increased knowledge that will be invaluable to the classroom environment.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS/TRIP INFORMATION: Travel to Washington, D.C. will be made by airplane. Ground transportation will consist of buses provided by the Close Up Foundation.

COST: The Office of High School Programs will pay the Close Up Foundation a total of \$900.00 per student to cover transportation, meals and hotel costs for one student from each participating school, not to exceed \$60,000. In addition, the Close Up Foundation will pay \$1,349.00 on behalf of each participating high school to help defray the costs of transportation, meals, and hotel accommodations for teacher coordinators. Any other costs will be paid by the participants, parents, and/or fundraising.

CHAPERONES: Trained and certified specialists will be provided by the Close Up Foundation to chaperone students. There will be at least one adult chaperone for every ten students. One teacher coordinator from each school will accompany students to Washington. However, teacher coordinators, while in Washington, will participate in seminars structured specifically for teachers. Teacher coordinators,

nevertheless, will communicate with their students on a daily basis while in Washington, D.C.

WATER ACTIVITIES: The students who are scheduled to participate in the Close Up Washington program will not be participating in any water related activities. Additionally, students and parents/guardians will sign a form reflecting the Chicago Public School's policy regarding water activities.

PARENTAL CONSENT: Written parental consent and release forms for each student will be on file at the respective schools.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the President and Secretary to execute any travel agreements necessary for this program.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Pursuant to Section 3.7 of the Revised Remedial Plan for Minority and Women Business Enterprise Contract Participation (M/WBE Plan) this contract is exempt from review because the contract is for tuition.

LSC REVIEW: Local School Council approval is not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL: Charge to Office of High School Programs: \$60, 000 Fiscal Year 2005
Budget Classification: 0470-210-000-1720-5500

Approved for Consideration:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:

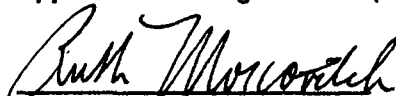


Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:


John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to legal form: 


Ruth M. Moscovitch
General Counsel