



Bibb County School District

Department of Communications / Community & School Affairs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BIBB SCHOOLS AWARDED YOUTHBUILD GRANT FOR THIRD TIME

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(MACON, GA) – The Bibb County School District has been granted the maximum award of \$1.5 million to continue YouthBuild, a pre-apprenticeship construction program, which serves as an opportunity for youth ages 16-24 to develop educational and occupational skills. SOAR Academy was awarded the three-year grant for the first time in February 2019, and the District was one of only two grantees in Georgia to receive the grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

“The YouthBuild grant has helped change the lives of some of our opportunity youth by providing them employability skills training, leadership development, and the opportunity to graduate with a high school diploma or obtain a GED,” Assistant Superintendent of District Effectiveness and Federal Programs Dr. Lori Rodgers said. “Receiving this award for another three years is an immeasurable opportunity for Dr. Julia Daniely, the District’s Director of Personalized Learning and Alternative Education, and her team to continue the work established from receiving the initial grant in 2019. In addition, this demonstrates our commitment for all Bibb County School District students to be enrolled in college, enlisted in the military, prepared for entrepreneurship, or employed upon graduation.”

Since the start of the program, over 146 participants have enrolled in the YouthBuild program. To date, several students have received their high school diplomas and are working toward securing job opportunities following their graduations. YouthBuild students have gained work experience through their contributions to the construction of new homes through the District’s partnership with the Macon Area Habitat for Humanity.

This is the third YouthBuild grant award at SOAR Academy since 2019, totaling a \$4.1 million investment in the Bibb County School District and the Macon-Bibb County community to support opportunity youth to achieve educational success.

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