

BOARD BRIEF

Date: April 22, 2022

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Anthony Sims, Ph.D., Executive Director of School Improvement
Kathy Mimberg, Executive Director of Communications

THROUGH: Terri H. Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Julia Burgos, Chief of School and Community Relations
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Updates to Comprehensive School Improvement Plans (CSIPs) on the ACPS Website

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

SY 2021–2022 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 1: Social Emotional and Academic Learning Recovery

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

SUMMARY:

This Board Brief contains information about accessing updates to the continuous improvement planning efforts of ACPS schools for the 2021–2022 school year (SY), which are available on the ACPS website.

BACKGROUND:

The ACPS approach to progress monitoring within the continuous improvement system prioritizes a commitment to disciplined reflection on progress toward improvement plan goals, successes, and challenges as part of each quarter’s progress-monitoring updates.

The Office of School Improvement engages schools in the redesigned process for developing school improvement plans focusing on deepening teams’ understanding of the role of data to drive action planning schema and planning to assess progress as a component of developing improvement plans. The enhanced Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) template integrates fields for schools to share quarterly updates for school improvement efforts.

The Department of Communications has collaborated to post each school’s updated CSIP on the ACPS website, making these more accessible for stakeholders to find and review. The CSIP web page can be accessed via <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/3850>.

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ACPS's continuous improvement strategies also include Quarterly Chats progress-monitoring discussions with the Superintendent, members of the senior leadership team, and each ACPS school. During the Quarterly Chats, school teams discuss current progress, challenges, instructional adjustments, and support needed. The format for SY 2021–2022 was revised in response to the unprecedented demands the current health pandemic has exerted on school operations and instructional delivery. In recognition of the myriad of factors impacting families and students during the pandemic, the foci of progress monitoring needed to consider the context of the new norm for teaching and learning conditions.

For SY 2021–2022 improvement planning, the Office of School Improvement guided schools in critical reflection processes to examine progress toward achieving the CSIP SY 2020–2021 goals:

- Data to indicate progress toward CSIP SY 2021–2022 goals during a global pandemic
- Successes or challenges in achieving Essential Actions and Action Steps
- Adjustments to the CSIP in response to progress monitoring and data analysis

The focus areas were strategically chosen to develop continuous improvement practices related to the use of data cycles. The unpacking performance data related to academic performance disparities for targeted student groups as schools prepare for an end-of-the-year assessment of their school improvement effort and comprehensive school improvement planning for SY 2021–2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the Quarter 2 progress updates to the CSIPs for ACPS schools. The CSIPs can be accessed via <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/3850>.

IMPACT:

The CSIP progress-monitoring updates provide evidence of ACPS leaders' commitment to engaging in continuous improvement and innovation as an integral strategy to address persistent educational disparities and achieve the goals identified in the Strategic Plan 2025.

CONTACT:

Dr. Anthony Sims, anthony.sims@acps.k12.va.us