

**BOARD BRIEF**

Date: September 27, 2019

For **INFORMATION**:   X  

**Upcoming Board Agenda:**

Yes       

**No**   X  

Agenda Date:       

**FROM:** Clinton Page, Ed.S., Chief Accountability Officer

**THROUGH:** Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** 2019 Virginia On-Time Graduation and Dropout Rates

**ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity

**SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:**

Focus Area 1: Educational Equity

**FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

- Specialized Instruction
- English Learner Services
- Gap Group Achievements
- Academics

**SUMMARY:**

This brief and the attached figures are intended to provide the Virginia On-time Graduation and Dropout rates for the 2019 cohort within Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). These data will be released publicly by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) on September 30, 2019 for all divisions across the Commonwealth along with aggregate Virginia rates. Overall, graduation rates increased by two percentage points to 83%. Graduation and dropout rates improved overall and across a vast majority of subgroups with the largest improvements seen in Students with Disabilities (SWD) and Hispanic subgroups. Dropout rates were cut seven percentage points from last year for a historic low rate of 5%.

**BACKGROUND:**

Starting with the graduating class of 2008 the state of Virginia began calculating “On-Time” graduation and dropout rates. The “on-time” rates, reported annually, are the official state recognized graduation and dropout statistics. The Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate takes into consideration student mobility, changes in student enrollment, and the needs of special education and English learners (EL) students. An “on-time” graduate for 2019 is a student who entered ninth grade for the first time during the 2015-16 school year and, in four years or less,

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earned one of the Virginia Board of Education recognized diplomas: Advanced Studies, Standard, Modified Standard, Applied Studies, and General Achievement diplomas.

Attached, please find two figures capturing the Virginia On-Time Graduation data for 2019 to be released by VDOE on September 30, 2019. Figure 1 displays ACPS graduation rates reported for all students and by subgroups historically. Figure 2 shows the dropout rates reported for all students and by subgroups within ACPS for the past several years.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the 2019 Virginia On-Time Graduation and Dropout figures for possible planning, procedural, programmatic, and/or budgetary changes.

### **IMPACT:**

Alexandria City Public Schools saw an overall On-Time Graduation rate of 83% for the 2019 cohort which represented an increase of two percentage points compared to the previous year. Increases from the previous year were seen across SWD (+13 percentage points), Hispanic students (+7 percentage points), EL (+5 percentage points), and Economically Disadvantaged students (+5 percentage points). A slight decrease was seen in the Black student subgroup (-1 percentage point) with a pass rate of 89%; six percentage points above the average for all students. White students maintained the highest graduation rate among subgroups at 97%, an increase of three percentage points from the previous year. Students with disabilities had the greatest one-year increase and the second highest graduation rate at 96%.

The dropout rate for all students in the 2019 cohort was 5% representing a decrease of five percentage points compared to the previous year. Dropout rates decreased across all subgroups when compared to the previous year and also marked historic lows dating back to 2008 when these calculations went into effect. Decreases were seen across Hispanic students (-10 percentage points) SWD (-9 percentage points), EL (-9 percentage points), Economically Disadvantaged (-8 percentage points), White students (-2 percentage points), and Black students (-1 percentage point). Students with disabilities had the lowest dropout rate at zero students. Both Black and White subgroups had dropout rates lower than 1%.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. ACPS 2019 On-Time Graduation and Dropout Figures

### **CONTACT:**

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