



## Alexandria Youth Support Network

### Background

The Alexandria Youth Support Network is comprised of more than 80 K-12 expanded learning programs united by the vision that every youth in the City of Alexandria thrives, regardless of circumstances, through equitable access and engagement in high-quality and meaningful out-of-school time and community-based programs. The network fosters collaboration and provides coordinated supports to a network of community organizations, government agencies, schools, and other partners dedicated to improving the equity, quality, and continuous innovation of youth-serving programs in the City of Alexandria. The network is hosted by ACT for Alexandria and generously supported by the Frank & Betty Wright Foundation.

### Current Initiatives & Committees

- Executive Committee
  - The Youth Support Network's Executive Committee serves as the decision-making body for the network. The Executive Committee consists of 12 members representing nonprofits, city agencies, and faith-based organizations. Kurt Huffman, Executive Director of Community Partnerships & Engagement, and Dr. Victor Martin, Executive Director of Student Support Teams, are members of the Executive Committee.
- Middle School Programming
  - The Middle School Programming Work Group consists of approximately 20 organizations collaborating to identify strategies and solutions to expand middle school student engagement in out-of-school time and community-based programs. The first phase of the work group has involved guiding the landscape study process (more information below). The second phase of the work group will involve preparing for the proposed recommendations.
- Social-Emotional Learning
  - The Social-Emotional Learning Work Group consists of more than 25 organizations dedicated to identifying strategies and practices that will support the professional learning and well-being of staff and volunteers in fostering the social-emotional learning and development of youth. Dr. Victor Martin serves as co-chair of the Social-Emotional Learning Work Group. Erica Mack, ACPS Mental Health Specialist, has participated in the work group by leading sessions on ACPS' SEAL frameworks.

## **Landscape Study**

Through the support of the Frank & Betty Wright Foundation and American Rescue Plan funding from the City of Alexandria, Weber Moore Partners is leading a landscape study on behalf of the Youth Support Network. The purpose of the study is to further understand the barriers, hopes, and needs related to K-12 expanded learning programs. The study is administered through surveys, including the ACPS *Equity for All* Survey and a provider survey. Ongoing parent/guardian and student listening sessions/focus groups are being held throughout the spring to garner more specific perspectives. Analysis of the data and the recommendations will be available in fall 2023. Participants in the study will be invited to provide feedback on the recommendations. We are grateful to our ACPS colleagues for their support and guidance, ensuring equity is at the core of the landscape study.

- Office of Community Partnerships & Engagement: Kurt Huffman
  - FACE Center Staff: Tesfaye Amberber, Krishna Levya, Lisbela López, Taneika Tukan
- Office of Accountability & Research: Dr. Clint Page & Tina Constantine
- Office of School Leadership: Dr. Pierrette Finney
- PTA Council: Missy Estabrook, Sally Hunnicutt & School-Based PTA Units
- Special Education Parent Resource Center: Janet Reese
- School administrators

## **Potential Future Plans**

- Program locator
- Program quality framework and ongoing professional development
- Data system
- Coordinated programming

For more information about the Youth Support Network, please contact Caitlin Brown ([caitlin.brown@actforalexandria.org](mailto:caitlin.brown@actforalexandria.org)).