

Date: February 8, 2024

For ACTION: _____

For INFORMATION: X

FROM: D. Ohlandt, Ph.D., Chair, Advanced Academic Services Advisory Committee (AASAC)

THROUGH: Megan Tempel-Milner, Ph.D., Director of Advanced Academic Services (K-12)
Carmen Sanders, Executive Director of Instructional Support
Pierrette Finney, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Michelle Rief, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: **Advanced Academic Services Advisory Committee (AASAC) Interim Recommendation to School Board, February 2024**

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation

Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2023-2024 FOCUS AREA:

Academic Achievement (Tier 1 Instruction) (The High School Project)

Student Supports (CASEL Social Emotional Learning Competencies) (Student Connection)

Staff Supports (Continue Culture Building)

FY 2024 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Increase Support for Social and Emotional Learning

Planning for Future Projects

Communications Support

SUMMARY:

As ACPS and its School Board make final budget decisions for 2024-25 and beyond, AASAC wants to highlight the critical need for AAS staff and curricular resources to meet the division's commitments and responsibilities to provide services for gifted students and their families.

DETAILS:

In line with the AASAC Scope of Work for 2023-24, the committee will submit several recommendations in the end-of-year report based on our discussion and research this year. Some of these recommendations will include:

- AASAC will call for fully staffing AAS at both the K-5 and the 6-12 levels, as called for the adopted Local Plan. The Local Plan cannot be effectively implemented without appropriate staffing.
- In addition, the committee will recommend additional curricular resources and training, especially for K-3 services and for the enriched and extended AAS math instruction for grades 4-8 and 9-12. This recommendation, too, requires budgetary support.
- AASAC intends to recommend the development of academic standards across “Honors” classes in grades 6-12 and to request training and resources for teachers to provide Tier-2 and Tier-3 interventions for AAS students. This will require funding to acquire and adapt curricular resources and to provide professional development for teachers.
- Finally, AASAC intends to recommend development of more frequent information sessions for families about AAS services in all grades. The current level of AAS staffing does not support the range of information sessions that the committee would like to see.

BACKGROUND:

These anticipated recommendations are in alignment with the AASAC Scope of Work for 2023-24 previously submitted to the Board.

CONTACT:

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