

BOARD MEMO

Date: May 9, 2024

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

FROM: Jane Richardson, Director, Citywide Early Childhood Programs
Carmen Sanders, M.S., Executive Director of Instructional Support

THROUGH: Pierrette Finney, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: Citywide Early Childhood Programs Updates

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

- Goal 1: Systemic Alignment
- Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
- Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support
- Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2023-2024 PRIORITY AREA:

- Academic Achievement
- Tier 1 Instruction: Alignment, Rigor, Engagement

FY 2024 BUDGET PRIORITY:

- Increase Support for Social and Emotional Learning

SUMMARY:

This presentation will update the School Board on Citywide Early Childhood initiatives at the district, local, and state levels. We will highlight Ready Regions, ALX Preschool, and the coordinated efforts of our early care and education partners. We will provide Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) demographic data, student development data, and share about the professional learning and instructional supports provided to our Early Childhood staff. We will also highlight our efforts to build family and community engagement through our local partnerships and our goals for moving forward.

DETAILS:

The Citywide Early Childhood Programs provide opportunities for our youngest learners to have a positive high-quality first school experience. Children engage in inquiry-based learning, build social-emotional and self-regulation skills, and develop language, literacy, and math skills to prepare them for success in kindergarten. This presentation will update the School Board on local collaborative initiatives, state requirements, and ACPS Early Childhood programming. Our mission is to provide a safe, welcoming, and culturally responsive learning environment for our most vulnerable children where they can freely learn through play-based exploration, inquiry, and problem-solving with their peers and teachers. We will highlight who we are, who we serve,

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and our citywide VPI demographic data, student development data, and the professional learning and instructional supports provided to our Early Childhood staff. We will also highlight our efforts to build family and community engagement through our local partnerships and our accomplishments thus far and our goals for moving forward.

BACKGROUND:

The 2025 Strategic Plan Goal 4, Student Accessibility and Support outlines the school division's commitment to pre-K and its goal to expand families' access to pre-K programs. We have addressed the identified strategies and actions to include: developing and leading a coordinated enrollment committee comprising of early care and education partners through the Kids' First Years Access Committee, developing and implementing a pre-K recruitment strategy across the City which is the new ALX Preschool network of coordinated enrollment, analyzing pre-K and kindergarten data to ensure programs and services are meeting a demonstrated need in which we opened a dual language pre-K class, sharing professional learning with community-based early-care and education partners in which we led training on our aligned curriculum and expansion of pre-K programs in ACPS with the new Douglas MacArthur Elementary School's four VPI inclusion classes and the upcoming opening of the Minnie Howard Early Childhood programs. ACPS continues its commitment to ensuring high-quality early childhood services and support for our preschool students and their families.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information in this Early Childhood Updates Board Memo.

IMPACT:

The School Board's review of this Early Childhood presentation is designed to support understanding of the Early Childhood initiatives at the district, local, and state levels. ACPS has a commitment to providing high-quality early childhood services. The investment and benefits of providing our youngest learners with a positive first school experience focusing on the whole child pays great dividends in better outcomes for our students, families, and community.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Presentation: Citywide Early Childhood Program Updates

REFERENCES:

None

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