



Alexandria City Public Schools

# 2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All

September 21, 2023

## The High School Project Update





## Essential Questions

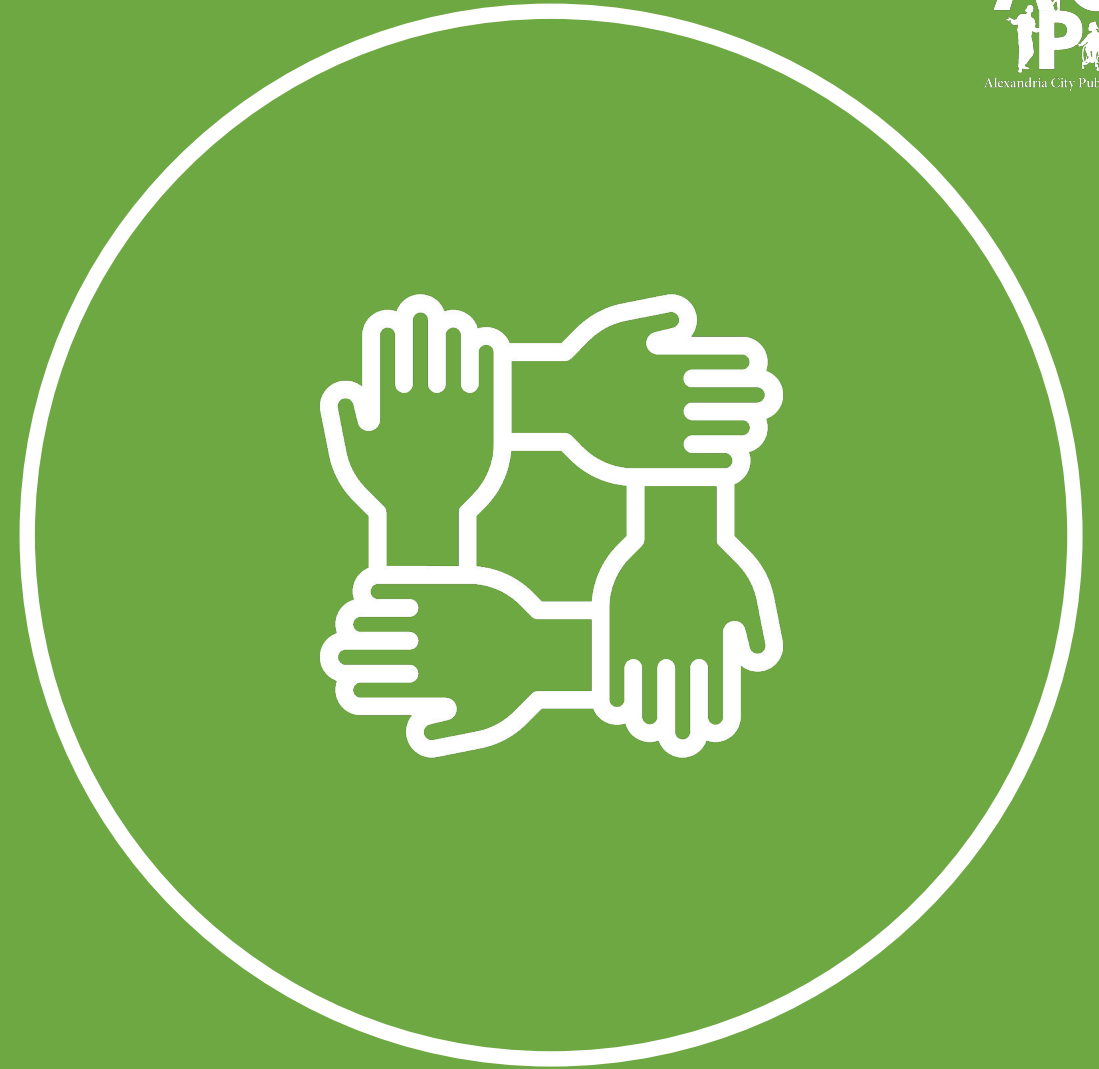
1. What happened during the school diagnostic visits with the Learner-Centered Collaborative team?
2. How did it inform the work the of the High School Project?
3. What is the Guiding Coalition and how does it support the decision-making process?
4. What are the most recent updates pertaining to the educational programming for The High School Project?
5. What are our next steps?

## 2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All

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# “Where We Were”

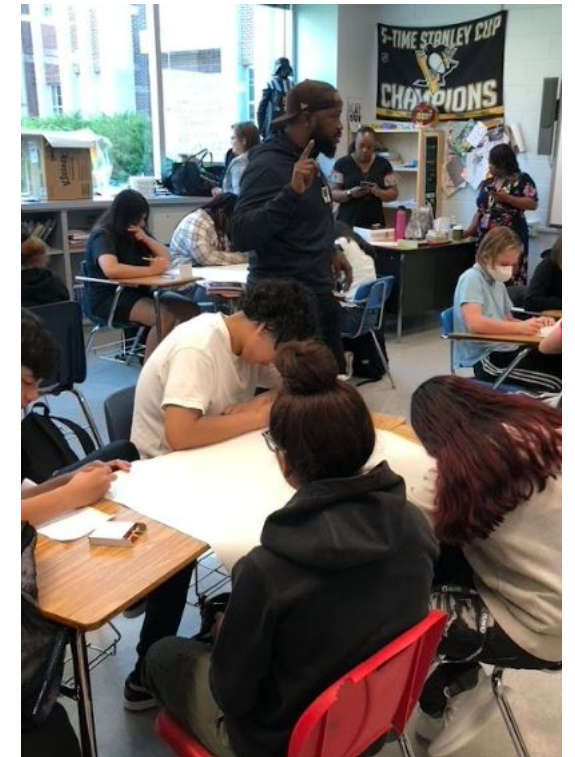
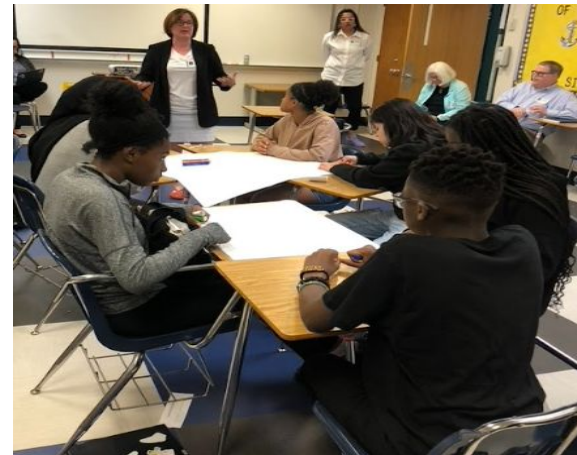
## The Learning Visit





# May Diagnostic Visits: Student Voice

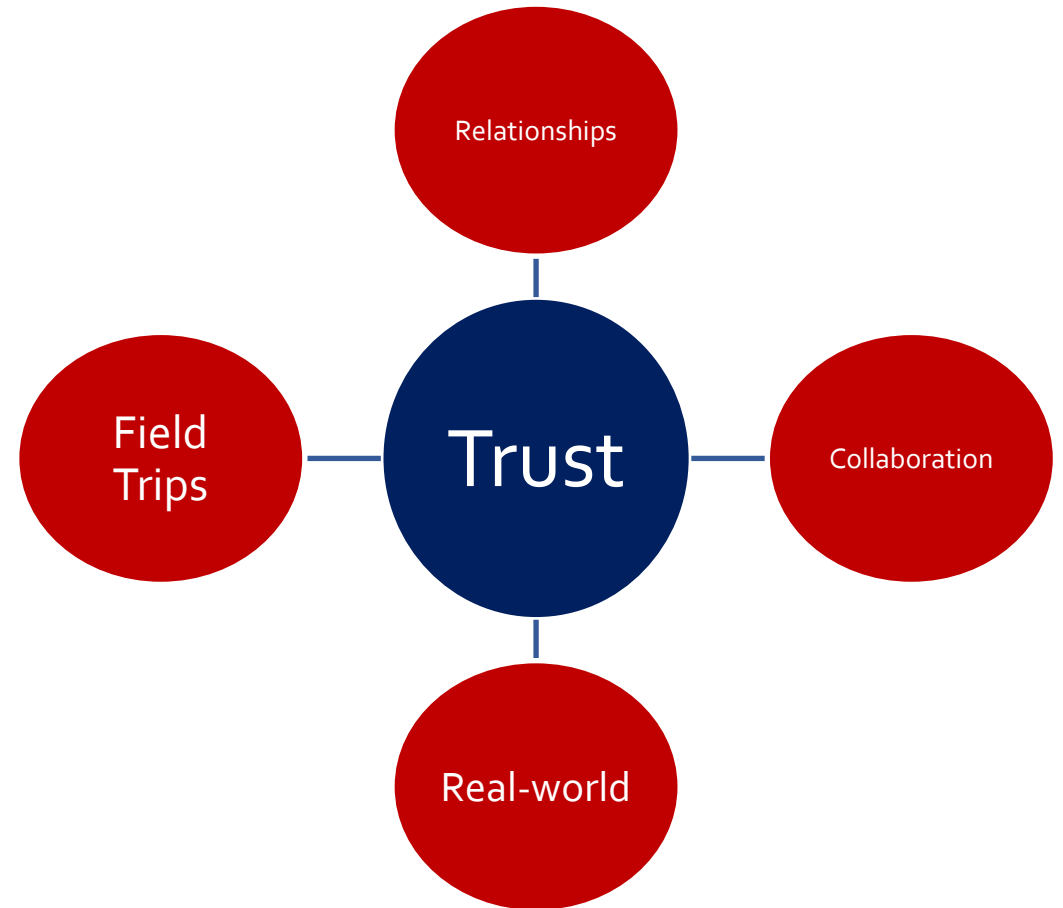
- May 16 and 17
- Engaged approximately 5 student focus groups from Alexandria City High School, George Washington Middle School, and Francis C. Hammond Middle School
  - 120+ students participated
- 15+ central office staff engaged in planning discussions





# Learner Experience Theme

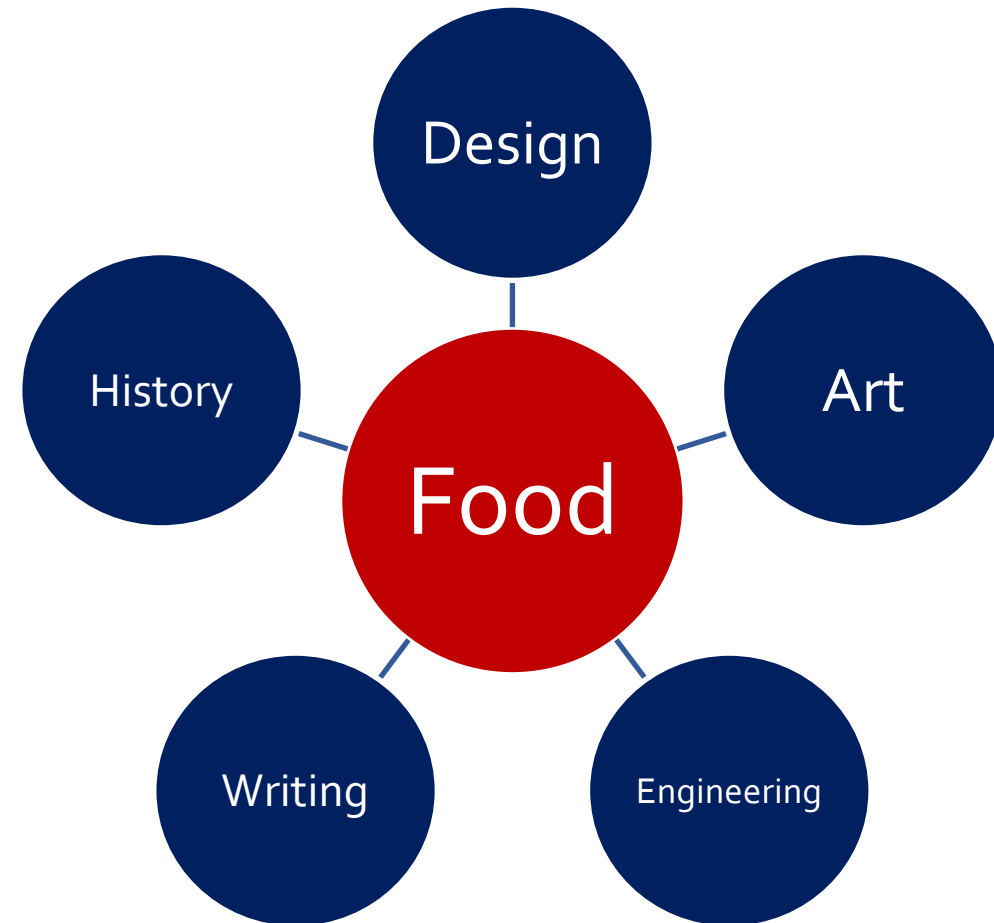
Students from both the middle and high school shared that they want the following from their school experience:





# Content Themes

Students from both middle and high school shared that they wanted to learn about:





# Bright Spots

- **Culture**
  - Staff has a shared commitment to creating opportunities for learners.
- **Center learner voices**
  - Genuine staff reactions from learner feedback in focus groups
  - Willingness to question assumptions (open-minded stance)
- **Energy shifts**
  - Desire for clarity regarding timelines
  - Staff and learners seem ready for change and progress







# June Diagnostic Visit: Staff and Family Voice

- June 12
- Staff Focus Group
  - Received licensed and support staff feedback and recommendations
  - Interviewed with school-based leadership
- Parent Information Session
  - Engaged in a group activity
  - Shared hopes and dreams for their child(ren) in ACPS
  - Elementary, middle, and high school parents attended







# June Diagnostic Visit: Guiding Coalition

- Held on June 13
- Initial Guiding Coalition meeting with ACHS and division leadership
  - Guiding Coalition is a group of people collaborating to influence outcomes.
- Developed a version of the ACPS Learner Profile with outlined competencies
- Developed a draft Learning Model
- Formed Working Groups





# What Followed the Visits?

- Development of an internal project plan
- Revision of the draft Learner Profile
- Revision of Learning Model with competency descriptors
- Convening working groups
  - Educational Programming
  - Operations
  - Student Experience
  - Communications and Engagement



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# “Where We Are”

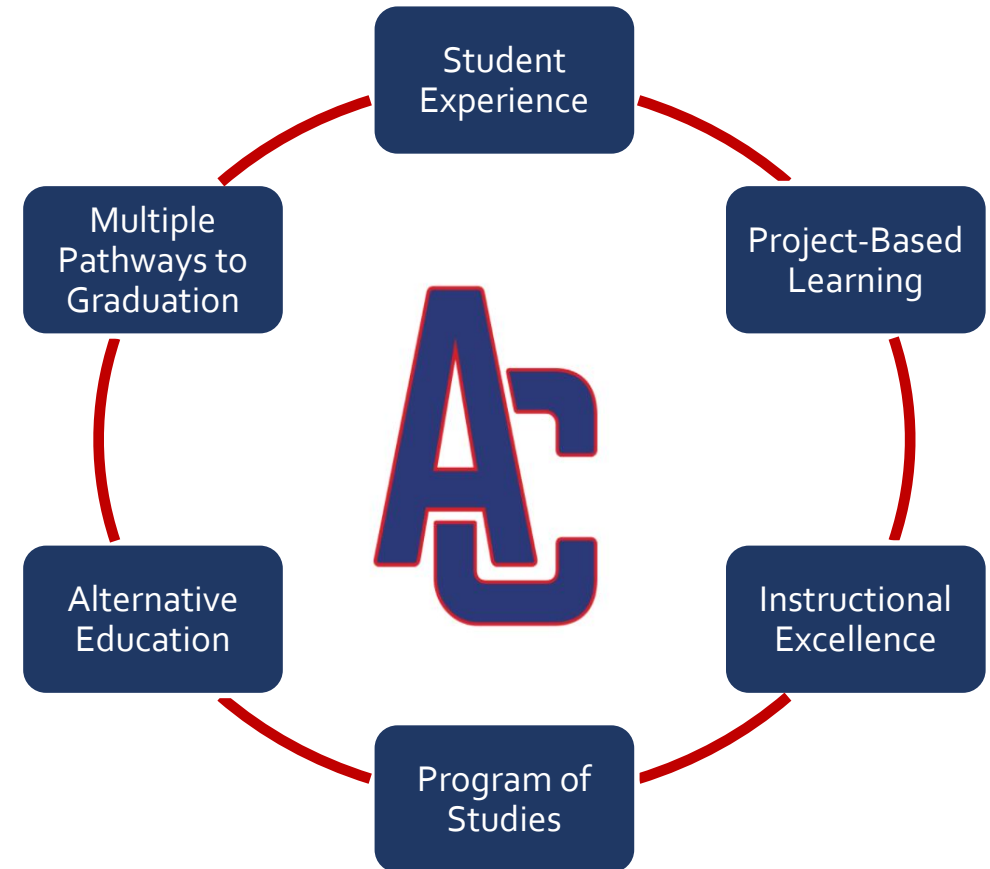
## Decision-making and Planning





# Core Values and Drivers

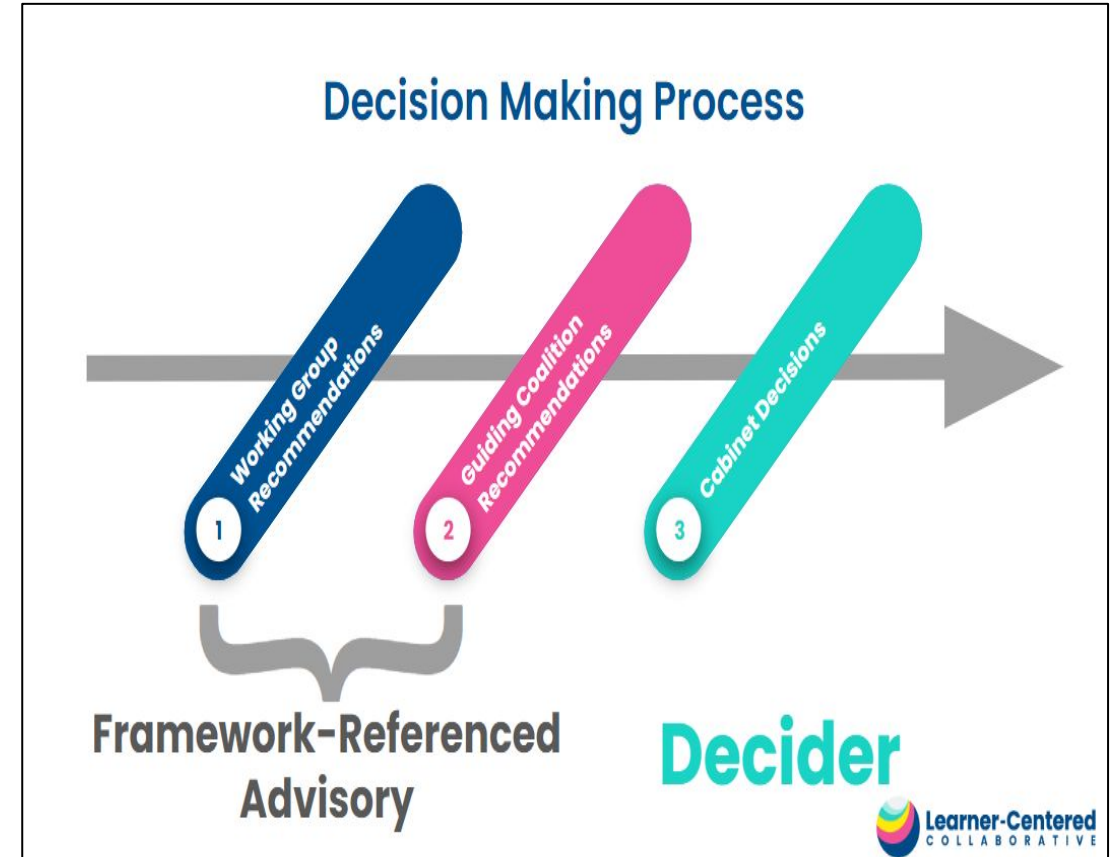
- Equity
- Relationships and Community
- Achievement and Growth
- Student Choice and Multiple Pathways





# Working Groups and Guiding Coalition

- Working Groups develop recommendations
- Guiding Coalition provides feedback and rate recommendations on a 4-point scale
  - Guiding Coalition convenes bi-weekly
- Recommendations with input is shared with the Superintendent and Cabinet for approval





# Smaller Learning Communities (SLCs)

- SLCs will be subcultures of the school that engage and support students with academics and developing lifelong competencies.
- Grade 9 SLCs will have the **option** to enter **student choice pathways** or be **assigned student exploration cohort**.
- Grades 10-12 will be in contained pathways.

Specialization

Personalization

Collaboration

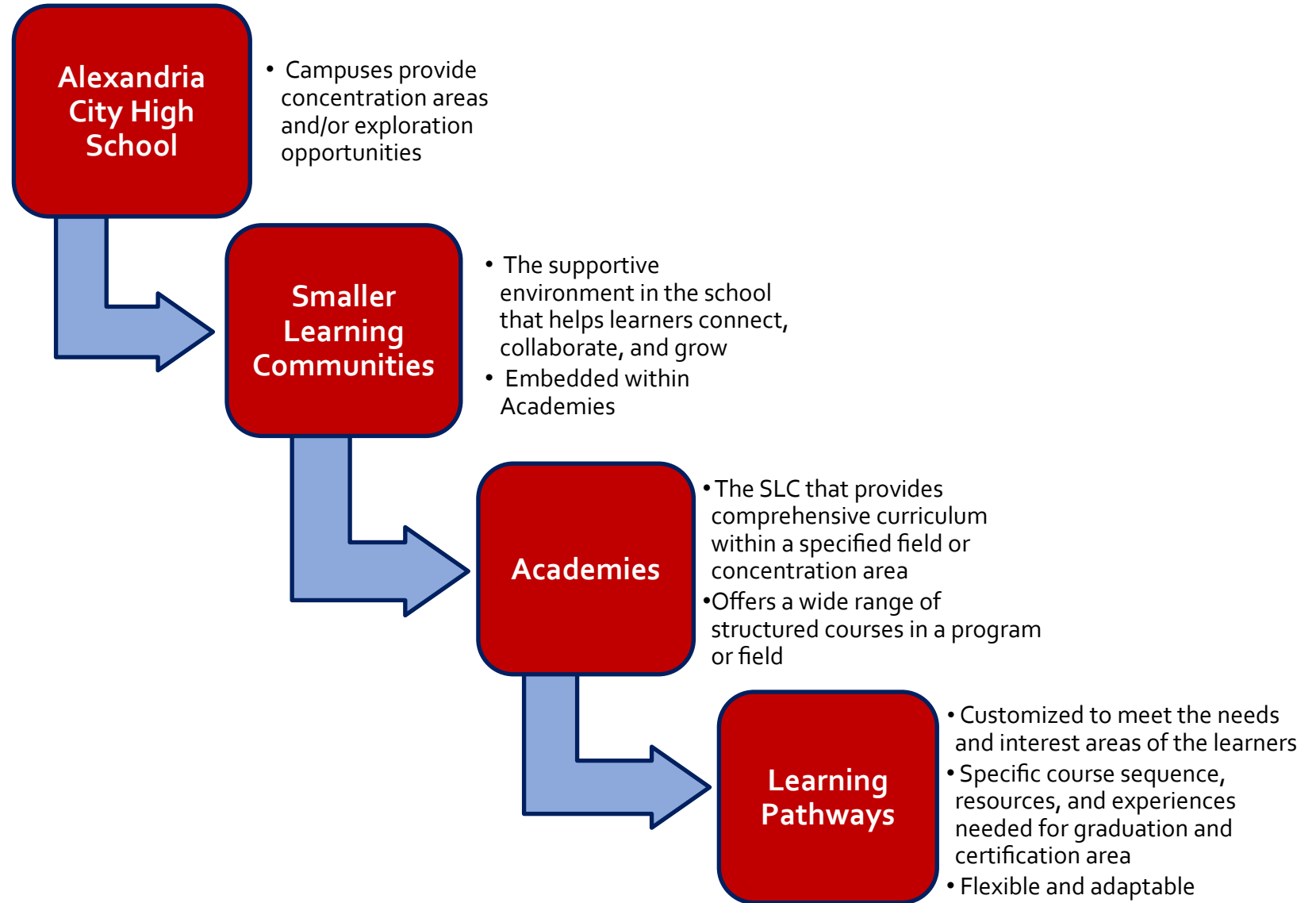
Mentorship

Flexibility



# Envisioning the High School's Structure

## "A Framework for the Future"

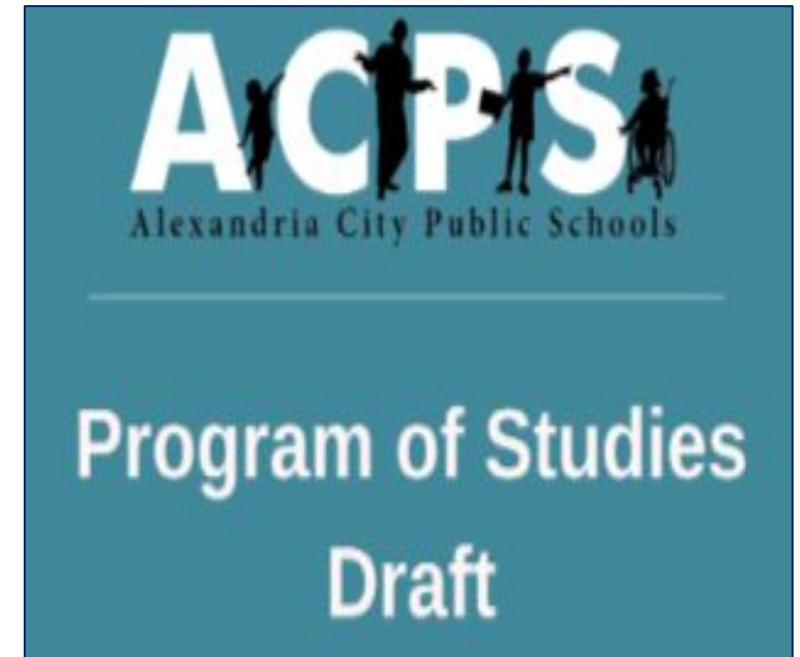






# Program of Studies

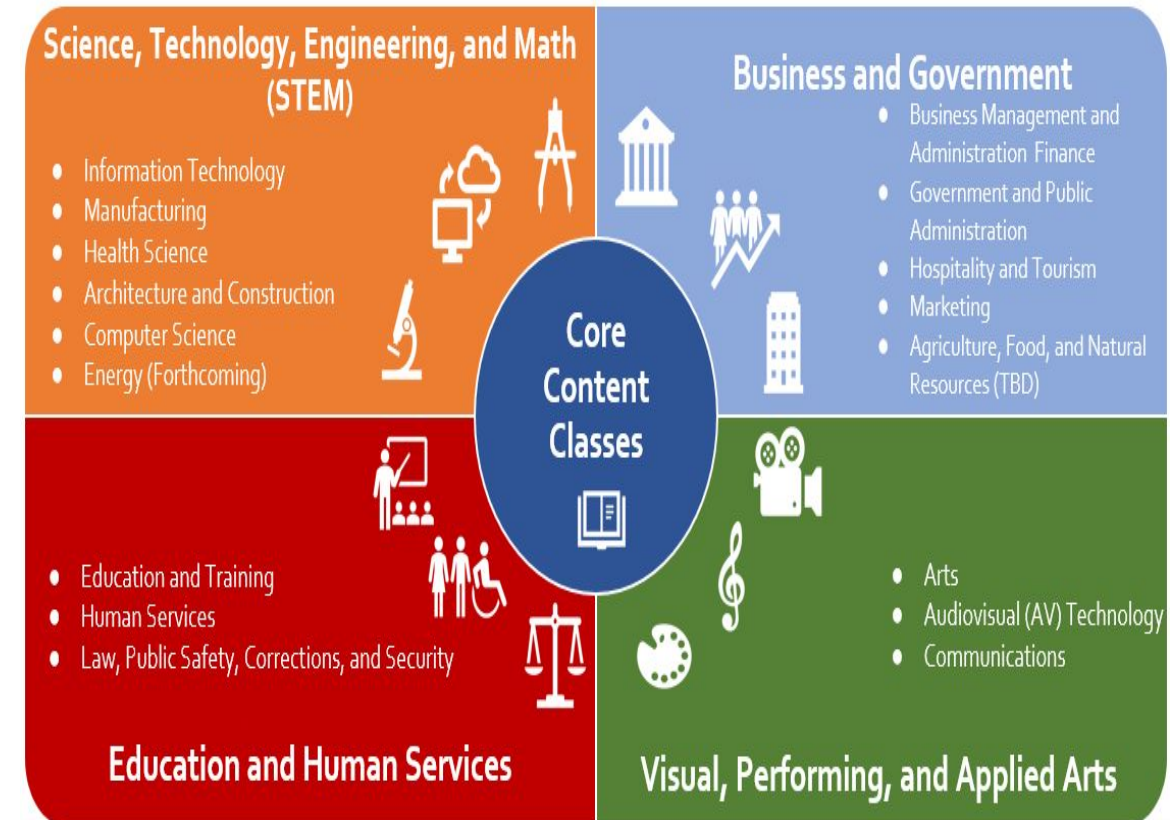
- Designed with academies and learning pathways
- Learning pathways with course sequences
  - Developed by school-based and division content specialists, coordinators, and directors
- Public-facing document will provide more graphic representation of pathways , in languages that are accessible to all families
- 9-12 grade map will reflect requirements for standard and advanced diploma types





# Program of Studies (cont.)

- “The Academies of Alexandria City High School”
- Global Studies (exploration pathway)
  - 9<sup>th</sup> grade only
  - Students who have not chosen a pathway.
- Four field concentration areas include:
  - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)
  - Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts
  - Business and Government
  - Education and Human Services





# Master Schedule

- Learner-first scheduling
- 8-period, A (red)/B (blue) day
- Embedded student support structure
- Five (5) courses aligned to specific program or field
- SLCs (within academies) allowed to design one course that creates project-based learning choices and extensions of a pathway
- Opportunities for internships and externships





# Branding Kit

- Maintain the current Alexandria City High School Branding Kit approved in August 2021
- Signage and logos with current branding kit has been purchased for the new building



**ALEXANDRIA CITY  
HIGH SCHOOL**





# Communication Plan

- Provide program, curriculum, and instruction messages
  - Focus on learning that is personalized, authentic, competency-based, inclusive, and equitable
  - Academic advisement process
- Messaging about the following areas:
  - Interesting building design and features
  - Instructional vision/courses offered MH 9-12 Campus
  - Student transportation between campuses
  - Staffing
  - Safety and security measures as the new facility comes on line
  - Aquatic center



## Communication Plan (cont.)

Strategies	Communication Channels
Develop Digital Playbooks	ACPS Website
Engage media and provide news advisories	ACPS Express/ACPS Insider
Create informational videos and support with in-person meetings	ParentSquare
Capture student voice through perspective videos	Twitter (school PR liaison)
Plan and prepare for ribbon-cutting event	Principal Chats

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# “Where We Are Going”

Continued Planning and Preparation







# The High School Project Team: Looking to the Future

Convene Student Experience and Operations Working Groups to put forth recommendations to the Guiding Coalition

Week of September 25

Engage families in previewing draft Program of Studies

Week of October 9

Draft Presentation of Program of Studies  
October 19

Approval of Program of Studies  
November 2

Communicate timeline for key milestones of project with stakeholder groups

Week of October 16



Alexandria City Public Schools

# Questions?

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## Superintendent

Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

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