

BOARD MEMO

Date: February 2, 2023

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

FROM: Carmen Sanders, Executive Director of Instructional Support
Pierrette Finney, Ed.D., Executive Director of Instructional Leadership

THROUGH: Wendy González, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Program of Studies Course Addition- Strategies for Academic Success II

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

SY 2022-2023 FOCUS AREA:

Middle School Educational Experience

Hispanic Males

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Address Chronic Absenteeism & High School Graduation Rate Among Hispanic Male Students

Social and Emotional Supports for Students

Implementation of Customer Relationship Management System

SUMMARY:

Alexandria City High School (ACHS) is requesting the submission and approval for the Strategies for Academic Success II course leading to a course in series for the current *Strategies for Academic Success (SAS) I*. This course recommendation was inadvertently left out of the fall 2022 Program of Studies submission to the School Board. As an addendum to the November 10th, 2022 School Board Memo, this memo supports the addition of the named course in bold to be added to the approved course listing offered to high school students:

High School

- Construction Technology Pathway
- Data Science
- American Sign Language I, II, and III Online
- Dual Language Spanish Language Arts IV Honors
- Dual Enrollment Dual Language Intermediate Conversation in Spanish
- Introduction to Network Systems
- Network Systems Design
- Aquatics and Safety Training
- Evening Credit Recovery
- **Strategies for Academic Success II**

BOARD MEMO

BACKGROUND:

During the 2021-2022 school year, the Alexandria City High School leadership staff requested and received approval for an International Academy elective course, *Strategies for Academic Success (SAS) I* course submission for the Program of Studies. Due to noted student success and the desire to provide continued support, the team has requested a part II of this course, *Strategies for Academic Success (SAS) II*. Part I of this course is currently running and ACHS is seeking the sequential elective option. This request was inadvertently left out of the initial POS request for approval for a 2023-2024 school year offering.

Course Description:

This course is designed as a continuation to support student growth in critical organization and study skills, goal planning, as well as mastery of core-class content as part two in a two-part series. The students will engage in various activities to increase independent time management, task completion and self-advocacy skills to increase their assumption of responsibility for their academics and post-graduate plans.

High School Credits: 1; **School Level:** High School; **Grade:** 9, 10, 11, 12; **Length:** full year

Prerequisites:

Must be an International Academy student or written in as an IEP service (90 minutes 5x bi-weekly, Study and Organization) and has successfully completed Part I.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Interim Superintendent recommends that the School Board review and approve the Program of Studies high school course named within this memo.

IMPACT:

The point of this brief is to request support and approval of the submission of *Strategies for Academic Support (SAS) II* elective course for International Academy students in an effort to expand the series to Part II.

CONTACT:

Wendy Gonzalez, Ed.D, wendy.gonzalez@acps.k12.va.us
Pierrette Finney, Ed.D., pierrette.finney@acps.k12.va.us
Carmen Sanders, carmen.sanders@acps.k12.va.us