

BOARD BRIEF

Date: April 23, 2021

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Terri H. Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Peter Balas, Principal, T.C. Williams High School

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: High School Graduation Update

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA

Focus Area 5: Academic Disparities

FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY

Chronic Absenteeism among Hispanic Students

Outreach to Hispanic Families to Improve Attendance and Graduation

Outreach to Underserved Communities to Increase Engagement

SUMMARY

Due to the pandemic, the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020 was entirely virtual. Given our return to school, improvements in the pandemic conditions, and the desires of our students, we have been planning for the Class of 2021 to have an in-person commencement ceremony that follows all safety protocols and guidelines mandated by the Virginia Governor Ralph Northam. The Titan Graduation Ceremony Committee, made of staff, students, and an ACPS School Board member, has presented plans to the ACPS Superintendent and Senior Leadership Team for an in-person ceremony. Due to the renovation of the Parker-Gray Memorial Stadium, the committee is in the final stages of securing the outdoor location.

BACKGROUND

Since December 2020, a graduation committee has been meeting to brainstorm and plan for what type of commencement ceremony could be possible for the Class of 2021. The committee reflected on what they liked about traditional pre-pandemic ceremonies as well as last year's fully virtual ceremony to plan the best experience possible for the graduating seniors. Our student leaders in Student Government and Leadership have been involved in planning with us, resulting in some amazing in-person graduation ceremony ideas.

BOARD BRIEF

Currently, we are in the final stages of planning and securing a location for the best experience possible for our students. We are committed to this and our students who are so looking forward to and deserve an in-person graduation ceremony that meets the state's health and safety guidelines for graduation ceremonies. As details are finalized, we will provide a future update.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information within this brief as it relates to High School Graduation.

IMPACT

The commencement of the Class of 2021 will be in-person, following all safety guidelines, to give our students and families a personalized experience as they end their time in high school.

CONTACT

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