

Board Brief

Date: November 5, 2018
For ACTION
For INFORMATION
Board Agenda: Yes
No

FROM: Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Theresa Werner, Executive Director of Specialized Instruction

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

TO: The Honorable Ramee A. Gentry, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria
City School Board

TOPIC: Students with Disabilities Action Plan Update

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this update is to provide the Board with details on how the Division plans to engage the community in the action planning including specific timelines for the upcoming rollout. The goals of this process are to ensure clear communication, transparency, and opportunities for comment across stakeholder groups to yield the highest quality action plan for the Division and to begin to engender the necessary support to drive sustainable change.

BACKGROUND:

As the Board is aware, external evaluators from the Public Consulting Group (PCG), hired by ACPS to evaluate services to students with disabilities, presented the final report to the Board from their review over the 2017-2018 school year. At the end of August, the division provided an update to the Board on the progress made over the summer months as a group of 36 stakeholders met to move toward a purposeful implementation of the evaluation's recommendations. Since the last update to the Board on August 31, the Steering Committee has convened to discuss and refine planning guidance documents based upon feedback from fellow Steering Committee members and the products of their respective Subcommittees. The goal of the Steering Committee has been create a draft plan that aspires to go beyond striving for outcomes on summative statewide assessments and aims to address systemic issues surrounding culture and climate, accountability, and fidelity of implementation. These areas must first be strategically targeted in order for ACPS to realize sustained progress and positive outcomes for students with disabilities.

NEXT STEPS:

Now that the draft action plan is shared with the Board, ACPS will actively introduce the draft action plan to the community and seek comment through a variety of mechanisms with a broad range of stakeholder groups. ACPS has contracted with a neutral third-party, Hanover Research, to facilitate public comment both face-to-face and through online communications. Hanover will synthesize the comments received through public comment and provide the results of their analysis to the division to inform the finalization of the action plan. Efforts will be made to elicit comment from parent and community groups through a series of publicly announced face-to-face comment forums, an electronic comment form will

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be made available to all, and staff comment forums will also be held. ACPS will reach out to families of students with disabilities specifically and will also partner with SEAC and other special education groups to ensure engagement of critical stakeholders including culturally and linguistically diverse populations throughout the public comment period.

Below is a detailed timeline of upcoming events with targeted dates.

SEAC Draft Action Plan Presentation	November 7
Draft Action Plan Provided to Board	November 8
Online comment forum opens	November 5
Parent/Community/SEAC comment face-to-face forums with ACPS and External Vendor	November 13 & 14
Staff comment face-to-face forums with ACPS and External Vendor	November 13 & 14
Online comment forum closes	November 20
External Vendor Submission of Analysis of Comments Received on Draft Action Plan	December 7

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the attached materials for possible planning, procedural, programmatic, and/or budgetary changes.

IMPACT:

This update provides the Board with upcoming next steps from the comprehensive evaluation of services for Students with Disabilities within ACPS through December 2018. This information will be leveraged by the division to chart the course for the future of services provided to students with disabilities and their families within ACPS for the next three years including potential additional funding requests to support implementing the recommendations.

ATTACHMENTS:

Ensuring Success of Students with Disabilities: Action Plan 2019-2021

CONTACT:

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