

BOARD BRIEF

Date: August 20, 2021

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Izora Everson, Ed.D., ACPS Virtual Learning Administrator

THROUGH: Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief, Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Wendy Gonzalez, Ed.D., Executive Director of School Leadership
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: ACPS Virtual Learning Update

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2021-2022 FOCUS AREA

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

SUMMARY

The purpose of this brief is to provide an update regarding the ACPS Virtual Learning implementation via Virtual Virginia (VVA). Virtual Virginia is a Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) program and offers Advanced Placement (AP), world language, core academic, and elective courses to Virginia students. Students selecting Virtual Learning for the 2021-2022 school year remain ACPS students, with ACPS retaining the ADM for these students.

BACKGROUND

ACPS families were asked to complete a Learning Choice form for summer learning and fall learning with a deadline of May 24, 2021, if they wished to select Virtual Learning as their choice for the 2021-2022 school year. The May 24, 2021, deadline was necessary for ACPS staff to enroll and register these students in the VVA Student Information System (SIS) prior to VVA's guaranteed course availability date of July 15, 2021. As of June 14, 2021, 870 families had opted into Virtual Learning.

On July 15, 2021, when course requests were submitted to VVA for invoicing, 78 families had requested to reconsider their virtual option and return to in-person learning for the 2021-2022

BOARD BRIEF

school year. An invoice request for the 792 remaining students was submitted to VVA on July 15, 2021, totaling \$1,113,650.00 for the first semester. VVA stipulates that enrollments are non-refundable and non-transferrable. As of August 19, 2021, 282 additional families had chosen to return to in-person learning for a total of 510 students continuing with virtual learning via VVA.

VVA fees for students in grades K-5 are \$2,275.00 per semester and \$225 per semester course for grades 6-12. At the middle school and high school levels, students are enrolled in a total of 7 to 8 courses for an average cost of \$1,575 to \$1,800 per 6-12 grade student. At an average per pupil spending rate of \$1,925 to \$2,037.5 per student (see calculation below), ACPS will pay VVA \$542,850.00 to \$574,575.00 for students who will no longer be participating in virtual courses via VVA.

Average K-5 course enrollment fee + average 7 class enrollment fee, divided by two:
 $\$2,275 + \$1,575 = \$3,850$. $\$3,850$ divided by 2 = $\$1,925$ (7 class average at the secondary level)
 $\$2,275 + \$1,800 = \$4,075$. $\$4,075$ divided by 2 = $\$2,037.5$ (8 class average at the secondary level)

Although VVA does not guarantee course availability after July 15, 2021, since that date, approximately 200 ACPS families have requested to switch from in-person learning to virtual learning for the upcoming school year due to concerns with the Delta variant, health concerns, and their child(ren) being unvaccinated. ACPS staff have requested late enrollments with VVA, but have only secured four seats in VVA for these families.

ACPS is in the process of obtaining the required textbooks for the remaining 510 students taking their courses via VVA as VVA does not provide all required textbooks and materials. The purchase of these textbooks is an additional cost associated with the virtual learning option.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information within this brief.

IMPACT

Implementation of a Virtual Learning option for the 2021-2022 school year via a partnership with Virtual Virginia.

CONTACT

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