

BOARD BRIEF

Date: June 26, 2020

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Angela Green, Testing and Improvement Analyst
Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer
Natalie Mitchell, Director of Title I Programs

THROUGH: Terri Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: COVID-19 Measurement Summary

ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity; Goal 2: Family and Community Engagement; Goal 3: An Exemplary Staff; Goal 5: Health and Wellness

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:

Focus 1: Educational Equity

FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Academics; Mental and Social/Emotional Health; Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments

SUMMARY:

This Board Brief contains high-level key measurement data pertaining to the division's strategic response to the closure of school through June 2020. The measures were identified to facilitate organizational learning and improvements throughout the school closure period and to inform current planning efforts. Key takeaways from these measures include: strong responses across all groups to social-emotional support during the closure, academic progress cited by students and families, and a clear understanding of division decision-making. The critical area of focus remains increased student engagement across all students.

BACKGROUND:

The COVID-19 school closure prompted ACPS to strategically pivot as an organization to ensure that students have access to the physical, educational and social resources necessary to be successful. ACPS developed a [theory of action](#) which identified the overall key levers necessary to reach that goal: instruction, technology access, nutrition, health, and safety, and communication. To measure progress and inform future planning efforts ACPS identified key high-level [measurement areas](#) within each of these areas.

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While departments and schools have been tracking detailed data across each of these domains, there was also a need to provide a high-level view of performance across all identified areas. The attached document provides key findings and supporting figures illuminating high-level trends in identified critical areas throughout the closure period. This document is intended to provide a broad picture across these areas with more detailed information already being provided or forthcoming in School Board materials.

Key findings across the four key areas included:

- **Instruction:** Students and families who were engaged reported high levels of agreement of academic progress; however, the priority remains increasing engagement across all ACPS students and families.
- **Technology Access:** ACPS has been responsive to students and staff needing assistance accessing remote learning through increased internet access and technical supports. While student access to remote learning has been consistent over the closure period, weekly approximately 20% of students in grades 3-12 do not appear to be accessing remote learning through the Clever application.
- **Nutrition, Health, & Safety:** A majority of stakeholders reported feeling supported and managing their emotional stress well through the school closure period. Meals access trended up throughout the closure reaching peak rates in May.
- **Communication:** Stakeholders feel well informed but prolonged closure has impacted the feeling of connectedness. The continued use of multiple methods of communicating out key messages will be critical moving forward.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review this Board Brief and attachment for an awareness of trends across the school closure period in critical areas identified.

IMPACT: The stakeholder response and internal data tracking has helped to inform a high level view of the current impact of all the action-steps taken thus far in supporting the key areas in supporting students, families, and staff throughout the current school closure period. The information gleaned from this data will drive the learning and improvement efforts across the division and inform the planning and implementation of Continuity of Learning Plans 3.0 and 4.0.

ATTACHMENT:

1. COVID-19 Measurement Summary

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