

BOARD BRIEF

Date: May 7, 2021

BOARD INFORMATION _X_

MEETING PREPARATION: ____

FROM: Terri H. Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Patricia Zissios, Ph.D., Principal, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy

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: Kindergarten - First Grade Student Orientation; Grades 2-5 New Student Orientation

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY

Outreach to Underserved Communities to Increase Engagement

SUMMARY

Kindergarten Prep (KPrep) is an annual summer learning experience offered to rising Kindergarten students in ACPS elementary schools, with the exception of Samuel Tucker Elementary School (modified calendar). The program is normally held the third week of August for a period of four half-day sessions. It is used to orient students to the school site, offer an opportunity for teachers to informally assess students for class placement, and provide a brief introduction to the Kindergarten curriculum. Due to the pandemic closure of schools for 2019-2020, the in-person KPrep program was not offered last summer. A virtual one-on-one ZOOM meeting was provided to each Kindergarten student/family for orientation/assessment by the student's assigned school staff.

BACKGROUND

Looking at the early school start date of August 24, 2021, for the 2021-2022 school year (with new teachers reporting on August 9, 2021; all other teachers returning on August 13, 2021) and the ending of the Summer Learning Academy on July 30, 2021, a proposal was developed by principals to restructure KPrep to a half-day, morning Kindergarten/First Grade Orientation to school to be held on August 20, 2021. Similarly, new to school students in grades 2-5 would be offered an orientation in the afternoon. In addition, Kindergarten teachers would be provided with in-class staff support the first two weeks of school (August 24, 2021 - September 3, 2021) to allow the teachers to conduct individual student assessments.

NEXT STEPS

Provide a *“Step Up to School” Orientation Day* (Kindergarten, First Grade, and New to School Students):

- Hold on Friday, August 20, 2021
- Conduct two sessions:
 - Kindergarten + First Grade (8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
 - New Students (12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.)
- Simulate school day for Kindergarten + First Grade (bus transportation, grab and go meal, shortened schedule)
- Provide orientation for new students (school tour, schedule, expectations)
- Utilize the availability of staff to assist/interact with students (school based work day)
- Provide in-class staff support for Kindergarten teachers August 24, 2021 - September 3, 2021, for student assessments

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information within this brief as it relates to orientation for rising kindergartens, rising first grader students, and new second-fifth grade students.

CONTACT

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