

BOARD BRIEF

Date: May 1, 2020

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Amber Eby, Ph.D., Evaluation and Assessment Analyst

THROUGH: Clinton Page, Chief Accountability 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: ACPS COVID-19 Response Survey

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 Area 1: Educational Equity

FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:

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

SUMMARY:

During the week of May 4, Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) will administer a brief online survey to students grades 3-12, parents, and staff to seek additional feedback related to the ACPS response to the COVID-19 school building closures. The two-to-three minute survey is designed to assist in high-level monitoring of the division's efforts and inform future decisions regarding how best to provide equitable access and engagement to academic and social and emotional supports during this time. Additional survey administrations are scheduled for the end of May and mid-June to both monitor progress in key areas and seek additional stakeholder feedback to inform summer and fall planning.

BACKGROUND:

ACPS has identified the goal of providing equitable access and engagement to ongoing academic, social and emotional supports to every student and staff member during the current school closure. To reach this goal, the key areas of instruction, technology access, nutrition, health and wellness, and communication were identified. In consultation with the Senior Leadership Team and other staff, ACPS developed high-level measurement topics for each key

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area (see attachment: “ACPS COVID-19 Survey Measurement Topics”). ACPS staff focused on keeping the survey brief and high-level to honor our current shared context where time is invaluable.

The survey will be administered, in partnership with Hanover Research, three times over the course of the next two months to ensure the division is monitoring and responsive to the needs of stakeholders. The first and third administrations will serve as a pre- and post-survey to gauge areas of strength, needs, and overall performance in key areas over the school closure period. The second administration will include additional questions to inform the division’s summer and fall planning.

Within the current context of rapid innovation, preliminary survey results will be made available as quickly as possible to school and central office leaders via online reports. Structures will be put in place to support leaders in the analysis of results with their teams with an emphasis on continuous improvement. The Board will also be apprised of final survey results in a timely manner to facilitate informed decision-making. Each survey includes demographic questions allowing results to be analyzed by groups including: school, grade level, staff role, specialized instruction participation (SWD, ELL, TAG), race, and ethnicity. The student and staff surveys are in English, while the parent survey is also offered in Spanish, Arabic, and Amharic.

Survey distribution to staff and students will be primarily funneled through school and department leadership. Leaders will make time in existing meeting structures for staff to take the brief survey. Likewise, instructional staff will allocate 2-3 minutes in existing time with students for them to take the survey. Parents will receive the survey through a multitude of outreach efforts with a focus on text messaging as the best mechanism to reach as many parents as possible within the current school closure. Additional outreach efforts are also in place through the ACPS FACE and Communications offices.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review this brief and attachments for awareness of the upcoming survey effort within ACPS for students, staff, and families.

IMPACT:

This survey effort is critical in informing current division standing through the eyes of our stakeholders across the key areas of instruction, technology access, nutrition, health and wellness, and communication in this time of school closure. The results will be used to identify areas of relative strength, focus, and further study allowing for rapid organizational learning and improvements.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. “ACPS COVID-19 Survey Measurement Topics”

CONTACT:

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