

BOARD BRIEF

Date: October 1, 2020

BOARD INFORMATION: x

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Mr. Kurt Huffman, M.Ed, Executive Director of Community Partnerships & Engagement

THROUGH: Julia Burgos, Chief of School & Community Relations
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: Virtual PLUS+ Partners Update

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation

Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 1: Reopening of School

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Outreach to Underserved Communities to Increase Engagement

SUMMARY:

Community Virtual Plus+ Partner Response to Need

It truly takes a collective collaborative to support the supervision and childcare needs of our families during this unprecedented time of COVID-19. Alexandria is extremely fortunate to have a supportive community that cares deeply about the youth that reside throughout our city. That support was never more evident than now, as multiple community partners have pivoted their work plan to support families through the offering of supervised care during the school day and afterschool hours. As of September 24, 2020, the following VIRTUAL PLUS+ Partners are providing support care for the students and families of Alexandria:

(See Virtual Plus+ Partners chart on next page)

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VIRTUAL PLUS+ PARTNERS

Free for Families Through Title I, Title IV and City Support	Provider Fee-Based Sliding Income Scale, Scholarships, etc.	Supported By 21st Century Community Center Grant Program
Full School Day and Afterschool	Full School Day and After School	After School Only
YMCA (ST) Boys and Girls Club (Payne Street) DRPCA (WR, CK)	YMCA Boys and Girls Club DRPCA Campagna Kids Casa Chirilagua Alexandria Soccer Association	ARHA Ruby Tucker Brent Place Community Lodgings (Brookside, Beverly Hills, and Fifer Centers)
180 approximate slots filled with rolling increasing enrollment. Will increase to maximum of 350 slots	600 approximate slots available and being filled with rolling increasing enrollment	150 approximate slots available and being filled with rolling enrollment

NOTE:

1. The numbers above do NOT represent the numerous other community organizations and businesses such as The Goddard School, individual private tutors/teachers, Early Childhood Providers (example: Children and Family Network Center, Creative Playschool) and others that offer supervision to students in Alexandria.
2. DRPCA, YMCA and Campagna Kids are all looking to expand their numbers, including increasing their free student slots, throughout the next couple of weeks as their capacity and staffing increases. For example, on October 5 DRPCA will be adding an additional 60 free slots for Title I identified families at James K. Polk and 20 additional free slots for Title I identified families at Patrick Henry. The YMCA and Campagna Kids are also looking to expand as capacity allows.

Barriers

As mentioned above, all programs (both fee-based and free-identified) are continuing to enroll on a rolling basis based on the potential increase of Virtual PLUS+ Partner staffing numbers. As they increase their staff, they are able to increase the number of students served, keeping in mind the facility limitations based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines regarding social distancing. All Virtual PLUS+ partners continue to work with ACPS' Facilities and Operations and the Office of Community Partnerships and Engagement to discuss potential free Title I and Title IV enrollment increases.

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Moving Forward

As Dr. Hutchings continues to say, we need to continue to show grace, creativity and patience as we walk down this unprecedented path together. We are very fortunate to have such a committed group of internal leaders and external Virtual PLUS+ Partners who continue to be willing to take on any challenges that we encounter and look to solutions so that we can truly serve our students and families at the highest level possible.

BACKGROUND:

To support Alexandria City Public Schools' (ACPS) families during the COVID-19 pandemic, ACPS has been collaborating with multiple Virtual PLUS+ Partners in order to offer free school day and after school programs for identified most vulnerable, school-aged students. In addition to serving ACPS' identified most vulnerable students free of charge, several Virtual PLUS+ Partners are also providing school day child care support to families throughout the city with sliding income-based fees, scholarships and other fee adjustments.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the Virtual PLUS+ Partners Update Board Brief.

ATTACHMENTS:

ACPS Support

IMPACT:

ACPS families who are in need of school day and afterschool supervision will have various opportunities to meet those needs through different Virtual PLUS+ Partner supervision options.

CONTACT:

If you have any questions about this document or other Virtual PLUS+ School Day and After School questions, please reach out to:

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