

**BOARD MEMO**

Date: May 26, 2022

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

**FROM:** Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer  
Bethany Nickerson, Ed.D., Executive Director of English Learner (EL) Services  
Jennifer Hamilton, Assistant Principal, Dual Language Program Coordinator

**THROUGH:** Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

**TOPIC:** Dual Language Program Update

**ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment

Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

**SY 2021-2022 FOCUS AREA:**

Focus Area 1: Social Emotional and Academic Learning Recovery

Focus Area 2: Hispanic Males

Focus Area 3: Middle School Educational Experience

**FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

Continue Engagement with Hispanic Families to Improve Graduation and Chronic Absenteeism

**SUMMARY**

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) has expanded the *Dual Language Program* model to the middle school level to achieve the program goals of academic achievement, bilingualism, biliteracy, and socio-cultural competence for students, and to promote the cognitive benefits and high levels of academic achievement associated with bilingualism and dual language education. The Dual Language Program strand in middle school consists of two courses in Spanish: Spanish Language Arts and Social Studies. To provide program services to families on both the east and west sides of Alexandria City, and to accommodate future expansion of the Dual Language Program at John Adams Elementary School, the program is offered at two middle school sites: Francis C. Hammond George Washington Middle School.

## BOARD MEMO

The timeline for implementation is the following:

<b>SY 2020-2021: 6<sup>th</sup> grade (Completed)</b>	<b>SY 2021-2022: 7<sup>th</sup> grade (Completed)</b>	<b>SY 2022-2023: 8<sup>th</sup> grade (In Progress)</b>
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Additionally, ACPS is continuing to enhance the K-5 Dual Language Program at John Adams Elementary School and Mount Vernon Community School. The Center for Applied Linguistics is providing guidance to ACPS teacher-writers who are developing Spanish Language Arts curriculum maps to match SOL English Language Arts and Common Core en español standards and objectives for grades 3, 4, and 5. This is a central piece to developing a cohesive, vertically aligned K-12 dual language education plan.

The attached PowerPoint presentation outlines the significant activities related to the expansion of the Dual Language Program to the middle school level and the enhancement of the K-5 program.

### BACKGROUND

Dual Language Programs are a form of enrichment education based on over 40 years of research showing the advantages of learning a second language through academic content instruction. In 2014-2015, ACPS renewed its commitment to dual language education through the creation of a new Dual Language Coordinator position. A needs assessment was conducted, a five-year plan was collaboratively developed for improving the program, and Mount Vernon Community School began the transition to a whole-school Dual Language Program, beginning with its' Kindergarten classes. Those Kindergarten students from SY 2014-2015 are now in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Expansion of the Dual Language Program to the secondary level supports the program goals of biliteracy, bilingualism, high achievement, and cultural competence for students, enables more students to reach the advanced levels of second language proficiency in demand in today's global economy, and assists in closing the opportunity and achievement gap.

### RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the attachment and remain current about the Dual Language Program expansion to the middle school level and enhancement at the K-5 level.

### IMPACT

Advances knowledge of the significant activities associated with the expansion of the Dual Language Program to the middle school level and the enhancement of the K-5 program.

### ATTACHMENTS

1. 220526\_PPT\_Dual\_Language\_Update\_v1

### CONTACT

Dr. Bethany Nickerson, [bethany.nickerson@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:bethany.nickerson@acps.k12.va.us)  
Jennifer Hamilton, [jennifer.hamilton@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:jennifer.hamilton@acps.k12.va.us)