

## BOARD BRIEF

Date: April 22, 2022

BOARD INFORMATION:   X    
MEETING PREPARATION:       

**FROM:** Terri H. Mozingo, 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 L. Alderton, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** Step Up to Kindergarten Orientation Program

**ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

**SY 2021–2022 FOCUS AREA:**

Focus Area 1: Social, Emotional, and Academic Learning (SEAL) Recovery

**FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

**SUMMARY:**

*Step Up to Kindergarten Orientation Program* is a half-day introduction to the school experience offered to rising Kindergarten students at their respective schools. It is an opportunity to orient the children to the school experience prior to the start of the school year.

**BACKGROUND:**

Due to an early start to the 2021–2022 school year, the inaugural Step Up to School Orientation for students was held on August 20, 2021. With the pandemic closure of schools having an impact on all students' in-person learning, the orientation was divided into two parts. The morning was structured for Kindergarten/ Grade 1 students to attend a half-day schedule of activities that mirrored a normal school day. Also, students in grades 2-5 were invited to an orientation in the afternoon. This model proved quite effective in easing the transition of new K-5 students into the school setting.

The consensus was to again implement the program in 2022–2023, but to only offer it to rising Kindergarten students since the other grade levels have been oriented to the school during the 2021–2022 school year. However, families of students in grades 1-5 will be invited to an open house in the afternoon on Friday, August, 19, 2022 between 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Each school will provide more information regarding the open house activities for grades 1-5.

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### NEXT STEPS:

Provide a Step Up to Kindergarten Orientation Program:

- **Hold** on Friday, August 19, 2022
  - 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- **Simulate** a typical school day for Kindergarten with a compressed schedule (bus transportation, grab and go meal).
- **Utilize** the availability of staff to assist/interact with students (school-based workday).
- **Provide** in-class staff support for Kindergarten teachers for student assessments (September 2022).

### RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the orientation information within this brief..

### IMPACT:

The Step Up to School Orientation Program is an engaging way to welcome and orient rising Kindergarten students and families to their new school setting.

### ATTACHMENTS:

None

### CONTACT:

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