

BOARD BRIEF

Date: August 14, 2020

BOARD INFORMATION:

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Terri H. Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership

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: Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 4.0: Reimagining Schools Update

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA

Focus Area 1: Educational Equity

FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY

Academics

SUMMARY

On Friday, August 7, 2020, the *Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 4.0: Reimagining School* was presented to the School Board. During this presentation, each Cross-Functional Planning Team chair presented their recommendation as to why it was not feasible to open schools for in-person instruction on September 8, 2020. Chairs shared how their teams evaluated survey data across staff and families, the analysis performed by their teams, and guidance from various State and Local health and education agencies. Key constraints identified across the teams included physical capacity, scheduling, transportation capacity, personal protective equipment availability, and staffing concerns. Following the extensive presentations, the School Board approved the *VirtualPLUS+ Model* as the most feasible to adopt in the fall through the end of the first quarter. This model provides teaching and learning virtually while providing additional support for students, staff, and families. It features five key PLUS+ areas, including social, emotional, and academic supports; technology enhancement; childcare options for our most vulnerable families; continuation of meal distribution; and a live multilingual phone helpline.

This week, *Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS)* principals and senior leadership staff finalized our *VirtualPLUS+* sample student schedules from Early Childhood through high school. Individual campus teams are working to build their school-specific schedules to meet the needs of their communities and keep alignment across the division. In addition to the schedules, school leaders are building plans for supporting staff in implementing virtual instruction.

On Friday, August 14, 2020, the School Board was provided with an overview of the sample student schedules (preschool, elementary, K-8, middle, and high), guidance on facility usage and access, an update on the cross-department and community provider child care next action steps (including provider information matrix development, ACPS technology, facility and social/emotional support clarity, funding paths, eligibility discussions, and supplemental partner integration), as well as high-level

results from the *ACPS VirtualPLUS+ Supports Poll*. Detailed poll results can be found in the “*ACPS VirtualPLUS+ Supports Poll*,” which is attached to this brief.

The 4.0 presentation to the School Board from August 7, 2020, has been compiled into a comprehensive *Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 4.0: Reimagining Schools* plan to share specific guidance for continuing instruction and safely reopening schools. This plan remains grounded in our division’s commitment to providing support for safe, healthy, equitable learning experiences for students and virtual professional development opportunities for staff, and promoting high levels of achievement for all learners while addressing academic learning losses extending from the crisis and school closings. Our final plan is being uploaded and submitted to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) on Friday, August 14, 2020, per state guidelines.

BACKGROUND

Since the closing of our school buildings resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic, Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) continued to provide students and families with various educational opportunities. Our school division has provided students and families access to technology, learning materials, educational resources, meals, and support services during the crisis. As you know, our *Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 1.0* addressed student and staff needs following the school buildings closing; *Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 2.0* extended and redefined educational resources available to students, including both instructional packets, synchronous learning, asynchronous learning, and online lessons; *Continuity of Learning Plan 3.0: Summer Learning through Engagement and Enrichment for All Plan* addressed learning loss, engagement, and enrichment; and the *Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 4.0: Reimagining Schools* is aligned with global, national, federal, state, and local guidelines.

The plan ensures a safe and healthy learning environment for our students, staff, and families. As we work to reopen schools, we must continue to seek feedback from our leaders, staff, students, families, and community to collectively implement the *VirtualPLUS+* model where all students receive instruction virtually.

RECOMMENDATION

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. ACPS VirtualPLUS+ Enhanced Continuity of Learning 4.0 (*submitted to VDOE*)
2. ACPS Cross-Functional Planning Team (CFPT) Playbooks
3. ACPS VirtualPLUS+ Supports Poll Results

IMPACT

ACPS will implement a comprehensive reopening plan to ensure that all students and staff are healthy, safe, and engaged during the reopening process, including following required health and sanitation procedures from the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*. The reopening plan will also ensure that students receive personalized academic support and interventions to address any learning losses resulting from school building closings.

CONTACT

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