

Date: 12/12/2023

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION: _____

FROM: Avanda Williams-White, Family Engagement Coordinator
Krishna J. Leyva, Assistant Director Family and Community Engagement

THROUGH: Taneika Tukan, Executive Director of Community Partnerships & Engagement
Julia Burgos, Chief of School and Community Relations
Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Michelle Rief, Chair and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Update on Family Engagement Blueprints

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

- Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
- Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support
- Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation
- Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2023-2024 PRIORITY AREA:

- Academic Achievement
- Student Supports
- CASEL Social Emotional Learning Competencies
- Student Connection and Attendance
- Continue Culture Building

FY 2024 BUDGET PRIORITY:

- Target Chronic Absenteeism
- Increase Support for Social and Emotional Learning

SUMMARY:

As part of the Office of Community Partnerships and Engagement, the ACPS Family and Community Engagement (FACE) team works with families, caregivers, community members and staff at all schools to strengthen family-school partnerships by modeling best practices, supporting implementation and eliminating barriers to engagement. This memo and attached presentation

provide an update on the progress of the multi-year roll-out of school-based family engagement blueprints across the division.

DETAILS:

The family engagement blueprint is a strategic starting point for schools and leaders committed to strengthening ongoing efforts to engage families as equal partners in their children’s education. The blueprint is a set of strategies, unique to each school, that helps navigate the shifts needed to move from status quo family involvement events to transformative family engagement efforts co-designed with families. Blueprints leverage the power of families and family-school partnerships to influence student outcomes, including attendance, social-emotional well-being, grades and behavior.

With the vision and design phase of the family engagement blueprint initiative completed in 2021, the FACE team has now engaged school leaders at 16 sites in collaborative discussions about their school strengths, priority areas for improvement and how to align their family engagement practices accordingly.

To date, four schools – Charles Barrett Elementary, Cora Kelly Elementary, George Washington Middle and John Adams Elementary -- have committed to and engaged in the FACE Blueprint process. Early observations of the impact of blueprint-based work include increases in family participation in school-sponsored events, parent access to grades, assignment and attendance data, access to self-regulation tools and collaborative commitment to customer service.

The FACE Blueprint process is comprised of:

- Completion of school self-assessment tool
- Initial meeting between FACE staff and school principal/team to discuss results of ACPS Family Engagement Evaluation and school self-assessment tool
- Establishment of Family Engagement Action Team, comprised of caregivers, staff, community members and students (for secondary schools) to lead implementation of and support longevity of blueprint strategies
- Identification of data-informed (self-assessment results) goals and high-impact strategies that align with school improvement plan
- Coaching and modeling of family engagement best practices by FACE
- Allocation of FACE resources such as staff, training and materials to support aligned high-impact family engagement initiatives and activities that support identified goals

This school year, the FACE Blueprint process will expand to two additional schools – the Early Childhood Center and Mount Vernon Community School. Our goal is to expand to two schools for the next three school years – totaling 12 schools by 2027.

BACKGROUND:

The Family Engagement Blueprint process helps all schools navigate the shifts needed to move from status quo family involvement events to transformative and ongoing family engagement. The process follows the U.S. Department of Education Family Engagement Dual Capacity-Building Framework and ACPS Family Engagement Policy.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information found in the presentation and attachments.

IMPACT:

Implementation of the FACE Blueprint process will support progress toward ACPS Strategic Plan Goal Five: Family and Community Engagement.

ATTACHMENTS:

Presentation: 2023-24 Update: Blueprints for Strong Family-School Partnerships
U.S. Department of Education Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships, 2.0
ACPS FACE Family Engagement Toolkit

REFERENCES:

[Nov. 21, 2021 Board Brief: School Family Engagement Framework & Blueprints](#)

[Dec. 1, 2022 Board Meeting Agenda Item: Individualized Family and Community Engagement \(FACE\) Action Plan Blueprints For All ACPS Schools](#)

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