

BOARD BRIEF

Date: June 21, 2019

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

FROM: Clinton Page, Ed. S., Chief Accountability Officer

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: 2019 Developmental Assets Survey Results

SUMMARY:

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) administered the Search Institute’s Developmental Assets Survey during spring 2019 to students in grades 8, 10, and 12. Overall, results showed growth (> 2 percentage points) from the 2010 administration in 53% of assets, relative stability (+/- 2 percentage points) in 28% of assets, and decline in 20% of assets. ACPS will work collaboratively with the CYFCC in how these data can inform the upcoming strategic planning processes for both ACPS and CYFCC to increase outcomes for the youth of Alexandria City.

BACKGROUND:

In partnership with the Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC), Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) administered the Search Institute’s Developmental Assets Survey during spring 2019 to students in grades 8, 10, and 12 (n = 1,786). The survey is administered once every three years to ACPS students with results being used to inform the efforts of city agencies, local non-profits, community leaders, and schools in ensuring the health and wellbeing of tomorrow’s citizenry.

The Search Institute's framework of Developmental Assets measures the external supports and internal strengths young people need to grow into successful citizens. The assets represent 40 research-based positive experiences and qualities that influence young people’s development helping them to become caring, responsible, and productive adults. External assets are the networks of support, opportunities and people that stimulate and nurture positive development in youth. Internal assets are the young person's own commitments, values, and competencies. Youth with high asset levels are less likely to engage in high-risk behaviors (such as violence, sexual activity, drug use, and suicide), and more likely to engage in thriving behaviors (such as helping others, doing well in school, and taking on leadership roles).

Results

The Department of Accountability created two summary tables displaying results for external (Table 1) and internal (Table 2) assets across the four most recent survey administrations

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occurring in school years 2009-10, 2012-13, 2015-16, and 2018-19. These tables were created to allow stakeholders to analyze trends across and within assets for the past nine years to best inform next steps.

Overall, results showed growth (> 2 percentage points) from the 2010 administration in 21 assets, relative stability (+/- 2 percentage points) in 11 assets, and decline in 8 assets. The majority (n=12) of assets that improved were internal assets and specifically in the categories of "Positive Values" (ex. caring, equality and social justice, integrity etc.) where all assets have improved by an average of 12 percentage points. The largest gains across internal assets were in the areas of "school engagement" (+31 percentage points) and "equality and social justice" (+20 percentage points). Some areas of continued focus also fall within internal assets and specifically the categories of "Positive Identity" (ex. self-esteem, sense of purpose etc.) where all four assets have declined since 2010. Likewise, the assets with the overall lowest performance in 2019 were "community values youth", "creative activities", and "reading for pleasure."

Along with the summary tables prepared by the Department of Accountability, the Search Institute's full reports with executive summaries for the division as well as individual schools are attached for review.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the 2018-2019 Search Institute Developmental Assets Survey results and historical trends for an understanding of ACPS student health and well-being.

IMPACT:

ACPS will work collaboratively with the CYFCC to identify areas and strategic actions the commission may take to continue to act as a change agent in the improvement of outcomes for the young people of Alexandria City through the upcoming strategic planning processes for both ACPS and CYFCC.

ATTACHMENTS:

- (1) Historical Developmental Assets Survey Summary Tables*
- (2) Division Assets Executive Summary & Complete Report*
- (3) George Washington Middle School Assets Executive Summary & Complete Report*
- (4) Francis C. Hammond Middle School Assets Executive Summary & Complete Report*
- (5) T.C. Williams High School Assets Executive Summary & Complete Report*

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