

BOARD MEMO

Date: January 20, 2022
For ACTION _____
For INFORMATION x
Board Agenda: Yes x
No _____

FROM: Jodie Peters, AVID District Director/College Readiness Support

THROUGH: Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Ed. D., Executive Director of Instructional Support
Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
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: Early College Update

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

SY 2020–2021 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation
Focus Area 5: Academic Disparities

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of the 2025 Strategic Plan
Reduce Disproportionality in Talented and Gifted (TAG) and Advanced Courses
Complete Educational Programming Design for HS Project

SUMMARY:

As part of the Connected High School Network with the Alexandria City High School Project, Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) has proposed developing an Early College High School model with the local community college and two area universities. Currently, existing partnerships, policies, and agreements will allow for the planning of seamless transferability in targeted pathways. Efforts behind the Early College model will continue to ensure that ACPS students have a variety of post-high school education and training opportunities that will allow them to successfully contribute to the local and global workforce and be self-sustaining members of society.

BACKGROUND:

As a result of a need to personalize student learning and provide a variety of college and career pathways, a team of staff from ACPS, Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA-Alexandria),

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George Mason University (GMU), and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VTECH) will partner to develop an Early College High School model. This model would allow ACPS students to complete their high school diploma while simultaneously earning an associate's degree. The model would include a four-year framework where a student would enter as a rising ninth grader and complete a designated pathway of courses in four years. Given the local workforce needs and current student career interests, high-demand career occupations such as information technology (IT), education, computer science (CS), and business are among the few pathways being explored, along with a general course of studies through the Universal Certificate of General Studies. Current partnerships and pathways are under development with the intent to target a fall 2024 opening for the first cohort to be on-site at a college or university campus.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information in this memo.

IMPACT:

With the development of the Alexandria City High School Project, in partnership with NOVA, GMU, and VTECH, the Early College High School model will expand and afford educational and career opportunities to meet the diverse population represented in ACPS. This opportunity could perhaps change the life trajectory for many students by reducing the financial burden and cost of college for many families.

ATTACHMENT:

220120_Board_Presentation_ACPS_Early_College_update

REFERENCE:

New Business-Early College High School Model, February 21, 2019, [ACPS ESB agenda](#)

CONTACT:

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