

BOARD BRIEF

Date: May 21, 2021

BOARD INFORMATION:

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Anthony Sims, Ph.D., Executive Director of School Improvement

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: School and Department Improvement Updates

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY

MTSS including Restorative Practices and PBIS

Increased Staff Retention

Human Resources Audit Implementation

Cultural Competence for All Staff

SUMMARY

The Board Brief contains a progress update on school and department continuous improvement efforts for the current academic year.

BACKGROUND

ACPS continued to engage schools and departments in the newly designed process for developing *School and Department Improvement Plans (SIPs and DIPs)*, focusing on deepening teams' understanding of the role of data to drive action planning schema and planning to assess progress as a component of developing improvement plans.

ACPS approach to progress monitoring as part of the continuous improvement system prioritizes a commitment to a distributive leadership strategy to increase collaboration, build consensus, enhance communication, and improve the leadership capacity of school leaders.

Departments participated in professional learning sessions, and individualized technical assistance support with the executive director of school improvement to learn about the enhancements to the *SY 20-21 Department Improvement Plan (DIP)*, including requirements to align improvement plan goals with the *ACPS 2025 Strategic Plan* focus areas. Teams were asked

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to reflect on progress toward improvement plan goals, successes, and challenges as part of the progress monitoring updates in the third quarter.

The *Quarterly Chat* format for SY 20-21 was revised in response to the unprecedented demands the current health pandemic has exerted on school operations and instructional delivery. In recognition of the myriad of factors impacting families and students during the pandemic, the foci of progress monitoring needed to consider the context of the new norm for teaching and learning conditions. All students have been impacted by the pervasive and extended disruptions in learning due to school closures. The negative impact on disrupted learning is inevitably magnified for targeted student groups with persistent achievement disparities. Thus, an essential line of inquiry for the second quarter chats concerned how schools adjusted to meet students' current academic performance, social-emotional, and attendance needs.

For the third quarter chat, school teams were asked to respond to the following focus areas:

1. Progress of achieving your *Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP)* SY 20-21 goals;
 - a) Data to indicate progress toward CSIP SY 20-21 goals during a global pandemic
 - b) Successes in achieving Essential Actions and Action Steps? Challenges?
 - c) Adjustments to CSIP in response to monitoring and data analysis?
2. Current monitoring processes and the most relevant data collected since our last meeting; and
3. Supports needed from the school division.

The focus areas were strategically chosen to develop continuous improvement practices related to the use of data cycles, unpacking performance data related to academic performance disparities for targeted student groups as schools prepare for an end of the year assessment of their school improvement effort and comprehensive school improvement planning for SY 21-22.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the Quarter 3 Board Brief and attachments for an overview of the continuous improvement processes and synthesis of key progress monitoring themes across schools for the third quarter.

IMPACT

This information provides insights, reflections, learnings, and areas of need related to school improvement processes for school teams. Similarly, the highlights reveal opportunities to leverage, facilitate collaboration, and support central office partners.

ATTACHMENT

1. Quarter 3 Chat – Progress Monitoring Highlights

CONTACT

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