

Date: February 21, 2020

**BOARD INFORMATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEETING PREPARATION:**   X  

**FROM:** Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer  
Natalie Mitchell, Director of Title I Programs

**THROUGH:** Terri Mozingo, Ed.D. Chief Academic Officer  
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 Improvement Plans: Quarter 2 Chats

**ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity

**SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:**

Focus Area 1: Educational Equity

**FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Specialized Instruction, Academics, Leadership and Professional Development

**SUMMARY:**

The Board has been invited to attend the upcoming quarter 2 chats for schools within their district and will receive a presentation of mid-year progress at the March 19 School Board Meeting. This Board Brief provides a summary of the overall purpose and structures associated with the upcoming quarterly chats with school teams and central office leadership.

**BACKGROUND:**

Beginning in 2018-2019, Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) undertook a revised School and Department Improvement Planning process. The revised improvement process included school-based quarterly chats. These chats serve as an opportunity for schools and Central Office staff to develop a shared understanding of progress, ensures alignment of services, and foster collaboration around the critical work taking place at each school.

**Quarterly Chat Structure**

Quarterly chat questions for schools center around what is going well, where they are stuck, and what supports are needed. These questions are discussed through various data mediums (tables/charts, testimonials, direct observations, document reviews, videos etc.) within the chats.

Prior to each quarterly chat, schools are provided a list of more detailed questions intended to serve as guardrails and to identify areas of particular focus for the upcoming conversations. As

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an example, progress for students with disabilities will be a focus for the upcoming quarter 2 chats. Schools are not expected to discuss every sub-question, but they are provided as a guide. Please see the attachment for the full list of questions sent to schools in advance of the quarter 2 chats.

At the conclusion of each quarterly chat, schools are asked to discuss potential supports they could use from central office to advance their work. These requests can cover the full spectrum of central office services from operations to curricular materials. These requests are then followed up on at the beginning of the next chat to ensure the request was addressed and there is a tight alignment of services between central office and schools.

At the conclusion of the quarter 2 chats the Board will be receiving a presentation on March 19 as a mid-year update for school and department plan progress. This update will be followed by a Board Brief on March 20 including individual summary progress reports from each school and department.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review this Board Brief and attachment for an understanding of the purpose and structures for the upcoming school quarter 2 chats.

**IMPACT:** There is a clear need to continue to shift the role of central office within ACPS to a greater focus on the role of support agent for schools. The quarterly chats serve as a structure within the organization that continues to facilitate this shift and accelerate learning and improvements between schools and central office.

**ATTACHMENTS:**        *(1) Quarter 2 Chat Questions*

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