

Date: February 17, 2023

**BOARD INFORMATION:**   X  

**MEETING PREPARATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** Dr. Anthony Sims, Ph.D, Executive Director of School Improvement

**THROUGH:** Dr. Clinton Page, Ed.D., Chief Accountability Officer  
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** Performance Matters Project Overview

**ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

- Goal 1: Systemic Alignment
- Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
- Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

**SY 2022-2023 FOCUS AREA:**

- Social Emotional and Academic Learning Recovery
- Continuous Improvement in KPI Disparities

**FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

N/A

**SUMMARY:**

This brief provides a high-level overview of the current project plan across three design and implementation phases for the Performance Matters System. Performance Matters has been identified as the system that will support the division in the three key areas of: parental access to historical assessment results; formatively monitoring individual student progress through a Student Success System (previously termed Early Warning System); and monitoring MTSS interventions at the student, classroom, school, and division levels to accelerate learning and close student learning gaps. The monitoring system represents ACPS' focus on transforming the division into a learning organization and identifying high-yield strategies to transform structures and systems that perpetuate racial and educational inequities that lead to marginalization and disparate achievement outcomes for certain student groups.

**BACKGROUND:**

A core planning team with members from Accountability and Research, Teaching, Learning and Leadership, and Technology Services is leading a collaborative process in designing and implementing a division-wide, integrated progress monitoring system that utilizes available

instructional, assessment, intervention and behavioral data to identify students who are in need of targeted support to successfully attain crucial educational milestones. The scope and timeline for the three phases of the project are presented below:

### **Phase 1: Performance Matters as Student Assessment History Platform**

ACPS must provide a way for parents to access student assessment history data, as required by state statute (Va. Code § 22.1-215.2). Phase 1 of the project involves ensuring that all relevant student assessment data are available through a parent portal. The Technology Services department is uploading prior assessment data and developing Memorandums of Understandings with NWEA and VDOE to automatically upload future student performance results into the Performance Matters platform for parents to be able to access.

### **Phase 2: Performance Matters as Student Success System Platform**

The Performance Matters monitoring platform will include a division-wide, comprehensive Student Success System (traditionally known as an Early Warning System) to monitor student progress across grades. The Student Success System feature of the monitoring system will allow educators to address persistent, disparate achievement outcomes for specific student groups by proactively engaging interventions for students placed at-risk of experiencing poor academic outcomes. Students heading “off-track” in readiness indicators will be flagged for additional support. ACPS has partnered with a national coalition of research organizations through the GRAD Partnership to engage their expertise in addition to key stakeholder voices in developing the ACPS system.

### **Phase 3: Performance Matters as Intervention Management Platform**

ACPS has identified division-supported interventions to accelerate learning and close gaps for students requiring additional support in Tiers 2 and 3 of the ACPS MTSS framework. The Performance Matters platform includes an intervention management feature that allows school teams and division leaders to monitor implementation fidelity and student progress data for specific interventions. These data will allow ACPS to analyze the impact of targeted interventions assigned to accelerate student achievement to determine if the interventions are yielding the greatest academic return on investment to close persistent achievement disparities.

### **Key Project Milestones**

Within Phase 1, the parent historical assessment portal, all historical student assessment data, system design and feedback loops, and parental accounts will be set-up in spring of 2023. Capacity building for staff will begin in spring and carry through the planned launch of the system to parents in fall of 2023. For Phase 2, the Student Success System, the collaborative design of the model will occur in spring of 2023 then leading to implementation planning and launch in fall of 2023. Within Phase 3, the Intervention Management Platform, the MTSS interventions to be prioritized for placement within the platform first will be identified, performance thresholds for those interventions will be determined, and the ability to automatically upload student intervention performance into the system will be explored in spring of 2023. A phased implementation of the platform will then be planned for fall and winter of 2023. The Board will be updated on progress on all phases of this project in the

coming months and on a rolling basis as the work continues into summer and fall of 2023.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Interim Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the Performance Matters project plan summary for possible planning, procedural, and programmatic changes.

**IMPACT:**

The Performance Matters System increases the capacity of educators to utilize data to ensure success for all students with a focus on addressing persistent academic and behavioral factors that lead to racial and educational disparities.

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