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

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent

TO: The Honorable Ramee A. Gentry, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria
                City School Board

TOPIC: 2018 Virginia On-Time Graduation and Dropout Rates

SUMMARY:

This memo and the attached figures are intended to provide the Virginia On-time
Graduation and Dropout rates for the 2018 cohort within Alexandria City Public Schools
(ACPS). These data were released publicly by the Virginia Department of Education
(VDOE) on October 1, 2018 for all divisions across the Commonwealth along with
aggregate Virginia rates.

BACKGROUND:

Starting with the graduating class of 2008 the state of Virginia began calculating "On-
Time" graduation and dropout rates. The "on-time" rates, reported annually, are the
official state recognized graduation and dropout statistics. The Virginia On-Time
Graduation Rate takes into consideration student mobility, changes in student enrollment,
and the needs of special education and English learners (EL) students. An "on-time"
graduate for 2018 is a student who entered ninth grade for the first time during the 2014-
15 school year and, in four years or less, earned one of the Virginia Board of Education
recognized diplomas: Advanced Studies, Standard, Modified Standard, Applied Studies,
and General Achievement diplomas.

Attached, please find two figures capturing the Virginia On-Time Graduation data for
2018 released by VDOE on October 1, 2018. Figure 1 displays ACPS graduation rates
reported for all students and by subgroups historically. Figure 2 shows the dropout rates
reported for all students and by subgroups within ACPS for the past several years.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends reviewing the 2018 Virginia On-Time Graduation and Dropout
figures for possible planning, procedural, programmatic, and/or budgetary changes.

IMPACT:

Alexandria City Public Schools saw an overall On-Time Graduation rate of 81% for the 2018 cohort which represented a decrease of two percentage points compared to the previous year. Decreases from the previous year were seen across Hispanic (-11 percentage points), EL students (-11 percentage points), SWD students (-7 percentage points), and Economically Disadvantaged students (-6 percentage points). An increase was seen in the Black student subgroup (+2 percentage points) leading to the highest graduation rate within that subgroup dating back to 2011. White students maintained the highest graduation rate among subgroups at 94% with no change from the previous year.

The dropout rate for all students in the 2018 cohort was 10% representing a decrease of two percentage points compared to the previous year. Dropout rates for Black students showed the greatest decrease (-5 percentage points) and reached a historic low of 2%. Dropout rates across all other subgroups remained largely stable (+/- 2 percentage points) when compared to the previous year.

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ATTACHMENTS: *1. ACPS 2018 On-Time Graduation and Dropout Figures*