

BOARD BRIEF

Date: April 21, 2022

BOARD INFORMATION: X
MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Wendy Gonzalez, Ed.D., Executive Director of School Leadership
Pierrette Finney, Ed.D., Principal, Francis C. Hammond Middle School
Jesse Mazur, Ed.D., Principal, George Washington Middle School

THROUGH: 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: Where Everyone Belongs Middle School Orientation Program

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

SY 2021–2022 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 1: Social, Emotional, and Academic Learning (SEAL) Recovery

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

SUMMARY:

Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) is a half-day introduction to the middle school experience offered to rising sixth grade and new students at their respective schools. It is an opportunity to orient students to the middle school school experience prior to the start of the school year.

BACKGROUND:

Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) is a middle school orientation and transition program that welcomes our rising sixth grade and new students at 7th and 8th grade, making them feel comfortable throughout their first year of middle school.

WEB creates belonging, safety, and comfort for our new students. While the transition to middle school can be a major event in the life of a young person, WEB was developed to respond to this transition. Creating a safe, welcoming, and positive learning environment for all students is a major priority for ACPS.

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WEB begins with a fun and energetic orientation day that gets sixth graders and new students excited and proud to be attending their middle school. It also allows them to begin developing relationships with other students as well as learn strategies that will contribute to their middle school success. WEB continues after orientation providing a variety of both follow up activities throughout the year.

This year, WEB will take place on Friday, August 19, 2022 from 9:00am-12:00pm. While WEB focuses on rising sixth grade and new students, each grade level will host an evening open house for parents and students during the week of August 15, 2022.

NEXT STEPS:

Provide a Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) Middle Orientation Program:

- **Hold** on Friday, August 19, 2022
 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- **Implement and Simulate:**
 - team building activities
 - a typical school day with a compressed schedule (bus transportation, grab and go meal).
- **Utilize** the availability of staff to assist/interact with students (school-based workday).

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the orientation information within this brief.

IMPACT:

The Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) Middle School Orientation Program is an engaging way to welcome and orient rising sixth grade and students and families to their new school setting.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

CONTACTS:

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