

BOARD BRIEF

Date: June 19, 2020

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Amber Eby, Ph.D., Evaluation and Assessment Analyst

THROUGH: Clinton Page, Chief Accountability 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: COVID-19 Pulse Survey Round #2 Results

ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity; Goal 2: Family and Community Engagement; Goal 3: An Exemplary Staff; Goal 5: Health and Wellness

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 1: Educational Equity

FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Academics; Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments; Mental and Social/Emotional Health;

SUMMARY:

This brief covers results from the second round of the COVID-19 Pulse Survey. ACPS continued to receive high response rates from stakeholders with over 10,000 responses from students, parents, and staff. Areas of strength were continued high overall satisfaction in instruction, social and emotional support, and communication provided by ACPS. The primary area of continued focus is how to best mitigate the impacts of the prolonged school closure on instruction, communication, and the social and emotional health of stakeholders.

BACKGROUND:

During the weeks of May 4 and June 8, Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) administered two brief online surveys to staff, parents, and students in grades 3-12 to seek additional feedback related to the ACPS response to the COVID-19 school building closures. The two-to-three minute survey was designed to assist in high-level monitoring of the division's efforts and inform future decisions.

Participation Rates

ACPS received 10,631 responses between June 8 and June 14 (compared with 11,700 the week of May 4). There were 1,684 staff responses, 3,434 student responses, and 5,513 parent responses. Hispanic (-13%) and Black (-6%) students were underrepresented in the student

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sample when compared to ratios seen in the overall student population, while Hispanic (-18%) and Black (-13%) parents were underrepresented in the parent sample. The parent survey was offered in English, Spanish, Amharic, and Arabic. The survey received almost 1,200 parent responses in languages other than English (up from almost 700 the week of May 4.)

Results

Areas of strength. Parents (78%), students (85%), and staff (80%) continued to report a high level of satisfaction with instructional and academic supports. The majority of parents (74%), students (75%), and staff (83%) were also satisfied with social and emotional supports. Despite the high percentages, satisfaction with instructional and emotional supports declined slightly between the two rounds. Staff (82%) and students (72%) continue to report managing their stress well at rates comparable to the first round.

Areas of continued focus. Generally, round 2 results were largely similar to round 1, though all stakeholder groups reported slightly less positive experiences in round 2. Attention is needed on the impact of prolonged school closure on stakeholder needs and how to best meet those needs. Teachers reported less student engagement in the second round, with 63% reporting that less than half of their students engaged in class within the last week (compared with 54% in round 1). Feeling of connectedness between families and teachers also declined (74% to 70% for students feeling connected to teachers, 81% to 74% for parents feeling connected to the school, and 68% to 63% for teachers feeling connected to students.)

Next Steps

The results are being used centrally and at schools to illuminate areas of strength and continued focus for the implementation of 3.0 and planning of 4.0 Continuity of Learning plans. Data will be shared with 4.0 Planning Work Teams, including results from open-ended comments from participants on what ACPS should focus on to make them feel comfortable returning to in-person instruction. Data are also being used to investigate and highlight any inequities to ensure the division is removing barriers and meeting students, families and staff where they are.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review this brief and attachment for awareness of the results from the second ACPS Pulse Survey.

IMPACT: This survey effort is critical in informing current division standing through the eyes of our stakeholders across the key areas of instruction, technology access, nutrition, health and wellness, and communication in this time of school closure. Trends between rounds #1 and #2 have highlighted the need to overcome the impact of prolonged length of school closures on academic supports, engagement, and social and emotional health across all stakeholders.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. *ACPS COVID-19 Pulse Survey Results Summary*

CONTACT:

Clinton Page, clinton.page@acps.k12.va.us