

Date: December 6, 2018

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

FROM: Clinton Page, Ed.S., Chief Accountability Officer
Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Theresa Werner, M.Ed., J.D. Executive Director of Specialized Instruction

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

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

TOPIC: Students with Disabilities (SWD) Evaluation Draft Action Plan

BACKGROUND:

The evaluation of services to students with disabilities was designed to provide a comprehensive review of the current state of programs and services for students with disabilities, and to their families, to inform the division and relevant stakeholders in areas of strengths and opportunities for improvement. PCG presented the report findings at the October 25, 2018, School Board meeting.

In response to the report's findings and recommendations, ACPS developed a Draft Action Plan crafted collaboratively by 36 stakeholders (teachers, school administrators, division administrators, and parent/Special Education Advisory Committee [SEAC] representatives). ACPS received public comment in face-to-face forums on November 13-14, 2018. An online survey to receive public comment opened November 5, 2018, and was scheduled to remain open until November 20, 2018. Due to limited staff response, and in an attempt to garner additional feedback, the district is reaching out, over the next several weeks, directly to staff through department meetings and Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). This will occur so that the Plan may be reviewed extensively and more feedback provided. Additional outreach will be made via email to parents and through SEAC as well as the Parent Resource Center (PRC). The survey will now remain open until late January. A final Action Plan is expected to be presented to the Board in early March 2019.

The purpose of this Action Plan is to take the framework provided by PCG and translate that into a three-year plan toward improved outcomes and experiences for students with disabilities and their families. The Plan goes beyond striving for outcomes on summative statewide assessments and grapples with systemic issues surrounding culture and climate as well as accountability and fidelity of implementation which need to be addressed to realize progress.

In presenting this Action Plan, the Steering Committee synthesized the action steps and strategies into the following four themes. These areas of work provide a high level overview of some of the key levers and strategies seen as driving success for students with disabilities.

Professional Development:

Establish a coordinated systemic plan for the professional development of administrators and staff regarding best practices for students with disabilities focused on appropriate identification and service delivery.

Implementation:

Establish a permanent interdisciplinary Interdepartmental Central Office team to guide the implementation of the evaluation recommendations and action items.

Accountability:

Develop and implement a monitoring system to drive a shared culture of accountability for ensuring an inclusive environment and positive outcomes for students with disabilities.

Communication/Parent Engagement:

Cultivate a commitment to establishing a coordinated system of proactive and responsive communication to more clearly involve parents and that is focused upon improving outcomes for students with disabilities.

By continuing to work collaboratively with our internal and external stakeholders, ACPS can develop the systems and supports for students with disabilities and their families that will lead to every student succeeding.

Action Plan monitoring will be achieved through:

- Stringent Internal Accountability Structures
- Interdepartmental Collaborative Team Oversight
- Ongoing Monitoring and Implementation which Includes Addressing Special Education in School and Department Improvement Plans
- Dedicated Special Education Discussion at Each School Quarterly Meeting
- Regular Progress Updates at Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meetings
- Regular Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Updates
- Annual Report to the School Board

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the SWD Evaluation Draft Action Plan for future discussion regarding possible planning, programmatic, and/or budgetary changes.

IMPACT:

The SWD Evaluation Draft Action Plan provides ACPS with a critical roadmap to address programming and services for students with disabilities in ACPS. The Action Plan, once approved, will provide clear, measurable outcomes so that the division may chart a purposeful course over the next three years to address the needs of students with disabilities and meet the call of *every student succeeds*.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 181206_Students_with_Disabilities_Evaluation_Draft_Action_Plan
2. 181206_PowerPoint_Students_with_Disabilities_Evaluation_Draft_Action_Plan

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