

**BOARD MEMO**

Date: December 1, 2022  
For ACTION   
For INFORMATION   
Board Agenda: Yes   
No

**FROM:** Avanda Williams-White, Family Engagement Coordinator  
Krishna Leyva, Family and Community Engagement Manager

**THROUGH:** Julia Burgos, Chief of School and Community Relations  
Kurt Huffman, Executive Director of School and Community Partnerships  
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:** Family and Community Engagement School Blueprints

**ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

**SY 2022-2023 FOCUS AREA:**

Social Emotional and Academic Learning Recovery  
Hispanic Males  
Middle School Educational Experience  
Strategic Plan Implementation

**FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Address Chronic Absenteeism & High School Graduation Rate Among Hispanic Male Students  
Social and Emotional Supports for Students  
Expand Access and Improve Quality of Out of School Learning

**SUMMARY:**

As part of the Office of Community Partnerships and Engagement, the ACPS Family and Community Engagement team (FACE) works to strengthen family-school partnerships by connecting our families to resources that support educational achievement and overall quality of life. FACE also strives to eliminate barriers to family engagement for ACPS families. FACE is not alone in this critical work. It is essential that every staff member at ACPS understand the importance and best practices so that we can collectively carry out the mission laid out in our 2025 Equity for All Strategic Plan that addresses barriers to learning while inspiring ACPS students to ensure their success in the classroom and beyond.

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One of the specific goals of the FACE team is to collaboratively create and facilitate family engagement action plan blueprints. These school specific blueprints will serve as a strategic starting point for schools and leaders that are committed to strengthening ongoing efforts and mechanisms designed to engage families and create an ongoing culture of best practice family engagement that is linked to learning for all families and support academic success for all students. The family engagement blueprint action plans will assist schools to navigate the shifts needed to move from status quo family involvement events to transformative and ongoing family engagement initiatives that are co-designed with families that represent the full diversity of our school community.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Practicing equitable family engagement requires an intentional, long-term effort to change ingrained perceptions, beliefs, and regular practices of the school staff and families. For multiple years, the FACE team has been working towards creating family engagement environments in schools in a collaborative effort with our family liaisons (formally known as parent liaisons) . However, through observation and the 2020 Family Engagement Initiative Report, there is an identified lack of understanding across and throughout the division about REAL (Relationships, Experiences, Academic partnerships, and Leadership) family engagement and what elements are needed at each and every level to accomplish it. Working collaboratively with all stakeholders, FACE is continuing to design and implement training that will strengthen equitable family engagement opportunities across the school division. Knowing that establishing a shared responsibility for family engagement requires school leaders to commit to learning from-and-with families about how to effectively engage with each other, rather than approaching engagement as a “top-down” initiative and a series of events, the FACE team with input from the Office of Community Partnerships and Engagement and leadership of the school are currently on a “school blueprint action plan” tour with each ACPS school family engagement teams. These blueprints will create, develop and align with each school’s improvement plan that will result in historical impact and support educational community needs.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Interim Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information found in the presentation and attachments.

### **IMPACT:**

All stakeholders (families, schools, community) will develop the requisite capabilities, connections, cognition and confidence to execute their family engagement blueprint action plans through a collaborative partnership. Research shows that students receive the following benefits: higher grades and test scores, better attendance and homework completion, fewer placements in special education, more positive attitudes and behavior, higher graduation rates and greater enrollment in post-secondary education.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Dual Capacity-Building Framework
2. Family Engagement Best Practices Rubric and Assessment

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3. 4 Versions Family School Partnerships
4. Family Engagement Blueprint Rubric
5. Findings from the ACPS Family Engagement Initiative Evaluation
6. Model of Success-Blueprint For Building Strong Family School Partnerships

### **REFERENCES:**

211112\_Board\_Brief\_Family\_Engagement\_School\_Blueprints\_v2.pdf

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