

BOARD BRIEF

Date: February 25, 2022

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Peter Balas, Executive Principal, Alexandria City High School (ACHS)

THROUGH: Wendy Gonzalez, Ed.D., Executive Director of School Leadership
Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
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: Adjusted Student Schedule for Testing in April 2022 at ACHS

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment

Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

SY 2021–2022 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 2: Hispanic Males

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

SUMMARY:

In April, students in grade 11 will be taking the End-of-Course Writing Standards of Learning (SOL) and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) over three days, which will require an adjustment to the daily schedule for students at the Alexandria City High School (ACHS) King Street Campus. A well-structured testing administration requires that all students have adequate time, space, and access to a secure testing environment. For this to occur, ACHS King Street Campus needs all staff members and most of the school building to successfully administer these student assessments. Since many students require more than three hours to complete these assessments, the ACHS King Street Campus will have an alternate virtual asynchronous schedule for nontesters in grades 10 and 12. This aligns with the ACHS School Improvement Plan (SIP) Essential Action of ensuring that every student has full access to all high-stake testing administrations with adequate time and accessibility.

BACKGROUND:

In the [Board Memo dated August 20, 2021](#), ACHS provided information on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), SAT, and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) testing schedule for the 2021–2022 school year, which includes the upcoming SAT School Day

BOARD BRIEF

for students in grade 11 on April 26, 2022. The PSAT/NMSQT and SAT testing days in October required that only test takers come into the building while nontesting students completed asynchronous assignments on Canvas. In addition to the upcoming SAT, the End-of-Course Writing SOL will take place on April 4 and 5 for students in grade 11.

On these three dates, students in grade 11 will come to school and take these assessments. They will leave school when the tests are complete. Nontesting students in grades 10 and 12 will engage in virtual asynchronous instruction. These students will log in to Clever/Canvas and access assignments posted by their teachers. Attendance will be taken for all students. This plan will preserve the sanctity of the testing environment and align with current practices during major testing administrations, allowing for students to be assessed in a structured testing environment free from interruption.

Details for each assessment administration are below:

- **End-of-Course Writing SOL – April 4–5, 2022**
Writing SOL for students in grade 11 will take place at the King Street Campus. On these days, students taking the test will be released upon completion. ACPS transportation will be provided at 1:15 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. Students in grades 10 and 12, who are not testing at the King Street Campus, will not report to school and will work asynchronously on assignments posted in Canvas. Students at Satellite, Chance for Change (CFC), and Minnie Howard, who are not testing at the King Street Campus, will report to school as usual. Minnie Howard students will not be transported to the King Street Campus for any classes. They will remain at Minnie Howard and complete assignments posted on Canvas.
- **SAT School Day Test Administration – April 26, 2022**
ACHS students in grade 11 will take the SAT at the King Street Campus, which will allow students to have a reportable score early in the college application process. On this day, students taking the test will be released upon completion. Students in grades 10 and 12, who are not taking the SAT at the King Street Campus, will not report to school and will work asynchronously on assignments in Canvas. Students at Minnie Howard, CFC, and Satellite campuses will report to school as usual.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information regarding upcoming testing at ACHS.

IMPACT: Students in grade 11 will be assessed in a structured testing environment free from interruption.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

CONTACT:

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