

BOARD BRIEF

Date: June 5, 2020

BOARD INFORMATION: _____

MEETING PREPARATION: X

FROM: Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Bethany Nickerson, Ed.D., Executive Director of English Learner (EL) Services

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

TO: The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Dual Language Program Update: Expansion to Middle School

ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity

Goal 2: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 1: Educational Equity

FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:

English Learner Services

Gap Group Achievements

Academics

Communications and Customer Service for External Stakeholders

Leadership and Professional Development

Retention and Recruitment

Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments

SUMMARY

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) is expanding the Dual Language Program model to the middle school level to achieve the program goals of bilingualism, biliteracy, and cross-cultural understanding for students, and promote the cognitive benefits and high levels of academic achievement associated with bilingualism and dual language education. The Dual Language Program strand in middle school will consist of two courses in Spanish: Spanish Language Arts and Social Studies. To meet the goal of optimally providing program services to families on both the east and west sides of Alexandria City, and to accommodate future expansion of the Dual Language Program at John Adams Elementary School, the Dual Language Program will be offered at two middle school sites: George Washington Middle School and Francis C. Hammond Middle School. The timeline for expansion implementation is the following:

SY 2020-2021: 6th grade	SY 2021-2022: 7th grade	SY 2022-2023: 8th grade
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Additionally, ACPS is continuing to enhance the K-5 Dual Language Program at John Adams Elementary School and Mount Vernon Community School. The Center for Applied Linguistics recently conducted a review of the K-2 Spanish Language Arts curriculum. Findings and recommendations will drive enhancements for grades K-2, and inform the development of a cohesive, vertically aligned K-12 dual language education framework. A final report from the Center for Applied Linguistics is expected by the end of June.

BACKGROUND

Dual Language Programs are a form of enrichment education based on over 40 years of research showing the advantages of learning a second language through academic content instruction. In 2014-2015, ACPS renewed its commitment to dual language education by creating a new Dual Language Coordinator position. A needs assessment was conducted, a five-year dual language strategic plan (2015-2020) was collaboratively developed for improving the program, and Mount Vernon Community School began the transition to a whole-school dual language program beginning with its' Kindergarten classes. Those Kindergarten students from the 2014-2015 school year are now in 5th grade. Expansion of the Dual Language Program to the secondary level supports the program goals of biliteracy, bilingualism, high achievement, and cultural competence for students, enables more students to reach the advanced levels of second language proficiency in demand in today's global economy, and assists in closing the opportunity and achievement gaps. Expansion of the program to middle school also aligns with program structure goals in the *Dual Language Strategic Plan 2015-2020* and responds to requests from parents of current dual language students, a majority of whom have indicated that they would like this option.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the attachment to this brief and remain current with regard to the status of expansion of the Dual Language Program to the middle school level and enhancement of the program at the K-5 level.

IMPACT

Advances knowledge of the significant activities associated with the expansion of the dual language program to the middle school level and the enhancement of the K-5 program.

ATTACHMENTS

1. *Dual Language Program Strategic Plan 2015-2020*

CONTACT

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