

## BOARD BRIEF

Date: September 18, 2020

**BOARD INFORMATION:**   X  

**MEETING PREPARATION:**       

**FROM:** Clinton Page, Ed.S., Chief of Accountability and Research  
Natalie Mitchell, Director of Title I Programs

**THROUGH:** Terri Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning and Leadership  
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

**TOPIC:** Fall 2020 VirtualPLUS+ Division Testing Schedule

**ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

**SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA:**

Focus Area 1: Reopening of School

**FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

K-2 Literacy Programming  
MTSS including Restorative Practices and PBIS

**SUMMARY:**

This brief and attached testing schedule provides the School Board with an overview of the objectives, creation, and implementation of the ACPS VirtualPLUS+ Testing Schedule for fall 2020.

**BACKGROUND:**

Over summer 2020, the ACPS 4.0 Cross-functional Planning Teams came together to discuss, problem solve, and plan across a myriad of reopening models and topics. Teams worked to ensure their ultimate recommendations were aligned with various reopening guidance documents including the VDOE and the health department as well as the new Equity for All 2025 Strategic Plan. Division assessments were included in these planning discussions within the SEAL work team. Through these guiding documents and collaborative discussions, the following overall objectives were established in creating a division assessment plan for fall:

- 1) Focusing on student social/emotional health first;
- 2) Leveraging diagnostic assessments as early as possible to identify individual student strengths and needs; and

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3) The use of just-in-time, brief common curriculum based assessments to inform instruction.

The attached division testing calendar represents division and state required assessments administered virtually through December 2020 within our current VirtualPLUS+ model. Like all things, the calendar is subject to change should ACPS transition to in-person learning after quarter 1, or should any new guidance or requirements issued by federal, state, or local entities specific to testing be released.

No division or state required assessments will be administered in September so that time may be used to focus on forging relationships, students' social and emotional health, and allowing instruction to begin. The NWEA MAP Screening assessment in reading and mathematics (grades 2-12), PALS (K-2), and Math Diagnostic Assessment (K-1) will be used as diagnostic tools beginning in October.

Though the full MAP Growth assessment was administered twice in Title I schools during school year 2019-2020, this school year we will undertake a division-wide implementation of the NWEA MAP suite of assessments. Due to the virtual start of the year, the division will initially administer the MAP Screening assessment, a shortened version of MAP Growth that may be more feasibly administered remotely. The MAP Screening assessment will be taken by all students in grades 2-12 in the areas of reading and math. The results of the assessments, which consist of 20 questions in each subject area will be used for instructional planning.

Moving forward, the Department of Accountability and Research will collaborate with other department and school-based staff to monitor and develop a testing schedule from January through June 2021 based on environmental conditions and needs as they solidify in the coming months.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the division testing calendar for information about the timing of assessments this fall.

**IMPACT:** The prioritization of student social and emotional health and instructional time will allow students and staff to focus on relationship building and learning first and foremost within the VirtualPLUS model. The brief diagnostic assessments administered in October will allow staff to then identify and be responsive to unique student needs and potential learning gaps.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Fall 2020 VirtualPLUS+ Division Testing Schedule

### **CONTACT:**

For questions about the testing calendar:  
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For questions about MAP:  
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