

BOARD BRIEF

Date: September 3, 2021

BOARD INFORMATION:

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Gerald R. Mann Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director of Instructional Support
Cory Kapelski, Talent Development Specialist

THROUGH: 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: October 11, 2021, Division-Wide Professional Learning Day Update

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY

Professional Learning and Cultural Competency Training for All Staff and Partners

SUMMARY

This Board Brief will clarify the possible activities and logistics for the upcoming professional learning day on *October 11, 2021*. Professional learning sessions on this day will be held entirely virtually either synchronously through Zoom or asynchronously through Canvas.

BACKGROUND

All learning on this day will be held over Zoom or Canvas. Staff can access professional learning from home or their school locations if they want to work in their classrooms. The focus of this day will be on effective instructional strategies. These strategies may include social-emotional learning, differentiation for diverse learners, technology integration, or fidelity to instructional programs.

In ACPS, Professional Learning:

- Aligns employees' intentional actions to division, school, team, and personal goals;
- Aims to enhance staff's knowledge, skills, mindsets, or behaviors to improve student outcomes;
- Happens collaboratively in learning communities and requires engagement with feedback and continuous follow-up; and
- Uses identified data to evaluate learning and are focused on results for students.

BOARD BRIEF

Professional learning sessions on October 11, 2021, will focus on effective instructional strategies. With this professional learning definition in mind, ACPS staff should choose professional learning that fits their personal and team's learning needs and the needs of their students.

The timeframe for professional learning sessions on October 11, 2021, is in three formats. There will be morning, afternoon, or full-day sessions. The morning sessions will occur from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., and the afternoon sessions will occur from 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. This timing allows for lunch, virtual collaboration, and extended time for self care. All-day sessions will occur from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. with breaks built into the day by the instructor.

NEXT STEPS

All courses will be entered into the [Professional Learning Management System](#) (PLMS) by September 20, 2021. Section locations in PLMS will include either the zoom link to join the session, or a canvas link to access a module or asynchronous learning. Teachers and staff will need to register for their professional learning sessions by October 4, 2021, to allow instructors to plan accordingly. Mr. Cory Kapelski (cory.kapelski@acps.k12.va.us) is available to support instructors in creating and managing their PLMS courses.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information presented within the brief.

CONTACT

1. Cory Kapelski, cory.kapelski@acps.k12.va.us