

# Opening of Schools

Presentation by the  
Superintendent of Schools

September 13, 2018



*Every Student Succeeds*

# Essential Questions

1. What preparation went into the opening of schools?
2. What were some of the highlights?
3. What were the challenges?
4. What were the lessons learned and expectations for the future?



# Preparation:

## Building Professional Capacity with Leaders

- Introduced aligned school and department Improvement Plans for all areas
- Revised data charts
- Three-day Leadership Institute
- Brought in Virginia Department of Education to conduct Improvement Plan training



# Preparation: Through Relationship-Building

Meetings with...

- Principals
- Superintendent's Leadership Team (SLT)
- Education Association of Alexandria (EAA)
- City Staff and the Mayor



# Preparation: Through the Superintendent's 100-Day Plan

- Established goals, objectives and action steps in the 100-Day Entry Plan
- Held initial meeting with Transition Team



**Superintendent's 100-Day Entry Plan**

In July, ACPS welcomed Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr. as our new superintendent. In the first 100 days of his tenure as superintendent, Dr. Hutchings will work collaboratively with school and community stakeholders to review, assess and familiarize himself with every area of the division in line with the goals of the [ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan](#).

**GOAL 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity – Every student will be academically successful and prepared for life, work and college.**

**Entry Plan Objective** – Assess progress toward the school division's goals outlined in the ACPS 2020 Plan as well as the progress on the key performance indicators (KPI) in the ACPS 2020 Data Scorecard.

**GOAL 2: ACPS will partner with families and the community in the education of Alexandria's youth.**

**Entry Plan Objective** – Establish a support with board members, students, parents, teachers, school administrators, support staff, administrative staff, central office staff, special groups, community organizations, businesses, city officials, local universities/colleges, and religious leaders to ensure effective communication and collaboration.

**GOAL 3: ACPS will recruit, develop, support and retain a staff that meets the needs of every student.**

**Entry Plan Objective** – Evaluate the school division's human capital initiatives including recruitment, retention, development and supports.

**GOAL 4: ACPS will provide optimal and equitable learning environments.**

**Entry Plan Objective** – Assess facilities and implementation of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as well as technology infrastructure and technology resources in classrooms.

**GOAL 5: ACPS will promote efforts to enable students to be healthy and ready to learn.**

**Entry Plan Objective** – Assess programs to foster healthy lifestyles and provide students with necessary supports to become productive citizens.

**GOAL 6: ACPS will be efficient, effective, and transparent in its business operations.**

**Entry Plan Objective** – Assess fiscal stewardship, operational efficiencies and continuous improvement.



# Preparation: Our Facilities

- Established “Level 1” cleaning at all schools and facilities
- Ensured Executive Directors coordinate with Operations staff
- Remediated issues caused by warm and wet weather



# The Highs

ACPS opened *two* new schools in the first week of school.

- Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School
- The Early Childhood Center



# The Highs

- Every school received a visit in the first two days. Most of them on the first day.





# The Challenges

- Kitchen/cafeteria renovations at George Washington and Francis C. Hammond
- Remediation of mold issues
- Urgent repairs due to weekend weather
- Transportation changes



# LESSONS LEARNED

- Communication. Communication. Communication.
- Transparency is Essential
- Enhance Customer Service (Internal & External)
- Division-wide Processes and Systems





## *Every Student Succeeds*