

BOARD MEMO

Date: December 1, 2022

For ACTION ☒

For INFORMATION ☐

Board Agenda: Yes ☒

No ☐

FROM: Carmen Sanders, Executive Director of Instructional Support

THROUGH: Wendy Gonzalez, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Program of Studies for 2023–2024 for Secondary Schools

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

SY 2022–2023 FOCUS AREA:

Middle School Educational Experience

Early College

Continued SST Support Expansion

FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Social and Emotional Supports for Students

Expand Access and Improve Quality of Out-of-School Learning

SUMMARY:

February 6, 2023, marks the start of the enrollment process for secondary students for the 2023–2024 school year. Students and their families are provided with a Program of Studies, including information on graduation and school practices that support student learning. The Program of Studies also includes a comprehensive list of courses available to meet graduation requirements, provides opportunities to explore a wide range of disciplines, and meets diverse student needs and interests.

The following courses are recommended for additions to the Program of Studies:

High School

- Construction Technology Pathway
- Data Science
- American Sign Language I, II, and III Online
- Dual Language Spanish Language Arts IV Honors
- Dual Enrollment Dual Language Intermediate Conversation in Spanish
- Introduction to Network Systems
- Network Systems Design
- Aquatics and Safety Training
- Evening Credit Recovery

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Middle School

- American Sign Language I, II, and III Online
- Modern Music
- CrossFit

The following courses are recommended for deletion from the Program of Studies:

High School

- Advanced Spanish Dual Language
- Ecology (Online Course Catalog)
- Credit Recovery Ecology (Online Course Catalog)
- Theater, Cinema, and Film Production (Online Course Catalog)
- Art Appreciation (Online Course Catalog, 0.5 Credit)
- Cosmetology: Cutting-Edge Styles (Online Course Catalog, 0.5 Credit)
- Family and Consumer Science (Online Course Catalog, 0.5 Credit)
- Family Living and Relationships (Online Course Catalog, 0.5 Credit)
- Introduction to Nursing I (Online Course Catalog, 0.5 Credit)
- Introduction to Nursing II (Online Course Catalog, 0.5 Credit)
- Introduction to Women's Studies: A Personal Journey Through Film (Online Course Catalog, 0.5 Credit)
- Law Studies (Online Course Catalog, 0.5 Credit)
- Peer Counseling (Online Course Catalog, 0.5 Credit)

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership (TLL), Department of Student Services, and the Equity and Office of Communications staff, along with a team of administrators and counseling staff at the secondary level, worked to design and develop the proposed Program of Studies for the 2023–2024 school year. The team members worked with various school departments to solicit recommendations for course revisions, additions, and deletions that incorporated trends in student interest and demand.

Once the Program of Studies is approved, it will be published on the ACPS website in multiple languages for students, parents/guardians, and school staff to view at the end of January 2023.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Interim Superintendent recommends that the School Board approves the proposed 2023–2024 Program of Studies.

IMPACT:

The adoption of the Program of Studies for 2023–2024 will affect secondary programming in the options students have for classes.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2023–2024 Draft Program of Studies

REFERENCES:

None

CONTACT:

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