

BOARD BRIEF

Date: June 7, 2024

BOARD INFORMATION: X
MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Tina Constantine, Evaluation & Assessment Analyst

THROUGH: Clinton Page, Ed.D, Chief of Accountability & Research
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Michelle Rief, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Update on Next ACPS Strategic Plan

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

- Goal 1: Systemic Alignment
- Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
- Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

- Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation
- Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2023-2024 FOCUS AREA:

- Academic Achievement
- Tier 1 Instruction: Alignment, Rigor, Engagement
- The High School Project
- Student Supports

- CASEL Social Emotional Learning Competencies
- Student Connection and Attendance
- Staff Supports
- Continue Culture Building
- Recruitment and Retention

FY 2024 BUDGET PRIORITY:

- Full Implementation of Students with Disabilities Action Plan
- Reduce Class Sizes
- K-4 Literacy
- Target Chronic Absenteeism
- Restorative Practices Supports

- Develop Plan and Policy for Collective Bargaining
- Target Planned Compensation Enhancement and Staff Retention Efforts
- Increase Support for Social and Emotional Learning

SUMMARY:

The division’s current strategic plan, “Equity for All 2025”, was adopted June 26, 2020 and established five goal areas developed through a stakeholder-driven process. The existing strategic plan will serve as a solid framework for potential revisions and enhancements in building the division’s next strategic plan continuing to focus on equity. An external vendor, DeliverEd, has been selected to assist ACPS in the facilitation and management of the creation of an updated five year strategic plan. Engagement efforts will begin, and carry through, the 2024-25 school year with final approval by the School Board of the next strategic plan required no later than June 2025. The Board will be actively engaged and receive updates throughout the strategic plan development to ensure awareness, transparency, and effective two-way communication throughout the process.

BOARD BRIEF

BACKGROUND:

The Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:6 provides that each local school board shall adopt a division-wide comprehensive, unified, long-range plan based on data collection, an analysis of the data, and how it will be used to improve classroom instruction and student achievement. The plan is to be developed with staff and community involvement and is to include, or be consistent with, all other division-wide plans required by state and federal laws and regulations. Each local school board shall review the plan biennially and adopt necessary revisions. ACPS Board policy, AF-Comprehensive Plan, implements the Code of Virginia's requirement.

The division's current strategic plan, "ACPS 2025", was adopted June 26, 2020 and established five goal areas developed through a stakeholder-driven process guided by a steering committee. A larger stakeholder committee was convened to review the needs of the school division, the educational landscape, and the aspirations of the Alexandria community. Community input was gathered throughout the process. The Board conducted public hearings and held work sessions before finalizing the current strategic plan guiding the work of ACPS through 2025. ACPS has annually engaged in a revision process for the Equity for All 2025 strategic plan to ensure that the plan remains relevant as our context changes, guiding efforts within ACPS to ensure success by inspiring students and addressing barriers to learning. Historically, revisions have been focused on highlighted actions and given that this is the final year of this five-year plan focus has shifted to the generation of the next plan.

To develop the next strategic plan through 2030, ACPS intends to convene a process similar to the previous one, including refinements. The existing plan will serve as the framework for potential revisions and enhancements with a continued focus on equity. In terms of process, an external vendor, DeliverEd, was selected by a RFP committee of School Board, division, and school leaders to facilitate and manage the creation of an updated five year strategic plan.

Next steps include DeliverEd conducting a review of existing ACPS data and the identification of the strategic planning committee who will be identified with a focus on diversity in stakeholders (i.e. race/ethnicity, gender) as well as representation (i.e. geographic location, expertise, experiences). DeliverED will also be working with a core planning team of ACPS staff over the summer to finalize the engagement and workstream timelines for all components of creating the next strategic plan. A timeline of the planning process will be shared in late summer with the understanding that the next strategic plan must be in place no later than July 1, 2025. The Board will be actively engaged and receive updates throughout the strategic plan development to ensure awareness, transparency, and effective two-way communication throughout the process.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the information provided for possible planning, procedural, programmatic, and/or budgetary changes.

IMPACT:

The strategic plan will serve as the guidepost to the development of all other vital division plans and actions, including but not limited to: annual budgets, School Board policies, school improvement plans, and division priority areas.

CONTACT: Clinton Page, clinton.page@acps.k12.va.us