

Date: April 20, 2018

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION X

Board Agenda: Yes _____
No X

FROM: Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer, Department of Accountability

THROUGH: Lois Berlin, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Ramee Gentry, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Pre-Kindergarten Experiences for ACPS Kindergarten Students at Jefferson-Houston and William Ramsay

BACKGROUND:

The information contained in the memo is being provided in response to a School Board inquiry.

Table 1 shows the percentage of kindergarten students at Jefferson-Houston School and William Ramsay Elementary School with pre-kindergarten experience as reported by their parents/guardians for the 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years. Pre-kindergarten experiences include publicly funded programs (such as the Virginia Preschool Initiative and Head Start) and privately funded experiences (such as private preschools and licensed family home daycares). Students not included in these counts either had no formal pre-kindergarten experience or the information was not provided.

TABLE 1
ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Pre-Kindergarten Experiences¹ for ACPS Kindergarten Students
at Jefferson-Houston and William Ramsay: 2014-2015 to 2017-2018

School	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Jefferson-Houston	73%	75%	84%	69%
William Ramsay	41%	66%	48%	58%
Division Total	76%	73%	76%	77%

¹Data as of 01/18/2018

IMPACT:

Pre-kindergarten experience among kindergarten students varies from year-to-year. At Jefferson-Houston, the percentages range from 69% to 84%. At William Ramsay, the range spans 25 percentage points from 41% to 66% in the 2015-2016 school year. Division totals are less variable (4 percentage points). Division-wide, the proportion of kindergartners with pre-kindergarten experience has remained consistent across the past

four years, topping at 77% in the current year. Over the four-year span, the rates of pre-kindergarten experience at Jefferson-Houston aligned more closely with that of the division compared to the rates at William Ramsay, which consistently fell below those of the division.

For the current 2017-2018 school year, the percentages of kindergartners with pre-kindergarten experience at both Jefferson-Houston and William Ramsay were lower than that of the division as a whole. For a national comparison, in 2016 60% of children ages 3-5 had a pre-kindergarten center-based experience (U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2017).

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends review of the provided data regarding parent/guardian-reported pre-kindergarten experiences for ACPS kindergarten students at Jefferson-Houston and William Ramsay for possible planning, procedural, programmatic, and/or budgetary changes.

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