

BOARD BRIEF

Date: July 24, 2020

BOARD INFORMATION:

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 4.0: Reimagining Schools Update

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA

Focus Area 1: Educational Equity

FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY

Academics

SUMMARY

Completed Activities + Accomplishments (July 20 - July 24)

- Our *Scheduling Crew* continues to evaluate schedule options aligned to hybrid + virtual models, highlighting implications, and considerations across financial, operational, staffing, safety, etc. Principals have been heavily involved in creating test school schedules specific for their buildings to identify benefits and limitations to each model.
- Our *Cross-Functional Planning Teams* continued to make decisions and design solutions to support both Hybrid and Virtual models. Each Core Area distilled their deep conversations and research into a consolidated Playbook of guidance for Principals and School Leaders.
- *School and Community Relations (SCR)* organized a series of *Reopening Community Chats* to hear in greater depth about the particular issues that specific communities may face in the fall and begin to work through potential solutions to them. Over 2,100 families and staff participated in the chats, as of Thursday afternoon, with one more community chat scheduled for Friday afternoon and three student-focused chats scheduled for Tuesday, July 28, 2020. Ideas and discussions are being shared with the *Cross-Functional Planning Teams* for their analysis and consideration and potentially built into the processes and protocols they develop to reopen our schools safely in the fall. In addition, SCR is culling through the questions gathered from the chats to create a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that addresses the main concerns and challenges that our families and staff shared.

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Upcoming Activities (July 27 - July 31)

- Once schedule prototypes have been developed for Virtual and Hybrid models, with Division Guidance articulated across each Core Area in the Playbooks, the *Cross-Functional Planning Teams* will experience a Day in the Life activity to understand how students, staff, and parents could experience both models this year.
- We are assessing each proposed model's feasibility and practicality and building consensus on the best fit model to open SY 2020-2021 based on the following criteria:
 - **Constraints:** Model is possible within current constraints and available resources
 - **Input:** Model supports ACPS community, staff needs, and preferences
 - **Vision:** Model is aligned to [ACPS 2025: Equity for All](#)
- We will share which reopening option is feasible on *Friday, July 31, 2020*, with the School Board and Community via a board brief.

Our upcoming timeline includes these critical milestones

- A full draft plan with specific details will be shared at the School Board meeting on *Friday, August 7, 2020*.
- An updated plan with details and incorporating feedback from the School Board meeting will be shared with the community on *Wednesday, August 12, 2020*.
- Our final plan will be uploaded and submitted to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) on *Friday, August 14, 2020*.

BACKGROUND

Since the closing of our school buildings resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic, Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) continued to provide students and families with various educational opportunities. Our school division has provided students and families access to technology, learning materials, educational resources, meals, and support services during the crisis. As you know, our *Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 1.0* addressed student and staff needs following the school buildings closing; *Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 2.0* extended and redefined educational resources available to students, including both instructional packets, synchronous learning, asynchronous learning, and online lessons; *Continuity of Learning Plan 3.0: Summer Learning through Engagement and Enrichment for All Plan* will address learning loss, engagement, and enrichment; and the *Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 4.0: Reimagining Schools* will guide the reopening of our schools.

The development of *ACPS' Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 4.0: Reimagining Schools* is aligned with global, national, federal, state, and local guidelines. The plan will ensure a safe and healthy learning environment for our students, staff, and families. As we work to reopen schools, it is critical that we continue to seek feedback from our leaders, staff, students, families, and community so that we can collectively put forth our very best ideas and actions for what is possible, achievable, and essential when reopening. Ultimately, the plan will address the feasibility of reopening schools and buildings.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information within this brief and [video](#).

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ATTACHMENTS

1. ACPS 2025: Equity for All
2. Detailed Update: Reopening Planning Process
 - a. Guiding Principles
 - b. Cross-Functional Planning Team Members Roster (*revised July 23, 2020*)
 - c. Staff and Family Survey Results
 - d. Sample ACPS Schedules

IMPACT

ACPS will develop and implement a reopening plan to ensure that all students and staff are healthy, safe, and engaged during the reopening process, including following required health and sanitation procedures. The reopening plan will also ensure that students receive personalized support and interventions to address any learning losses resulting from school closings.

CONTACT

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