



Alexandria City Public Schools

LINK Club - Out of School Time Program Update April 29, 2024





Essential Questions

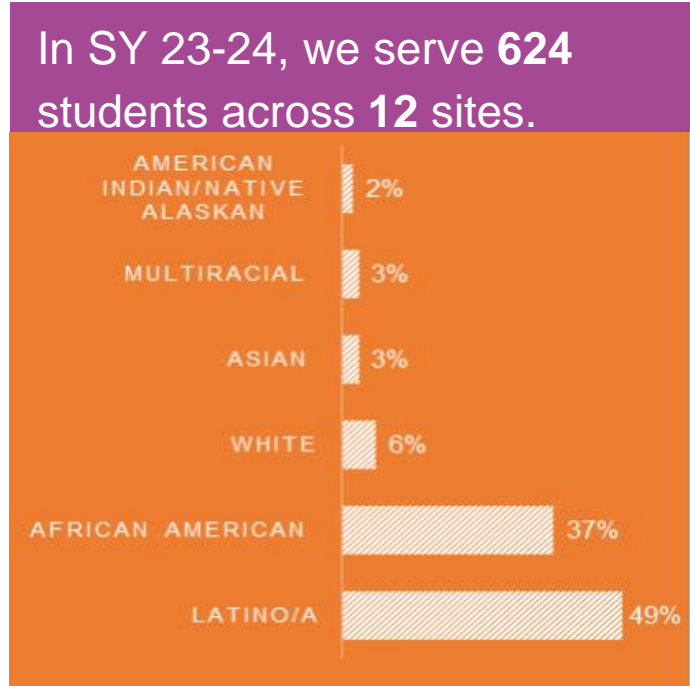
1. How is ACPS continuing to provide students and families with comprehensive out of school time programming?
2. What have we learned about the out of school time needs within our Alexandria community?
3. What steps are we taking to sustainably plan for future out of school time programming?



LINK Club @ ACPS

ACPS’ afterschool program, **LINK Club**, provides free, high quality after school services with an emphasis on academic, social emotional, health and wellness and family support to the division’s most vulnerable students and families.

- Supports in classroom learning through aligned **academic tutoring** in partnership with school administrators and data coach at each site.
- Provides a **safe space** during the critical hours of 3:00pm to 6:00pm, Monday through Friday, when many parents are at work.



EL students: 59% SPED students:12%



LINK Club Funding Overview

- **Free of charge** to eligible students and families.
- Made possible through **federal, state and local grants** and in collaboration with internal ACPS departments and community partners.
 - 9 sites are predominantly funded through the VDOE 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants.
 - 3 sites are partly funded through ESSER grants

NOTE: School-based budget, Extended Learning Opportunity funds are also used to support additional out of school time programming.



SY 2022-23 Impact*

493

Elementary, Middle School,
and High School students
participated in VDOE LINK
Club Sites.

2205

Hours of academics support

of students who attended 90
hours or more of programming

94%

showed increased
engagement in learning, as
reported by their teachers.

77%

of students attended 90 hours or
more of programming throughout
the year.

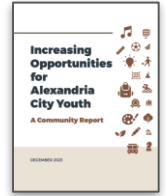
68%

demonstrated improved
attendance during the
school day.

**VDOE funded sites*



Understanding Alexandria Community Needs



[Report Link](#)

- Over **177 programs** are offered at 200 locations across the city.
- About **1/3 of youth** across all of Alexandria participate in OST activities. Participation is highest in elementary students (46%) and starts declining in middle school (30%) and is lowest in high school (26%).
- Top barriers and challenges to participation include **transportation, cost**, and not knowing about program offerings.



Creating a Sustainability Model

Part I

Research OST programs post-COVID, highlighting leading practices, operational models, and programming opportunities.

Review current ACPS programs to identify strengths to expand and areas for future growth.

Fall 2023

Part II

Discuss the needs of Alexandria students and families, as illuminated through the YSN Landscape Report.

Build out planning scenarios that provide optionality and considerations for future program designs to meet the needs of Alexandria students and families.

Winter 2024

Part III

Prepare OST Program options for ACPS Leadership to consider, including operational and financial implications.

Spring 2024



Scenarios for Exploration

1

Rightsizing LINK Club

- *Updating delivery and oversight model (will increase expenses)*
- *Continue to run 21CCLC funded programs as currently designed*

2

Expanding division-wide LINK Club OST program

- *Maximize 21CCLC grant to cover additional sites (in 2025 renewal), and seek additional funding sources*
- *Expand LINK Club and align programming across all sites*

3

Redesigning LINK Club for wider participation through fee structure

- *Explore wider participation with sliding scale (some fee for service)*
- *Create standard qualification criteria across all sites*



Current Blend of Funding Sources

Fed Grants (ESSER) + VDOE Grants (21CCLC)

ACPS Op Budget

*Current
SY 23 - 24*



TOTAL
\$2,117,000
12 Sites

*Proposed
SY 24 - 25*



TOTAL
\$1,353,000
9 Sites

** includes approx. \$65k of ESSER III funds*



Next Steps

- Continued engagement in conversations on OST programming across ACPS as well as the city.
- Develop a robust set of scenarios and financial models to guide future budget decisions.
- Design a long range plan to ensure OST program continuation.



Supplemental Information

March 7, 2024 Alexandria City School Board Meeting Agenda Item:

Memo: [LINK Club - Out of School Time Program Update](#)

Presentation: [LINK Club - Out of School Time Program Update](#)



Alexandria City Public Schools

Questions?

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