

**BOARD MEMO**

Date: June 6, 2024

For ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

For INFORMATION X

**FROM:** Alexander Duncan, Executive Principal, Alexandria City High School  
Rosalyn Hardway, Director of School Counseling  
Michael Burch, Lead Administrator of Operations  
Marya Runkle, Ed.D, Director of Education and Business Applications  
Carmen Sanders, Executive Director of Instructional Support

**THROUGH:** Pierrette Finney, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer  
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

**TOPIC:** The High School Project Update

**ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence  
Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support  
Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation  
Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

**SY 2023-2024 PRIORITY AREA:**

The High School Project  
Student Supports  
Student Connection and Attendance

**FY 2024 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Reduce Class Sizes  
Target Chronic Absenteeism  
Restorative Practices Supports  
Increase Support for Social and Emotional Learning

**SUMMARY:**

The Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership has implemented the vision of the 2018 Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) School Board’s approved concept of the *Connected High School Network* with the expansion of the Minnie Howard Campus to a full 9–12 educational program that is part of the Academies of Alexandria City. The Academies at Alexandria City is a learner-centered instructional program that allows students from diverse populations to explore and develop the skills that are needed for students to be prepared for college, career, and life beyond the classroom and high school.

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**DETAILS:**

Since the November 30, 2024 approval of the full Secondary Program of Studies, The High School Project (THSP) team has worked to fully develop the School Board approved academy structure. The Alexandria City High School (ACHS) Administrative team has finalized a student-centered bell schedule and planned strategies to foster and progress monitor the successful implementation of the academy structure through the implementation of a staggered start. ACHS school counselors have engaged with students, staff, and families in the academic advisement process. Finally, the ACHS Director of School Counseling and ACPS Director of Education and Business Applications have worked collaboratively in the development and completion of the 2024–2025 ACHS master schedule.

**BACKGROUND:**

The High School Project (THSP) team continues to plan for the educational experience of students at Alexandria City High School (ACHS) with core values and drivers of instructional excellence, equity, student achievement and growth, and multiple pathways that prepare students for college, career, and civic life.

In planning for the opening of the Academies at Alexandria City, the following has taken place:

Complete	Ongoing Implementation Planning Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Development of Learner Profile &amp; Learning Model aligned with Profile of a Virginia Graduate and Curricular Framework Standards;</li><li>● Development of learning pathways;</li><li>● Revision of the ACPS Program of Studies;</li><li>● Student placement based on learning pathways;</li><li>● Master schedule development;</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Staff professional development on Project Based Learning;</li><li>● Staff professional development on the Academy Model</li><li>● Ongoing executive coaching for the Executive Principal and Campus Administrators</li><li>● Ongoing professional learning for the ACHS Administrative Team</li><li>● Leadership professional development for the SY 2024–2025 administrative team</li></ul>

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information in this memo and the attached presentation about The High School Project.

**IMPACT:**

Reviewing the status update will align the School Board’s understanding of the progress of the High School Project Team and the priority areas of work as planning continues.

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### ATTACHMENTS:

1. 240606\_Presentation\_The\_High\_School\_Project\_Update\_v1

### REFERENCES:

May 4, 2023- The High School Project Team Update  
September 21, 2023- The High School Project Update  
November 13, 2023- Program of Studies: High School

### CONTACT:

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