

Date: May 7, 2015

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

For INFORMATION  X

Board Agenda: Yes  X   
No \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** Terri Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer

**THROUGH:** Alvin L. Crawley, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Karen Graf, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** Special Education Update

**BACKGROUND:** This presentation frames the vision, mission, and goals of the Office of Special Education Services. In addition, our mandates and outcomes are outlined in support of our students, parents, and teachers. Additionally, this presentation presents a proposed structural leadership realignment for achieving effective outcomes for students with disabilities.

Included within this presentation is an overview of specific instructional supports for teachers, inclusive practices, multi-tiered systems of support, and professional learning opportunities. Furthermore, the discussion will focus on increased training opportunities for administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals as well as improving transition outcomes for students. These focus areas are critical to improving outcomes for students with high-incidence disabilities, which encompass 71.4% of our students included in the general education classroom for 80% or more of the instructional day. The optimal conditions for success and accountability measures will be described.

This presentation will address how the characteristics of high-performing school divisions are aligned to the current and proposed practices that most benefit students with disabilities. The three-year targets for academic performance in Reading and Math, drop-out and graduation rates, post-secondary outcomes, least restrictive environments, and progress on IEP goals are outlined.

The presentation will conclude with strategies to promote and support parent engagement. Strategies include: expanding PRC staff and workshops; administering a parent satisfaction survey, and customer satisfaction training. Staff will also present proposed actions for strengthening ACPS special education service delivery system.

**IMPACT:** The evidence-based practices of specially designed instruction, inclusive practices, multi-tiered systems of support, and professional learning will be critical to the success of and improved outcomes for students with disabilities. Through the implementation of the optimal conditions for success and increased accountability measures, three-year targets will be achieved. Ultimately, there is a sense of urgency and our intent is to change the trajectory of outcomes for students with disabilities.

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**ATTACHMENT(S):** 1\_Ensuring Excellence for Students with Disabilities (ppt)  
2\_Indicators of Success (attachment)