

BOARD BRIEF

February 17, 2023

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION: _____

FROM: Peter Balas, Executive Principal, Alexandria City High School

THROUGH: Pierrette Finney, Ed.D., Executive Director of School Leadership
Wendy Gonzalez, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: High School Writing Assessment Options for Verified Credit

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment
Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

SY 2022-2023 FOCUS AREA:

Hispanic Males
Talented and Gifted
Implementation of Student with Disabilities Plan
Continuous Improvement in KPI Disparities

FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Special Instruction Evaluation Implementation as a part of the Strategic Plan
Equitable TAG Identification of Black and Hispanic Students
Social and Emotional Supports for Students

SUMMARY:

Alexandria City High School (ACHS) will expand the choices presented to the parents or guardians of 11th grade students regarding the assessment used to meet the VDOE-verified credit requirement for writing.

BACKGROUND:

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) allows testing flexibility for school divisions and schools when assessing students who need verified credit for writing. For the spring of 2023 testing window, the parents or guardians of students will choose between the following options for the assessment their students will take to earn the verified writing credit:

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- End-of-Course (EOC) Writing Standards of Learning (SOL)
- WorkKeys Writing
- Advanced Placement (AP) English Exams

Families will be able to make an informed decision after consulting with their students, who will be supported by their counselors and English teachers.

Note: According to the VDOE, a school may choose to use either the EOC Writing SOL or WorkKeys Writing as their default assessment. At ACHS, the default for any family that does not respond will be the EOC Writing SOL.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Interim Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information provided by ACHS in this memorandum as the high school prepares for end-of-year testing.

IMPACT:

Providing more choices to families for how their students will earn the verified writing credit will give students greater opportunity to successfully complete this requirement.

REFERENCES:

n/a

ATTACHMENTS:

None

CONTACT:

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