

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Alexandria City School Board believes there is an advantage to students who complete school with marketable skills obtained through hands-on applied learning. Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) strives to prepare every student for college, career, and civic readiness so they thrive in our diverse and ever-changing world.

ACPS provides a program of career and technical programs, incorporated into the kindergarten through twelfth-grade curricula. The Superintendent and staff plan and make recommendations for Career and Technical Education in compliance with the Standards of Quality and the State Board of Education Regulations, including a focus upon:

- Knowledge of careers and all types of employment and work-based learning opportunities, including, but not limited to, apprenticeships, entrepreneurship and small business ownership, the military, and the teaching profession, and emphasize the advantages of completing school with marketable skills;
- Career awareness opportunities in the elementary school grades;
- Career exploration opportunities in the middle school grades;
- Occupational and career and technical programs with industry and professional standard certifications, if applicable;
- Competency-based Career and Technical Education Programs that integrate academic outcomes, career guidance, and job-seeking skills for all secondary students based upon labor-market needs and student interests;
- Career guidance involving counseling about available employment opportunities, post-secondary opportunities, and placement services for students exiting school;
- Continued monitoring of student progress in all aspects of CTE program development and implementation, including data related to Industry Certification, Work-Based Learning, program completion, and graduates’ post-secondary education and career choices and status; and
- Annual notice on its website to enrolled high school students and their parents/guardians of (i) the availability of the postsecondary education and employment data published by the State Council of Higher Education on its website and (ii) the opportunity for such students to obtain a nationally recognized career readiness certificate at a local public high school, comprehensive community college or workforce center.

ACPS develops and implements a plan to ensure compliance with this policy. This plan is developed with the input of area business and industry representatives and local community

43 colleges and is submitted to the Superintendent of Public Instruction in accordance with the
44 timelines established by federal law.

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46 The School Board may establish High School to Work Partnerships or delegate the authority to
47 establish Partnerships to the division's career and technical education administrator or the
48 administrator's designee, in collaboration with the school counseling office of each high school in
49 the school division, and educates high school students about opportunities available through such
50 partnerships.

51 The School Board may enter into agreements for postsecondary course credit, credential,
52 certification, or license attainment, referred to as College and Career Access Pathways
53 Partnerships, with comprehensive community colleges or other public institutions of higher
54 education or educational institutions that offer a career and technical education curriculum.
55 College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships specify:

- 56 ● the options for students to take courses as part of the career and technical education
57 curriculum that lead to course credit or an industry-recognized credential, certification, or
58 license concurrent with a high school diploma;
- 59 ● the credit, credentials, certifications, or licenses available for such courses; and
- 60 ● available options for students to participate in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship
61 programs at comprehensive community colleges concurrent with the pursuit of a high
62 school diploma and receive college credit and high school credit for successful completion
63 of any such program.

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66 Adopted: January 9, 1997

67 Amended: July 1, 2005

68 Amended: September 20, 2007

69 Amended: October 15, 2015

70 Amended: October 5, 2023

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72 Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13.1, 22.1-227.1.

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74 Cross Ref.: IJ Guidance and Counseling Program