

BOARD BRIEF

Date: August 18, 2022

BOARD INFORMATION: X
MEETING PREPARATION: _____

FROM: Clinton Page, Ed.D., Chief of Accountability and Research Officer

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: Federally Adjusted SOL Results

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment

Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

SY 2021-2022 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 1: Social Emotional and Academic Learning Recovery

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

SUMMARY:

VDOE is scheduled to release federally adjusted school, division, and state pass rates by grade, content area, and student group today, August 18, 2022. This Board Brief summarizes division federally adjusted results. In reviewing data from SY 21-22, it is important to remember the context of schooling within the unprecedented continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Results in Reading, Mathematics, and Science showed increases across all three content areas from the previous year and across a majority of student groups. With these gains, impacts from the continuing COVID-19 pandemic remained most exacerbated in Mathematics and historically underserved student populations. SY 21-22 Writing and History/Science results will serve as a baseline year. SY 20-21 in Writing and History/Social Science contained less than 30% of the typical student population assessed and should not be compared to other years. Additional salient division data from SY 21-22, along with the draft Areas of Focus for SY 22-23, will be presented and discussed with the School Board at the August 25 Work Session.

BACKGROUND:

The goal of this Board Brief is to provide information on federally adjusted SOL pass rates for the state, divisions, and schools as released by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) today. Federally adjusted student pass rates reported in the release showed increases in ACPS performance in the areas of Reading (61%, +4 percentage points), Mathematics (49%, +9 percentage points), and Science (49%, +5 percentage points) when compared to the previous school year. The SY 20-21 SOL Writing and History/Social Studies administration included less than 30% of the student population assessed in other years due to the ongoing pandemic at the time of the administration; therefore, comparisons to SY 20-21 to other administration years are

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not valid. SY 21-22 results in these subject areas will serve as a baseline for monitoring year-to-year progress moving forward.

When looking at ACPS results by state accountability student groups, the content areas of Reading, Mathematics, and Science results increased across all state accountability student groups except students with disabilities when compared to the previous year. The English Learner student group showed the greatest improvement increasing an average of 12 percentage points across the three content areas from the previous year .

These federal SOL results along with a broad range of additional key division data sources will be presented and discussed along with the division's Draft Areas of Focus at the Board Work Session on August 25, 2022. A communication focused on initial results from SY 21-22 and the draft Areas of Focus will be sent on August 26, 2022. At the September 8 School Board Meeting division data and the final Areas of Focus will be presented to the School Board for discussion and action. The Board will also receive additional information pertaining to the Virginia Accreditation Accountability system and more detailed school-level results as they are finalized prior to VDOE's scheduled public release on September 22, 2022.

State SOL assessments were given to students in grades three through eight in English Language Arts (Reading/Writing), Math, Science and History/Social Sciences and in high school core subjects assessed by end-of-course exams. For additional information on the VDOE SOL pass rate results, please visit http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/sol-pass-rates/index.shtml. Federal pass rates do not align with the State's Accreditation accountability system which incorporates student growth.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the information contained within this brief for a high-level understanding of federally adjusted SOL pass rates and the timeline for the release of SOL data through the Virginia Accreditation system.

IMPACT: Federally adjusted student pass rates reported in the VDOE release showed an increase in ACPS performance in the areas of Reading, Mathematics, and Science. With these increases, pass rates have yet to equal those seen prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to reinforce the need to focus on connection, support, and recovery for ACPS students, staff, and families.

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