

Date: March 22, 2019

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION _____

Board Agenda: Yes _____

No _____

FROM: Julie A. Crawford, Ed.D., Chief Student Services Officer
Marcia E. Jackson, Ed.D., Director of K-12 School Counseling

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

TO: The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: T.C. Williams High School's College and Career Center Staffing

SUMMARY:

During a budget work session, questions arose about the staffing at the College and Career Center at T.C. Williams. The College and Career Center at T.C. Williams High School currently employs one full-time school counselor. The following provides staffing information related to the center.

BACKGROUND:

All students at T.C. Williams High School have access to the College and Career Center located in the Jack Taylor College and Career Wing on the King Street Campus. The goal of the center is to support students with college and career exploration, the college application and admissions process, to include financial aid and scholarship support.

A full-time College and Career Center Counselor is responsible for coordinating college representative visits, scheduling and coordinating college tours, oversight of the annual T.C. Williams College Fair, planning parent education programs that promote a college-going culture, and collaborating with school counseling staff to support the college and career dreams and aspirations of students. It should be noted that the College and Career Center Specialist was retitled this year to College and Career Counselor, and the position was required to be a certified counselor. This position is currently held by Stacy Morris.

T. C. Williams also has a full-time Transcript Specialist who assists students in accessing their transcripts to support post-secondary opportunities for students. This position also supports the Naviance College and Career Planning Solution that allows students to conduct college and career searches, take career interest inventories and submit their college applications to multiple colleges by a single application. This position is fully equipped in a separate office in the same wing but is not assigned to the College and Career Center.

Through a Memorandum of Agreement with Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), ACPS also provides partial funding for a full-time position for students to participate in the Pathways to Baccalaureate program. The Pathways to Baccalaureate program provides coaching, advising and counseling support to students who plan to pursue their 2-year degree at NOVA after graduation.

Students who are accepted into the program receive additional support once they transition on to NOVA's campus.

In addition to the above mentioned ACPS staff, many other programs (e.g., AVID) and community partners, (e.g., Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, Building Better Futures), support our students in the college and career planning.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the information related to staffing at the College and Career Center.

CONTACT:

Dr. Julie A. Crawford, 703-619-8034