

BOARD MEMO

Date: March 30, 2023
For ACTION X
For INFORMATION ___
Board Agenda: Yes X
No ___

FROM: Jennifer Whitson, Ed.D., Evaluation and Assessment Analyst
Clinton Page, Ed.D., Chief of Accountability and Research

THROUGH: 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: Program Evaluation Calendar

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

- Goal 1: Systemic Alignment
- Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
- Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support
- Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation
- Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2022-2023 FOCUS AREA:

- Social Emotional and Academic Learning Recovery
- Hispanic Males
- Staff Wellness and Growth
- Early College
- Continued SST Support Expansion
- Continuous Improvement in KPI Disparities

FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:

- K-4 Literacy
- Address Chronic Absenteeism & High School Graduation Rate Among Hispanic Male Students
- Social and Emotional Supports for Students
- Expand Cultural Competency Training to ACPS Families

SUMMARY:

The Division engages in a variety of program evaluation activities designed to create new learnings to improve the delivery of services to ultimately improve outcomes for students. The Department of Accountability and Research uses a five-year evaluation calendar to notify, plan, and coordinate evaluation efforts aligned with the Equity for All Strategic Plan. At the March 16, 2023 School Board meeting the Board was presented with the proposed five-year program evaluation calendar. Based on the needs assessment and Board dialogue on March 16, staff are recommending the Board vote to approve the following areas for evaluation within the next five-year cycle: social emotional learning, staff recruitment and retention, English Learner program, and the Connected High School Network.

BOARD MEMO

BACKGROUND:

ACPS applies a utilization-focused lens and views evaluations as learning opportunities that advance the Division's efforts to improve programs, policy, and practice. The evaluation approach taken by ACPS relies on collaboration with program area staff and stakeholder voice from evaluation design through recommendations. To help ensure recommended actions yield improvements and organizational learning, the Department of Accountability and Research strives to assess current implementation, present actionable findings, and support continuous improvement practices.

To prioritize and support division programmatic areas expected to have broad impact across the division's strategic initiatives, the Department of Accountability and Research leveraged the Equity for All Strategic Plan, the School Board's Annual Budget Priorities, and the division's Areas of Focus over the past several years. This review informed an initial list of potential areas aligned with current and emerging division priorities. School and division leaders were then engaged in a needs assessment poll at the end of 2022 where they were asked to prioritize these areas. All of this information was used to inform the proposed program evaluation calendar.

In developing a working calendar, ACPS anticipates that a typical evaluation cycle spans 18 months which includes activities starting with evaluation framing and planning, conducting the evaluation activities from the plan, developing findings and recommendations, and developing an action plan. An action plan includes key measures and check-ins following the completion of the evaluation. The multi-year implementation plan includes actions that are evident in department improvement plans.

The proposed program evaluation calendar includes the following areas:

1. Social Emotional Learning (April 2023 - June 2024)
2. Staff Recruitment and Retention (March 2024 - May 2025)
3. English Learner Program (June 2025 - August 2026)
4. Connected High School Network (September 2026 - November 2027)

RECOMMENDATION:

The Interim Superintendent recommends that the School Board vote to approve the working five-year calendar of program evaluation areas.

IMPACT:

The proposed working program evaluation calendar strategically focuses the Department of Accountability and Research resources to support actionable findings, implementation assessment, and continued organizational improvements of key programmatic activities.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. ACPS Program Evaluation Calendar 2023 -2027

CONTACT:

Clinton Page, Ed.D., clinton.page@acps.k12.va.us