

## BOARD BRIEF

Date: October 1, 2021

BOARD INFORMATION:  X

MEETING PREPARATION:

**FROM:** Anthony Sims, Ph.D., Executive Director of School Improvement

**THROUGH:** Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership  
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

**TOPIC:** Update on School and Department Improvement Planning

### ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

### SY 2021-2022 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 1: Social-Emotional and Academic Learning Recovery

### FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

K-2 Literacy Continued Implementation

Reduce Disproportionality in TAG and Advanced Courses

### SUMMARY:

ACPS is committed to enhancing the skills of ACPS leaders to engage in continuous improvement and innovation as an integral strategy to address persistent educational disparities and achieve the goals identified in the Strategic Plan 2025.

The division's focus on alignment and instructional excellence is paramount as we plan instructional strategies and interventions to address the interrupted learning related to the dual pandemic *and* the persistent achievement disparities. The negative impact of disrupted learning is inevitably magnified for targeted student groups with persistent achievement disparities; thus, African American, Hispanic, and low-income student groups have experienced a dual pandemic concerning high-quality educational access and opportunity.

### BACKGROUND:

The current health pandemic's unprecedented demands on school operations and instructional delivery have magnified the urgency in identifying high-yield instructional interventions to address academic needs. All students have been impacted by the pervasive and extended disruptions in learning due to the pandemic.

## BOARD BRIEF

For SY 2021-2022 improvement planning, the Office of School Improvement guided schools and departments in critical *reflection* processes to examine progress toward achieving *Comprehensive School and Department Improvement Plan SY 2020-2021* goals:

- Data to indicate progress toward CSIP SY 20-21 goals during a global pandemic
- Successes or challenges in achieving Essential Actions and Action Steps
- Adjustments to CSIP in response to monitoring and data analysis

The focus areas were strategically chosen to develop continuous improvement practices related to the use of data cycles. The unpacking performance data related to academic performance disparities for targeted student groups as schools prepare for an end of the year assessment of their school improvement effort and comprehensive school improvement planning for SY 2021-2022.

School teams participated in the inaugural ACPS Innovation Workshop, designed to strengthen continuous improvement processes, improve coherence, and align instructional strategies needed to accelerate achievement. School teams participated in professional learning sessions to address:

- Examining and Aligning Initiatives – comprehensively analyzing the inventory of initiatives with a specific focus on *purpose, alignment with ACPS Strategic Plan Goals, the fidelity of implementation, monitoring, and analyses of impact data.*
- Examining Data – enhancing the capacity of schools to build data literacy, effectively use and triangulate relevant data sources, and identify potential problems of learning and problems of practice.

### TIMELINES

	Date	Actions
Schools	September 17, 2021*	Schools submit draft plans via Google Docs.
	October 1, 2021*	All school plans receive feedback from Review Team.
	October 22, 2022	Revised school plans are submitted via Google Docs.

	Date	Actions
Departments	September 30, 2021*	All departments submit draft plans via Google Docs.
	October 8, 2021	All departments receive feedback from Review Team.
	October 29, 2021	All departments submit revised plans via Google Docs.
	*Submission and review dates are adjusted for schools and departments requesting an extension to submit improvement plans.	

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information in this brief.

### IMPACT:

The improvement planning process provides a critical professional learning opportunity to enhance the capacity of ACPS leaders to engage in innovative continuous improvement.

### CONTACT:

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cc: Senior Leadership Team