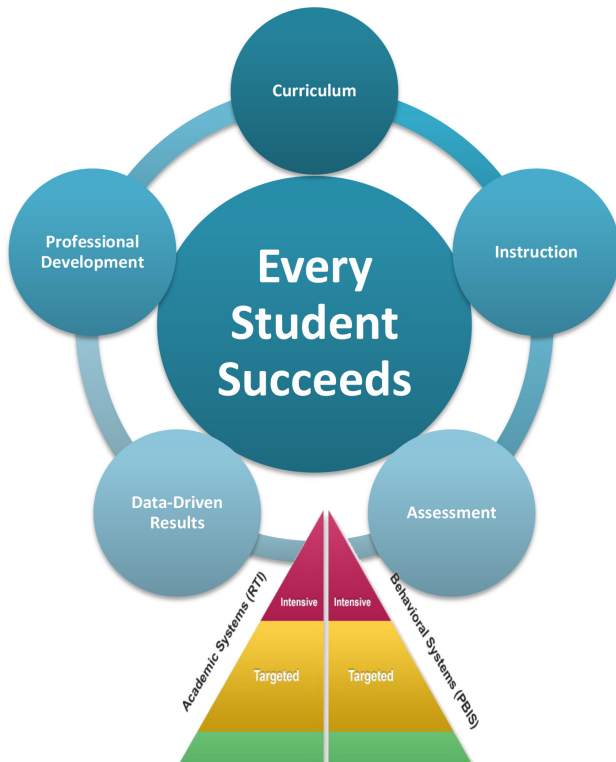


# ACPS Teaching and Learning Model

The goal of ACPS is to ensure that *every student succeeds!* Teaching and learning in ACPS involves a rigorous curriculum, effective planning, balanced assessment, proven instructional strategies, and relationships with students that communicate high expectations and a commitment to student success.



ACPS uses a staff-developed 21st-century curriculum focused on helping students become critical thinkers and problem solvers. All classrooms should be interactive, engaging, and structured to promote student communication and collaboration. More information on the ACPS curriculum can be found at [www.acps.k12.va.us](http://www.acps.k12.va.us).

## Effective Assessment and Progress Monitoring

Student data provides feedback about what students are learning and what they still need to learn. Data collected informally on a daily basis and formally at the end of units and specific milestones throughout the year help to guide learning and teaching. This data includes:

- Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessments
- Daily teacher observation and formative assessment
- Daily student work products
- End-of-unit assessments
- Normed screening instruments, including the Math Diagnostic Assessment (MDA)
- Reading assessments such as running records and Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS)
- Common assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies
- Transfer tasks and other forms of performance assessment and projects that emphasize student transfer of learning to real-life settings and problems



## What Can I Expect for My Child in the 1st Grade?

The mission of Alexandria City Public Schools is: *"Every student succeeds: Educating lifelong learners and inspiring civic responsibility."* Our vision is: *"Our students achieve at high levels, are well-rounded, critical thinkers, and have a passion to learn."*

### Principles

- ☀ We Believe in Educational Excellence
- ☀ We Believe in High Achievement for All
- ☀ We Believe in a Culture of Collaboration
- ☀ We Believe in Continuous Improvement and Accountability
- ☀ We Believe in Environmental Stewardship





# For More Information:

ACPS Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
1340 Braddock Place, 4th Floor  
Alexandria, Va. 22314  
Tel: 703-619-8020



## Some of the Learning in Which Your Child Will Be Engaged Includes:

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS\*

- Plot Development in Fiction
- Gaining Meaning from Informational Text
- Discerning Main Idea in Non-Fiction
- Examining Author's Craft in Narrative Writing
- Reading and Writing Persuasive Texts
- Studying the Power of Words in Poetic Texts

### SCIENCE

- Basic Needs and Behaviors of Animals
- Weather, Seasons, Sun and Earth
- Water and Motion
- Natural Resources and Plants
- Understanding Patterns of Change

- Aesthetics and Music Theory

### HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Keeping Time to a Beat
- Movement Sequences
- Moderate to Vigorous
- Safe Practices

### SOCIAL STUDIES

- Understanding Communities, Diversity, and Citizenship
- Investigating Geography and Location
- Understanding the Past, Present, and Future
- Economic Decision-Making

### MATHEMATICS

- Developing an Understanding of Adding and Subtracting
- Whole Number Relationships and Place Value, Including Grouping in Tens and Ones
- Developing an Understanding of Linear Measurement
- Reasoning about Attributes of Geometric Shapes

### THE ARTS

- Performance and Production
- Cultural Context and Creative Thinking Strategies
- Judgment and Criticism

\* ACPS K-5 Literacy Guidelines call for all students to receive 60 minutes daily of explicit reading instruction on their instructional levels. If your child is reading above grade level, he or she will receive instruction above grade level. If your child is reading below grade level, ACPS will provide accelerated instruction at his or her level to rapidly close the gap. Students may be regrouped during the reading block.

## Helpful Resources

### Alexandria City Public Schools

#### Web Resources:

[www.acps.k12.va.us](http://www.acps.k12.va.us)

Through this website, you can access information about the following:

- ACPS Strategic Plan
- Registration Forms
- School Academic Calendars
- School Addresses, Hours and Websites
- Student Guidelines

- English Learner Office (703) 619-8022
- Family and Community Engagement (703) 619-8055
- Specialized Instruction Services (703) 619-1717
- Talented and Gifted Program (703) 619-8020
- Title 1 (703) 619-1729