

**BOARD BRIEF**

Date: September 27, 2019

For **INFORMATION:**  X

**Upcoming Board Agenda:**

Yes       

No  X

Agenda Date:       

**FROM:** Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer

**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:** ACPS 2020 Survey Results

**ACPS 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

- Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity
- Goal 2: Family and Community Engagement
- Goal 3: An Exemplary Staff
- Goal 4: Facilities and the Learning Environment
- Goal 5: Health and Wellness
- Goal 6: Effective and Efficient Operations

**SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA:**

Focus Area 5: Strategic Plan

**FY 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

- Academics
- Communications and Customer Service for External Stakeholders
- Optimal and Equitable Learning Environments

**SUMMARY:**

This year’s ACPS 2020 Survey results serve as the fourth year of data collection and will be inserted into the ACPS 2020 Scorecard. Data from this survey will be used to annually monitor progress in the critical areas identified within the division’s strategic plan. These data, in conjunction with other data sources, serve to identify and inform the requisite division action steps necessary within goal areas to continue to move the division forward toward the ultimate goals set forth within *ACPS 2020* and explicitly stated in the division’s clarion call of *‘Every student succeeds’*.

**BACKGROUND:**

This is the fourth consecutive year that Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) conducted a survey to measure division-wide performance related to the ACPS 2020 strategic plan. The purpose of this survey was to measure public perceptions of progress within goal areas of the strategic plan from different stakeholder groups. The ACPS 2020 survey was available from April

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22<sup>nd</sup> through May 12<sup>th</sup> and was accessible online in English, Spanish, and Arabic. Paper versions of the survey were also available at ACPS schools in all of the three online languages as well as Amharic. ACPS encouraged parents and community members to participate through various means. Current ACPS parents with valid email addresses on file received an email invitation to participate in the survey and reminders were sent out periodically throughout the survey administration window. Elementary schools received copies of the survey to be sent home to each parent/guardian. The FACE Center encouraged participation through its channels. The survey was publicized through ACPS Express and social media (including Twitter and Facebook), as well as through community listservs (for example, the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities). ACPS also reached out to civic associations; community leaders via email; preschools; Principal Coffees; and Ethiopian & Eritrean Alliance for Education dinner. The results PowerPoint summarizes the 2019 results and compares them to the results from the previous three years.

### Participation

There were 2,580 respondents to the survey, 84% of which were current ACPS parents. Forty-eight percent of respondents identified themselves as White, followed by Hispanic or Latino (22%), Black or African American (18%), Asian (6%), and Multiracial (5%). The total number of 2019 respondents (N=2,580) was 18% higher than the total number of 2018 respondents (N=2,186). In comparison to previous years, this year, the survey sample was more representative of the ACPS population by race and ethnicity.

### Limitations

Survey limitations include sample representativeness and generalizability. As aggregate results are largely indicative of current ACPS parent respondents (84%), it is noted that survey respondents within this sample are not representative of the entire City of Alexandria population nor that of the school system when looking by race/ethnicity.

### Results

Overall, 72% of respondents reported perceiving the quality of the school system as “excellent” or “good”, a two-percentage point increase in comparison to last school year. In addition:

- While 84% of participants said they feel ACPS offers academic excellence, 67% said they believe that ACPS provides optimal (excellent) learning environments within each school.
- The percentage of Strongly Agree or Agree responses slightly decreased or remained constant for all survey items except one this school year. “There is mutual (shared) respect and trust between ACPS and the community” had the largest decrease of 7 percentage points. It’s important to note that this item saw the largest increase (18 percentage points) in 2017-2018.
- “I feel welcome to attend school activities” and “ACPS provides opportunities to volunteer for school programs, activities, and events” had the highest percentage of favorable responses (Strongly Agree or Agree) with 92%, and “ACPS facilities are well maintained” continued to be the lowest with 62%.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

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The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the *ACPS 2020 Survey Division Results PowerPoint* for an understanding of parent and community perceptions of ACPS and progress towards the division's strategic objectives and goals within *ACPS 2020*.

### **IMPACT:**

This year's ACPS 2020 Survey results serve as the fourth year of data collection and will be inserted into the ACPS 2020 Scorecard. Data from this survey will be used to annually monitor progress in the critical areas identified within the division's strategic plan. These data, in conjunction with other data sources, serve to identify and inform the requisite division action steps necessary within goal areas to continue to move the division forward toward the ultimate goals set forth within *ACPS 2020* and explicitly stated in the division's clarion call of '*Every student succeeds*'.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. *ACPS 2020 Survey Division Results PowerPoint*

### **CONTACT:**

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