

Advanced Academic Services (AAS) Screening Overview: Portfolio Screening for Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA) Services in Grades 3-5

Fall 2024





Office of Advanced Academic Services

Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner, Advanced Academic Services (K-12), Director megan.tempel-milner@acps.k12.va.us

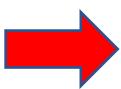
Ms. Mashari Whitfield, Advanced Academic Services, Elementary Instructional Specialist mashari.whitfield@acps.k12.va.us

Ms. Rushel Grillo, Advanced Academic Services, Secondary Instructional Specialist rushel.grillo@acps.k12.va.us





Essential Questions





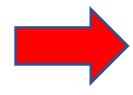
What are Advanced Academic Services in ACPS?



How does ACPS screen and identify students for GIA in Grades K-3?



How does ACPS screen and identify students for SAA in Grades 6-8?



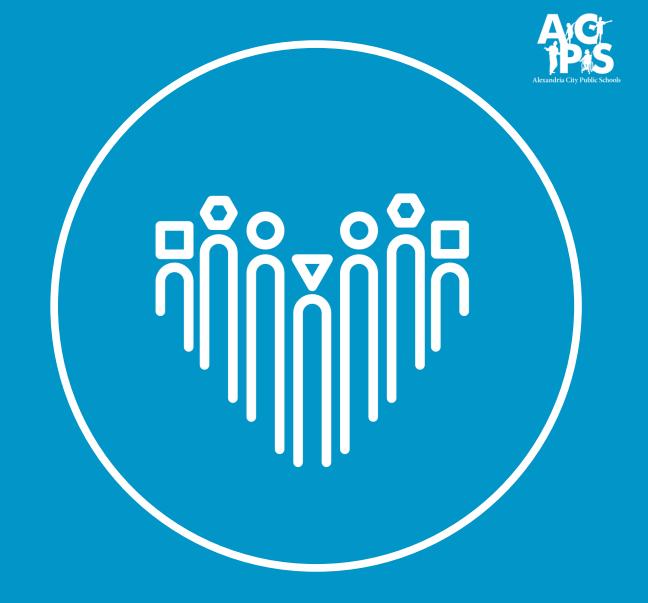


How does ACPS screen and identify students for SAA in Grades 3-5?



2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All

Why does ACPS implement Advanced Academic Services (AAS)?







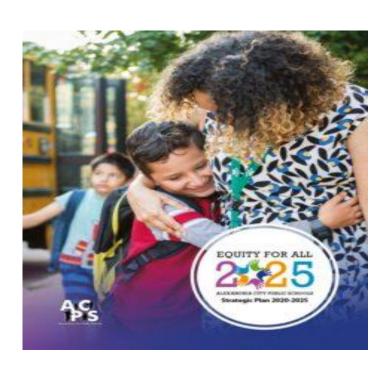








ACPS Equity for All- 2025 Strategic Plan



Students are engaged in classroom instruction, have access to the educational resources needed to enhance their learning, and participate in safe, friendly, and welcoming environments.

Division-wide priorities and programs that will eliminate opportunity and achievement gaps as well as ensure that all students graduate ready for college, careers, and life.





Virginia Regulation: 8VAC20-40

School divisions are required to identify gifted K-12 students and provide instructional services to meet their needs.















ACPS's Operational Definition of Giftedness

ACPS identifies students in need of Advanced Academic Services (AAS) who have the potential to achieve at high academic levels. ACPS addresses the various levels of advanced academic interventions the schools and staff will provide for students through an advanced academic services model incorporating the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) across grades K-12 using a three-tiered system.





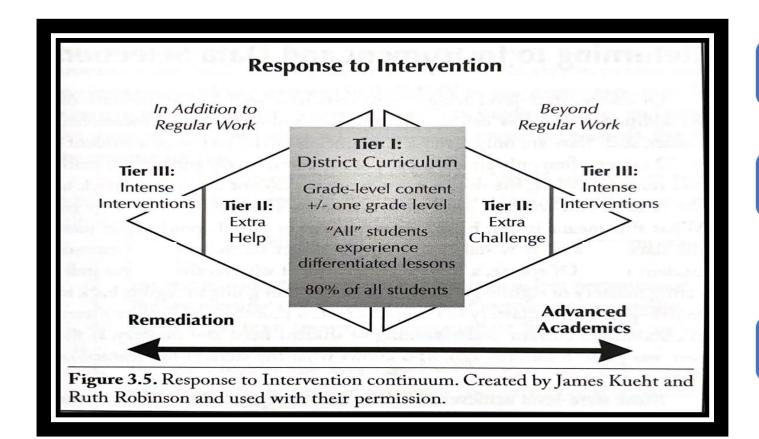








Three Tiers of Services



Tier I

Critical and Creative Thinking for All

Tier II

- Young Scholars (YS)
- General Intellectual Aptitude (GIA)-Grade K-12

Tier III

 Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA)-Grades 4-12





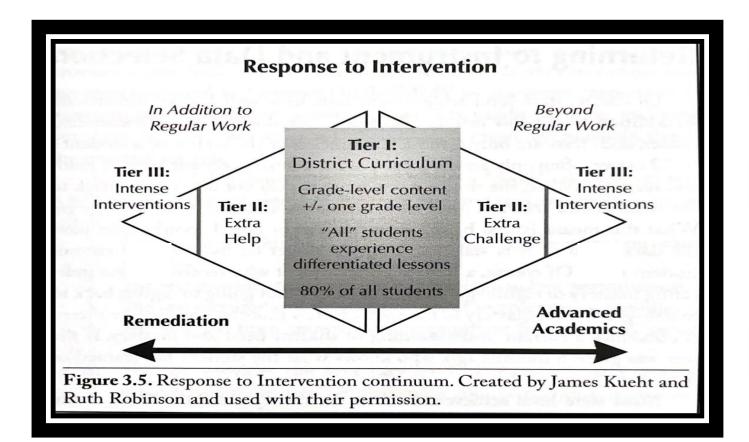








Tier II- GIA and Tier III- SAA Require Screening



Tier I

Critical and Creative Thinking for All

Tier II

- Young Scholars (YS)
- General Intellectual Aptitude (GIA)-Grade K-12

Tier III

 Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA)-Grades 4-12











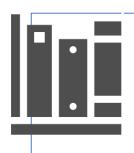


Tier III: Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA) Services



Grades 4-5: Math and Language Arts

- Direct instruction from a teacher trained in gifted instruction
- Curriculum resources and strategies are aligned with gifted research and VDOE standards



Grades 4-5: Social Studies and Science

- Services occur in the general education classroom and are provided by the general education classroom teacher
- Differentiated Education Plans (DEPs) are provided to caregivers outlining the extension activities for students



Grades 6-12: Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies

- Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- Dual enrollment (DE) in college courses
- Access to summer Governor's School
- Online course
- Independent studies



2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All

How does ACPS screen and identify students for SAA services in Grades 3-5?















Two Methods of Screening

- General Intellectual Aptitude (GIA) for Grades K-3
- Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA) for Grades 6-8
- Eligibility is determined at the school level

Matrix Form



- Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA) for Grades 3-5
- 3-Phase Approach
- Eligibility is determined at the central office level

















Two Methods of Screening

- General Intellectual Aptitude (GIA) for Grades K-3
- Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA) for Grades 6-8
- Eligibility is determined at the school-level

Matrix Form



- Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA) for Grades 3-5
- 3 Phase Approach
- Eligibility is determined at the central-office level

Portfolio Approach















Local Plan for Gifted: Approved June 2023



Use a holistic screening approach for advanced academic identification

The Central Office Screening Committee members will use a holistic case study approach, and all information will be reviewed to determine a match between a student's needs and available services.

A holistic approach acknowledges the diversity of gifted profiles and allows for identifying talents and strengths that may not be captured by standardized assessments alone.

Multiple criteria will be reviewed, and no one piece of information can determine eligibility or ineligibility.













Grades 3-5 SAA Uses a Portfolio Process

An equitable screening process is dependent on two actions:

- + Identifying gifted behaviors across the diverse cultural norms within our district
- + Collecting and analyzing holistic student data in an unbiased way

Phase 1

 Auto-Referral (GIA, HOPE, Ability, YS, Achievement)

Submitted Referral

Phase 2

- School-Based Screening
- Data Collection
- Deeper Data Dive
- Decision to Move to Phase 3

Phase 3

- Central-Screening Committee
- Holistic Approach
- Eligibility Letters Sent from Central













Universal Screening: Grade 3 for Rising Grade 4 SAA Services

All Grade 3 Students

Phase 1

 Universal Screener Grade using Automatic Referral

Phase 2

 School-Based Screening: Deeper Data Dive- School Determines if there is strong, consistent data to move to Phase 3.

Phase 3

 Central Office-Based Screening: Determines Eligibility













What is the beginning timeline for Grades 3-5 SAA (PHASE 1)

September 1, 2024-December 13, 2024

December 13, 2024

By January 10, 2025

Due January 24, 2025

- Referral window is open in PowerSchool
- All referrals must be submitted in PowerSchool and hard copy referrals submitted by this date.
- If the referral deadline lands on a weekend, hard copy referrals must be submitted by COB before the weekend.
- No referrals will be accepted after this date.

- Referral confirmation email to be sent to parents/guardians
- Form 2: Permission to Screen and Optional Parent/Guardian Questionnaire is opened for submission in PowerSchool
- Form 2: Permission to Screen and Optional Parent/Guardian Questionnaire is due in PowerSchool
- Continued screening cannot occur until Form
 2: Permission to Screen is submitted.













What are the important dates in the portfolio process after a referral form is submitted? (Phase 2-3)

January – March (Phase 2) March-April (Phase 3)

April 11, 2025

By May 1, 2025

By July 15

- Data collection:
 observation scale, brief
 observation narrative,
 progress reports, work
 samples, achievement
 tests, ability tests
- The school-based committee determines:
- The student continues to be eligible for Tier I instruction.
- The student is in need of moving on to Phase 3 for Tier III screening.
- Files that move on to Phase 3 will contain an observation narrative, additional work samples if the school feels it is needed, growth reports, and an optional student questionnaire.
- A central screening committee will determine eligibility for SAA services using a holistic approach.
- Eligibility notifications and matrix forms are sent via U.S. Mail to the mailing address in PowerSchool
- Form 3: Permission to Place form sent home (if eligible)
- Appeals information sent home

- The appeals window closes in PowerSchool
- Any optional information is sent to aas@acps.k12.va.us
- Final appeals decisions mailed to the home address in PowerSchool

Students in Grades 4-5 may begin services two instructional days after returning the Permission to Place Form.

Students in Grade 3, will begin SAA services at the beginning of the school year in Grade 4.











Phase 1: Referral Process for Portfolio Screening

Submitted Referrals

Grades 3-5

Automatic Referrals: Grade 3

- Ability Scores- 85th percentile or higher
- Achievement Scores- 85th percentile or higher on the Fall MAP test
- Observation Scale- Top 15% of the grade level at the school
- All Young Scholars
- All students eligible for GIA by Fall 2024

Automatic Referral: Grades 4-5

All Young Scholars













Screening Timeline

The referral deadlines are set to align with testing windows during the ACPS school year, including, NNAT or CogAT assessments, Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments, and end-of-quarter progress reports.

Current Grade	Referral Window Opens	Referral Deadline for the Current School Year	Parent/Guardian eligibility notification will occur by:
Tier II: GIA Services (Grades K-3)	September 1, 2024	December 13, 2024	March 21, 2025
Tier III: SAA Services (Grades 3-5)	September 1, 2024	December 13, 2024	April 11, 2025
Tier III: SAA Services (Grades 6-8)	September 1, 2024	December 13, 2024	March 21, 2025
New students to ACPS in Grades 4- 8**	First Day of Entry	Within 30 days of enrollment	Within 90 days of the Permission to Screen form received

Note: You do not need to resubmit a referral for an area your child is already eligible for services.













Referral Forms on PowerSchool



Step 1:

Log into your PowerSchool Parent Access account.



Step 2:

Choose the student/child you would like to refer.



Step 3:

Click on "Forms."



Step 4:

Choose "2024-2025 Referral Form of Students for Advanced Academic Services (AAS)."



Step 5:

Select your preferred language.



Step 6:

Complete the form.



Step 7:

Click the blue "SUBMIT" button.

Many forms used for AAS screening are in PowerSchool. Please reach out to your school technology specialist or AASL if you need help getting onto PowerSchool.













Form 2: Permission to Screen and Parent

Questionnaire

The AAS office will send out the form along with the confirmation receipt of the referral.

The form also include additional information you may want to include for the screening committee.

Located in PowerSchool

Permission is needed to move forward with the screening process.



Written Permission for Advanced Academic Services Evaluation & Additional Information

Your child has been referred for Advanced Academic Services (AAS). For your child to be screened for AAS, ACPS requires permission from the parent/guardian to obtain additional information, which may include cognitive testing. This form contains permission-to-screen information and a space to provide optional additional information you would like to share about your child. Please return this form to the AAS Screening lead within 10 instructional days of receiving the confirmation letter.

Permission to Scree

I give permission for my child to be evaluated on appropriately selected measures of ability and/or achievement as requested by the Identification Placement Committee. This evaluation aims to help determine the student's eligibility for Advanced Academic Services. I understand that the evaluation results are restricted to professional use within Alexandria City Public Schools and are available to me for interpretation and discussion. I understand the results are kept in a confidential file in the school's office.

Student First and Last Name:				ID #:
School:	Grade:	Homeroom Teacher:		
Signature of Parent/Guardian:			Date:	
Print Name of Parent/Guardian:				

Optional Information:

As a parent/guardian, you have unique opportunities to see your child in play, work, and family settings. Please share your observations with us so we can better understand your child. This may include information about out-of-school activities and interests, how they are as learners, what motivates them, their leadership or creativity skills, or what brings them joy.













Phase 2: School Level Screening

During **Phase 2**, the school-based screening team collects multiple indicators of giftedness, such as ability tests, achievement tests, teacher observations, rating scales, student work, and growth reports to create a student screening portfolio.

The school-based screening team then determines if the data on the screening summary sheet meets the criteria to move on to **Phase 3** of screening.















Phase 2: Data Collection Until March

Ability Assessment

Standardized
Achievement Scores

Observation Scales

Progress Reports

Work Samples

Growth Reports

Optional Parent
Information
(submitted via Form
2 or during the
appeals process)













GIA and SAA Standardized Testing Information

Ability (GIA and SAA)

- Any ability test (such as a CogAT, NNAT, WISC) on file will be used.
- Ability tests will only be given to students who do not have an ability test already on file. Grades 3-8: Cognitive Ability Test (CogAT) or K-1: Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test
- CogAT testing will be given in Grades 2.
- NNAT will be given in Grade 3 starting in 2025-2026.

Achievement (SAA and GIA)

- MAP scores
- SOL scores













Screening is conducted by a committee.

AAS Screening Leading*

Classroom Teacher*

AAS Teacher*

Counselor/Social Emotional Professional*

Administrator/Designee*

Assessment Specialist/Coach

Young Scholars Lead

English Language Teacher Specialized Instruction Teacher













Student Data Summary Sheet Used in Phases 2-3

Demographic Information

Referral Information

Ability Testing Information

Achievement Testing Information

Progress
Reports: 20232024 and 20242025

Characteristic of Gifted Behaviors

Work Samples

Growth Reports

Commentary (Phase 3 only)

Alexandria City Public Schools Advanced Academic Services (AAS) Student Data Summary Chart for AAS Screening

Specific Academic Aptitude (SAA)- Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies

Directions: Use this data to complete the data evaluation chart for Phase 2. This sheet will also be used in Phase 3.

Student Name:	Student 1			ID#: 555555	Grade 3	Screening Window	: Winter 2024	
School: Alexand	dria Elementary S							
Gender: M Age: 9 DOB: 04/11/2014 1				city: Black		EL Level*: 3		
	_			•				
504 Plan*:			IEP/ Spe	cialized Services**:				
Current AAS I	Eligible Status	YS: X	GIA:	SAA LA:	SAA Math:	SAA SS:	SAA Sci:	

"If he tribest has an IED, please check with the student's case manager to see if any assessment information is relevant to AAS screening (e.g., WISC, Kaufman, gig).

"If a student has an IED, 304, or EL accommodations, please work with the case manager to ensure accommodations are followed during the screening process. This may also include stills on the screening committee.

Standardized Ability Results

Qualification Key: Use the charts below to determine if the child scored in the 85 percentile or higher on the CogAT, NNAT, or other abilities measurement. If the "areas applicable" box has an "x" in it, you may use that test battery to determine whether the child met the criteria for that subject.

Subject Area	NNAT Nonverbal	CogAT Verbal	CogAT Quantitative	CogAT Nonverbal	CogAT VQN
General Intellectual Aptitude	X	X	x	X	X
Language Arts	X	X		X	X
Math	X		X	X	X
Social Studies	X	X		X	X
Science	X	X		X	X

Scores

	NNAT Nonverbal	CogAT Verbal	CogAT Quantitative	CogAT Nonverbal	CogAT VQN	Other
Percentile	86	18	99	79	94	
Age Score	117	114	135	113	125	

Standardized Achievement Results

Most Recent Standards of Learning (SOL) or MAP scores

Most recent benchmark	MAP Reading	SOL Reading	MAP Math	SOL Math	Social Studies SOL	Science SOL	Other
Percentile	92	N/A	91	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Standards-Based Performance- Progress Report

Directions: Place a copy of the student's 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 progress reports in the student's screening file.

Characteristics/Behaviors: Use the HOPE scale draft to finalize the rating scale score as a school committee. Write the score in the "Total Score" column, and circle the student's talent area(s). The screening committee determines the final score. On the HOPE scale form, write "screening committee members" in the "teacher arms" section if it is not already on the HOPE scale blod.

Total Score	Circle the Talent Areas								
60	Math	Science	Reading	World Language	Creative Writing	Arts	Social Studies		

Student Name: Student 1 ID #: 555555

Student Data Screening Summary Sheet Created: Winter/Spring 2024 Page 1 of 3













Phases 1 & 2 School-Based Screening Form

Demographic Information

Referral Information

School-Based Committee Names School-Based
Decision to
Move the File to
Phase 3

Spec Student Name:	ific Academic Apt	nuue (SA		e Arts, Math,				
Student Name: School:			ID#:		Grade	Screening Wir	ndow: Win	ter 2024
Gender:	Age:	DOE		Ethnicity:		EL Level":		
504 Plan":			EP/ Specialized					
Current AAS Eligible Stat	ms s	YS:	GIA:	SAA LA:	SAA Mat	h: SAA SS	: 5	AA Sci:
Parent Name 1:				Parent Nam				
Parent 1 Phone Number: Parent 1 Email:				Parent 2 Ph Parent 2 Em				
Parent 1 Email: Primary Street Address:				Parent 2 Em		Alexandria, VA	Zip Co	ide.
f a student has an IEP, 504, or EL as the screening committee.	Phase 1: R	eferral Pi	rocess: Auto	or Submitted	Referral A	reas		
	SAA-Language (Grades 4-8		SAA-M (Grades		SAA-Social (Grade:			icience* les 4-8)
Referral Area								
chool-Based Committee Mer Role	mbers for Phase 2 Sci		me	Me	eting Date: _	Signatur	e	
AAS Screening Leading*								
Classroom Teacher*								
				+				
AAS Teacher*								
AAS Teacher* Counselor*								
AAS Teacher* Counselor* Administrator/Designee* Assessment Specialist/Coacl	h							
AAS Teacher* Counselor* Administrator/Designee* Assessment Specialist/Coacl Young Scholars Lead	h							
AAS Teacher* Counselor* Administrator: Designee* Assessment Specialist Coach Young Scholars Lead Other:	h							
•	lased Committee De	udent portf er III Specif reening. (Se	olio and made o ic Academic A se areas reflecte	me of three dec ptitude services d in the chart or	sions: 1 the Data Ev	aluation page).	amittee.	
AAS Teacher* Counselor* Administrator Designee* Assessment Specialist Coaci Young Scholars Lead Other: Required member Phase 2: Summary School-B The student is not The student will m	lased Committee De	udent portf er III Specif reening. (Se reening due	olio and made o ic Academic A se areas reflecte	me of three dec ptitude services d in the chart or	sions: 1 the Data Ev	aluation page).	amittee.	













Phase 2 Form: Screening Decision Form

Directions: For each referral area, determine if the data meets the criteria for further screening using the student data summary sheet. Students need at least three checkmarks for each referral area (e.g., Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and/or Science) to advance to Phase 3. Count the checkmarks and write the total for each referral area.

Criteria Title	Criteria Description	Language Arts	Math	Social Studies	Science	
Ability*	85 percentile or higher on the CogAT, NNAT, or other abilities measurement.					
Achievement*	85 percentile or higher, 560 or higher on SOL					
Progress Reports	Mostly 3s and 4 <u>s</u> (2022-2023 Q1-Q4 and 2023-2024 Q1-Q2)					
Observation Scales	Top 85% of school grade level or total HOPE scale score of 50 or higher					
Work Samples	3.5 or higher on at least one work sample out of the two					
Growth	Considerable Growth on MAP (85th percentile or higher)/ English Proficiency Growth					
Total Check Marks for	Each Subject					
The student will move o	n to Phase 3 screening in the following areas:	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	











Phase 2: Data Collection & School-Based Decision

The committee collects and reviews information in the student portfolio and makes one of three decisions:

Choice 1

 The student is not eligible for AAS- Tier III Specific Academic Aptitude services

Choice 2

• The student will move on to Phase 3 screening.

Choice 3

 The student will move on to Phase 3 screening due to an oversight request from the school-based screening committee.







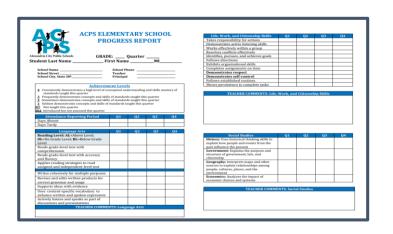






Phase 3: All Phase 3 files move on to the central office for further screening.





















Who makes the decision for eligibility at Phase 3?

The committee is made up of school system professionals who are trained in the holistic screening process.

It is important to know that no single committee reader makes an eligibility decision.

Each file is read by a minimum of four and up to six committee members to determine eligibility.

A consensus of four readers determines the eligibility decision.

To ensure consistency in the screening process, an oversight committee has reviewed all decisions of ineligibility.













Phase 3: How is a determination made?

The committee review information to determine a need for advanced services above and beyond the general education curriculum.

Committee readers concentrate on the story that the file tells as a whole (holistic review).

Not one piece of information determines eligibility.

Unlike the matrix screening process, nothing in the portfolio is weighted more than the other.

The committee is looking for consistency of advanced performance and large growth over time.

The screening committee does not complete an individual Phase 3 summary report due to the nature of a holistic approach













Notification to Families

Decision letters will be sent via United States Postal Services to the mailing address on file in PowerSchool.



Sent Home

- Parent Notification Letter of Services
- Permission to Place the form for students eligible
- Appeals information for students who are not eligible
- Summary of Data form from Phase 2
- Phase 2 Decision Sheet

Parents May Request

 Review of the screening file once the files are returned to the school from central office













What happens if my child is not found eligible for AAS services?

Parents/guardians have the right to appeal the decision of the Identification/Placement Committee within 10 ACPS instructional days after being informed of their child's eligibility for services or a decision regarding a change in placement.

You may submit an appeal form via PowerSchool: Advanced Academic Services Appeal.

Additional information sent to: aas@acps.k12.va.us

If your child is ineligible for services, you will receive additional information about the appeals process within the envelope that contains the eligibility and matrix forms.













Additional Information

Elementary and middle schools will host optional Parent/Guardian Q&A sessions between now and October 15, 2024. Please be on the lookout for more information from your child's school.

For questions or additional support please contact your child's AAS screening lead. Screening lead names are located on the AAS website.

Additional AAS overviews are located on the AAS website.

A FAQ section is in the process of being developed and will be posted by October 15, 2024.





Office of Advanced Academic Services

Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner, Advanced Academic Services (K-12), Director megan.tempel-milner@acps.k12.va.us

Ms. Mashari Whitfield, Advanced Academic Services, Elementary Instructional Specialist mashari.whitfield@acps.k12.va.us

Ms. Rushel Grillo, Advanced Academic Services, Secondary Instructional Specialist rushel.grillo@acps.k12.va.us