Alexandria City Public Schools

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NURTURE EDUCATE INSPIRE



MEASURING WHAT MATTERS 2024-25

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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT


HAWAI



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LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Building on the trust of our Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) families and staff to nurture, educate and inspire each child for success, the division takes great pride as we carry out the Heart Work to achieve that goal. The Heart Work campaign the division launched in February of 2025 illustrates the collective passion, commitment and caring that makes ACPS a community where students thrive. This initiative underscores our commitment to staff by fostering a culture where every team member feels valued, supported and energized.

Our new 2030 Strategic Plan, approved by the Alexandria City School Board in May of 2025, provides a bold, student-centered roadmap that reaffirms our commitment to providing every student with access to a high-quality education. Its mission is made clear in its title, "Nurture. Educate. Inspire." Providing a welcoming, equity-focused, empowering, innovative and results-driven environment, ACPS strives to ensure each student is prepared to thrive in college, career and in their community.

Our 2025 Alexandria City High School (ACHS) graduation numbers highlight our students' success as 444 of the 984 graduates earned an Advanced Studies Diploma. The Class of 2025 had the largest number of graduates in ACPS history, as well as the highest total of advanced studies diplomas awarded. In addition, Titan graduates received at least $2,000,000 in merit scholarships, including scholarships from The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria provided to 215 ACHS students. Three ACHS students were among the 1000+ National Merit® Scholarship semifinalists, with one of our students, among just 15 nationwide, selected as a winning finalist for one of the four-year college-sponsored scholarships.

ACPS also celebrated 58 high school seniors whose cohort marked 16 years of Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) programming. New records were set by the AVID Class of 2025 in terms of senior class enrollment, as well as scholarships and funding received. Further nurturing student achievement through our afterschool programming, the AIM-AHEAD Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) club at ACPS was awarded its third National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant. This program aims to prepare underrepresented middle-school students for a digitally-proficient healthcare workforce.

The newest Virginia accountability system results in the School Performance and Support Framework, were released from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) in early December 2025 and represent a significant shift from previous processes. The framework now emphasizes student mastery of grade-level content and places less emphasis on student academic growth. Overall, the system significantly raises the bar for school performance expectations, along with increased rigor in new state standards.

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) has one school rated as Distinguished, which is Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy. Three schools, Alexandria City High School, George Washington Middle School and Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School, showed marked improvement and are designated as On Track schools. ACPS had 65% of schools with overall framework scores meeting or exceeding the state expectation



Letter from the Superintendent (cont.)



for all students' performance. All five schools identified last year for needed improvement in specific student group areas showed improvement and met targets in those areas. All ACPS schools are currently designated accredited with conditions under the new Standards of Quality checklist introduced in summer 2025, which includes approximately 140 requirements.

The 2024-25 school year included the launch of ACPS' middle school sports program which will roll out over three years. This new program not only serves to create a stronger sports culture at each of our middle schools but also offers an academic incentive for students to attend and achieve passing grades in all of their classes in order to practice or play.

The vision of our Capital Programs, Planning and Design (CPPD) team has continued its work as it successfully completed the George Mason Modernization Project design process, ensuring it reflects the needs and priorities of the school community. The project is officially in its construction phase and George Mason Elementary School students and staff are projected to return to a new modernized facility in the fall of 2027. While the new school is being constructed, swing space successfully opened for students at the 1703 North Beauregard location.

ACPS is very proud to be one of the first 10 school districts selected by the National School Boards Association (NSBA) and Go Green Initiative to participate in a multi-year endeavor to improve indoor air quality (IAQ) and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in school facilities. As a result, ACPS was selected to receive $50,000 in grant funding and on-the-ground technical assistance to develop and implement Board-approved IAQ Management and GHG Reduction Plans.

One of ACPS' main accomplishments this year was the successful facilitation of a redistricting plan and process to address the continual growth the City of Alexandria has experienced. Redistricting will help balance enrollment across schools, undertake school capacity and better align school boundaries with long-term planning needs. The implementation update shared at the Oct. 9, 2025 School Board meeting outlined the dedicated work staff is doing to engage with families regarding the new school boundaries to prepare their students for starting school in the 2026-27 school year when the boundaries take effect. ACPS is dedicated to ensuring the process is guided by a set of principles that prioritize equity, minimizing disruptions for students, maintaining neighborhood schools and supporting safe and efficient transportation.

As ACPS builds for the future, we keep in mind the historical charm of our community as well as our contemporary vision, both of which were recognized in the selection of the new Douglas MacArthur Elementary School (DMES) for the 2024 Alexandria Beautification Award in architectural design. Additionally, DMES is the first net zero-ready school in the division where the power generated for the school is matched by energy used by the facility.

The ACPS Office of School Nutrition Services continues to ensure our students' meal program provides healthy and appetizing options and was honored with the Action for Healthy Kids – Healthy Meals Initiative Award for Recipe Innovation, sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in partnership with the Chef Ann Foundation. This important program is successfully led by ACPS' director of school nutrition services who has also been named the 2025 Director of the Year for the Mid-Atlantic Region by the School Nutrition Association.

Reflecting on this past year, we continue to take great pride in the many accomplishments of our school division, in particular those of our students across all school campuses—academically, artistically and athletically. Their endeavors are consistently encouraged by ACPS' nurturing staff whose support helps our students give their best in pursuing their dreams each day. As a result, ACPS is often lauded with numerous accolades from the community.

Letter from the Superintendent (cont.)

Some prestigious honors ACPS staff have received throughout the 2024-25 school year include: Virginia Regional Teacher of the Year for Region Four, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Principals of Distinction honor, National School Social Worker of the Year, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program Youth Leadership Award, as well as for our ACHS orchestra director who was recognized as the Orchestra Director of the Year for the Commonwealth of Virginia. In addition, an ACPS parent was named a Virginia Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Child Advocate of the Year, with impactful PTA awards honoring George Mason Elementary School and Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy.

In addition, seven Anne R. Lipnick Awards acknowledged the work of outstanding administrators, special education teachers, general education teachers, related service providers, instructional assistants and other support staff whose classroom and therapeutic practices exemplify excellence in specialized instruction in the spirit of true inclusion.

Another measure of our school division's impact is reflected in ACPS being selected for a 2025 Silver Anvil Award of Excellence by the internationally recognized Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) for its communications messaging around the rollout of The Academies at Alexandria City. ACPS was also recognized with 17 National School Public Relations Association awards for its many initiatives highlighting our commitment to transparency, community outreach and engagement as well as to School Board priorities dedicated to promoting recruitment and retention.

We are also extremely proud of the growth the ACPS volunteer program has experienced. During the 2024-25 school year, ACPS approved over 3,500 volunteer applications, including those affiliated with more than 50 partner organizations, and helped place volunteers at all school levels who supported field trips, tutoring and mentoring, athletics, gardening, parent-teacher groups, Career Days and more. The ACPS volunteer application form and program materials have been streamlined and virtual open houses for applicants were launched resulting in an increased number of approved volunteers.

Further exemplifying ACPS' commitment to community engagement has been the work carried out by the Family and Community Engagement Center (FACE), recently recognized with the Community Partner Award from the English Empowerment Center. The recognition cited its meaningful connections among our schools, families and the Alexandria community. Additionally, one of our bilingual family liaisons was selected to receive the Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission's Champions of Children Award. This award reflected ACPS' successful development of a Welcome to ACPS toolkit used to aid newly-arrived families to our school system and resources such as the Special Education support group established to assist families in advocating for their children.

We hope you enjoy reading about the many other achievements highlighted in this 2024-25 annual report issue of Measuring What Matters. We thank you for your continued support, and most importantly, look forward to working together as one team on one journey carrying out the Heart Work that strives to nurture, educate and inspire each student for success!



Sincerely,

Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt
Superintendent of Schools

Nurture. Educate. Inspire.

All About Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS)



ACPS SCHOOL BOARD

District A

Jacinta Greene (July 2024-Dec. 2024)

Ryan Reyna (Beginning Jan. 2025)

Michelle Rief (School Board Chair)

Tim Beaty

District B

Kelly Carmichael Booz
(Vice Chair July 2024-July 2025)

Tammy Ignacio (July 2024-Dec. 2024)

Alexander Crider Scioscia
(Beginning Jan. 2025)

Ashley Simpson Baird

District C

Meagan L. Alderton (July 2024-Dec. 2024)

Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi
(July 2024-Dec. 2024)

Abdulahi Abdalla (Beginning Jan. 2025)

Donna Kenley (Beginning Jan. 2025)

Christopher Harris
(Vice Chair Beginning July 2025)

SCHOOL BOARD STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Nixon Perez Orozco

Scott Price II

Zeinab Yassin

OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

Susan Neilson, School Board Clerk

Alexandra Bourdouane,
Deputy School Board Clerk

ACPS LEADERSHIP

Office of the Superintendent

Dr. Grace Taylor, Chief of Staff

DEPARTMENTS

Accountability and Research

Dr. Clinton Page, Chief of Accountability and Research

Facilities and Operations

Dr. Alicia Hart,
Chief Operating Officer

Financial Services

Dominic Turner,
Chief Financial Officer

School and Community Relations

Julia A. Burgos, APR, Chief of School and Community Relations

Student Services and Equity

Dr. Marcia Jackson, Chief of Student Services and Equity

Teaching, Learning and Leadership

Dr. Pierrette Finney,
Chief Academic Officer

Technology Services

Dr. Elizabeth Hoover,
Chief Technology Officer

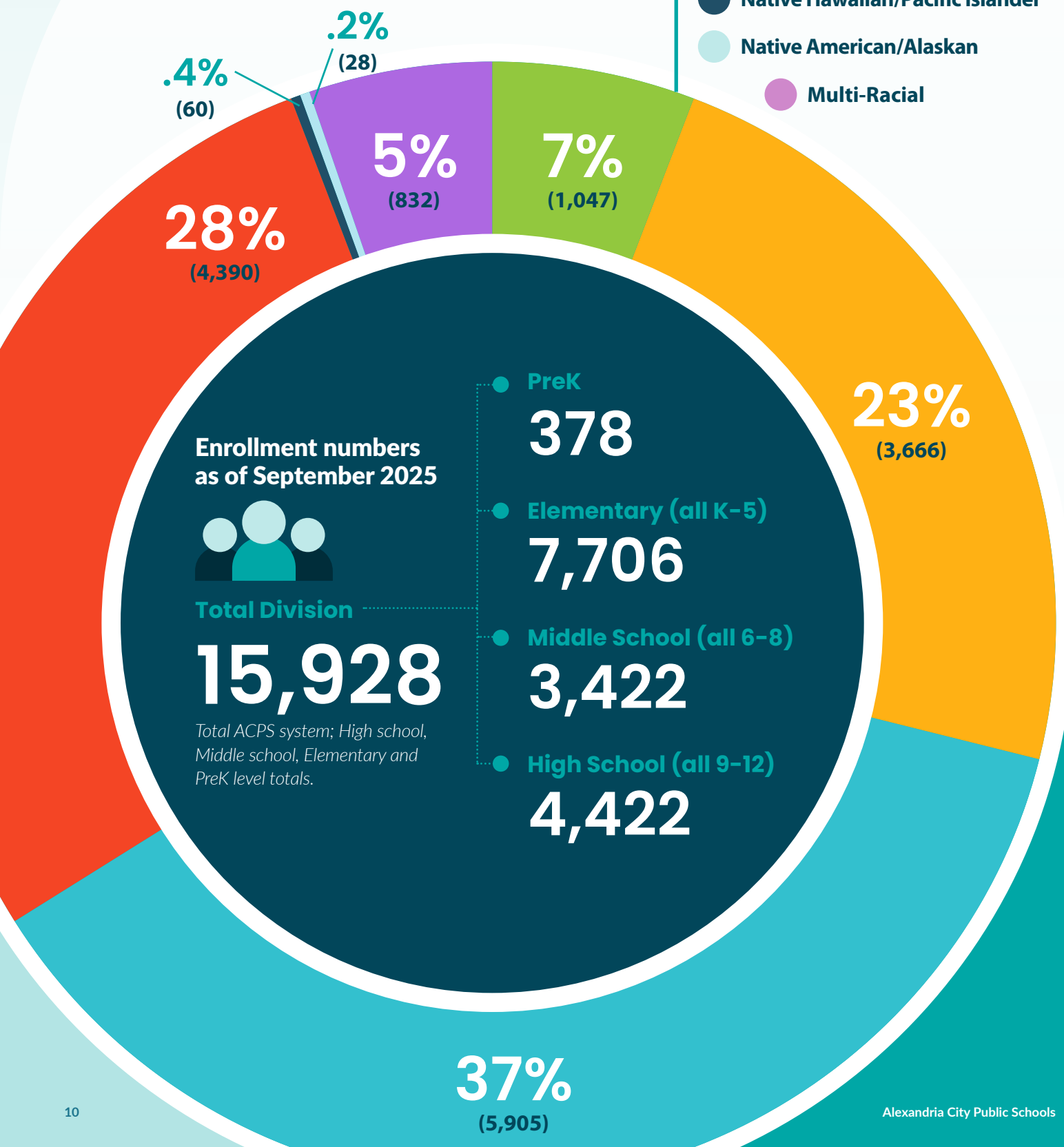


FAST FACTS 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) **serves 15,900 students**, hailing from **more than 118 countries** and **speaking 127 languages**. ACPS has **18 schools**, including **two middle schools**, **two K-8 schools, one pre-K school** and the internationally recognized **Alexandria City High School (ACHS)** as well as **The Academies at Alexandria City**.

Division Membership by Ethnicity

- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic
- White
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Native American/Alaskan
- Multi-Racial



Enrollment numbers as of September 2025

Total Division

15,928

Total ACPS system; High school, Middle school, Elementary and PreK level totals.

- **PreK** 378
- **Elementary (all K-5)** 7,706
- **Middle School (all 6-8)** 3,422
- **High School (all 9-12)** 4,422

Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Meals**

45% (7,180)

English Learners

38% (5,991)

Students with Disabilities ^

12% (1,971)

118
Countries of Birth

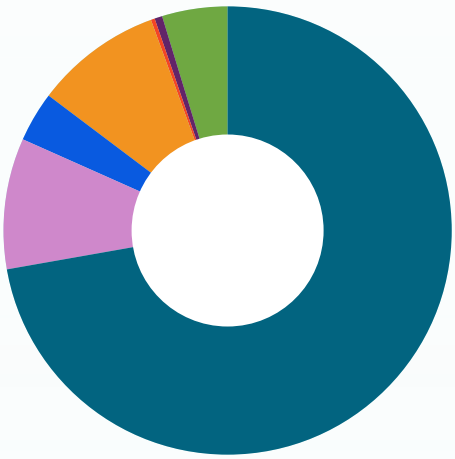
127
Native Languages Spoken



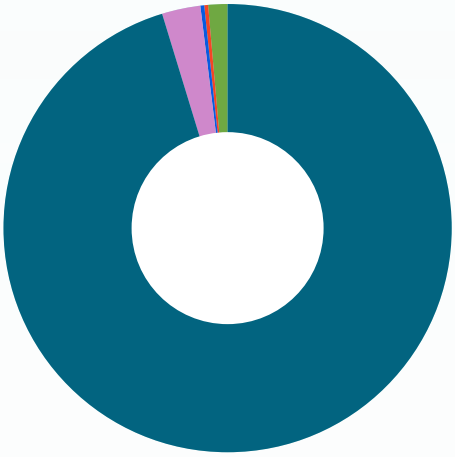
Students who participate in Advanced Academic Studies (formerly Talented and Gifted) are identified throughout the year and reported on the end-of-year state report. For the school year 2024-25, there were 1,943 students identified in Advanced Academic Studies out of the 16,308 active students reported on the end-of-year state report comprising 12% of the total population.

School Year for Budget for FY2025

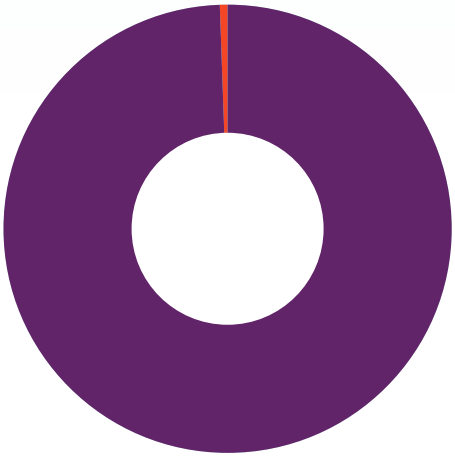
Department	Budget	
Operating Fund		
Instruction	$	254,421,992
Administrative, Attendance and Health	$	32,890,411
Pupil Transportation	$	12,841,199
Operations and Maintenance	$	32,457,054
School Food Services and Other Operations	$	927,276
Facilities	$	1,582,825
Technology	$	16,478,455
Divisionwide	**$**	**(2,310,145)**
Operating Fund Total	**$**	**347,464,211**



Grant and Special Projects		
Instruction	$	17,374,583
Administrative, Attendance and Health	$	504,530
Pupil Transportation	$	10,795
Operations and Maintenance	$	2,695
School Food Services and Other Operations	$	18,355
Facilities	$	–
Technology	$	246,063
Divisionwide	**$**	**(23,926)**
Operating Fund Total	**$**	**18,133,096**

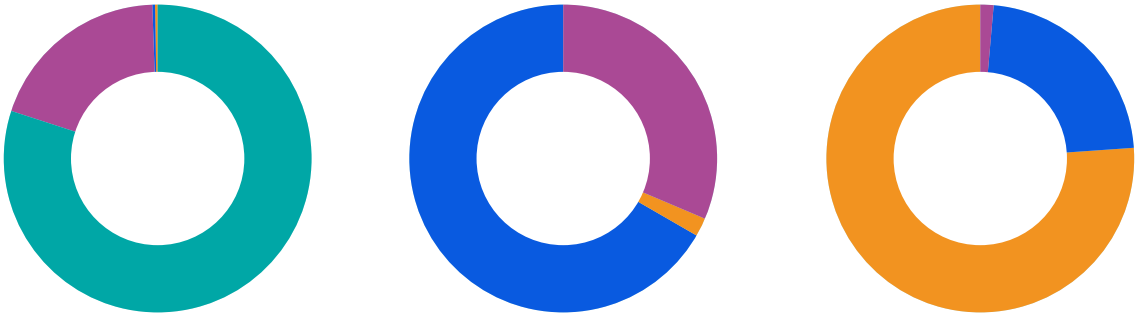


School Nutrition		
Instruction	$	–
Pupil Transportation	$	–
Operations and Maintenance	$	–
School Food Services	$	12,547,879
School Food Services and Other Operations	$	28,000
Technology	$	–
Divisionwide	**$**	**–**
Operating Fund Total	**$**	**12,575,879**



GRAND TOTAL	**$**	**378,173,186**

FY 2025 (Revenue)



	Operating Fund	Grants and Special Projects	School Nutrition
City Appropriations	$ (273,034,300)	$ (0)	$ –
State Revenue	$ (66,889,500)	$ (5,124,222)	$ (207,938)
Local Revenue	$ (1,035,000)	$ (319,458)	$ (2,815,081)
Federal Revenue	$ (152,000)	$ (10,864,560)	$ (9,552,860)
Total	**$ (341,120,800)**	**$ (10,864,560)**	**$ (12,575,879)**

GRAND TOTAL $ (370,004,919)

Grants

Title IV Year 9 Grant

$305,272.25

ACPS has been providing after-school programming for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), music, choir, drama as well as other enrichment programs for health and nutrition. This grant includes equipment and programming that would otherwise not be provided.

TeleHealth Grant

$268,175.00

ACPS Department of Student Services and Equity Director Denee' Scott won this grant to provide added professional health services for students struggling with anxiety and depression, along with other problems that arise from trauma.

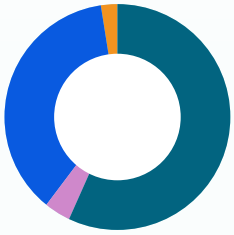
STAFF DEMOGRAPHICS: 2025-26

School-Based Administrators

Total: 81

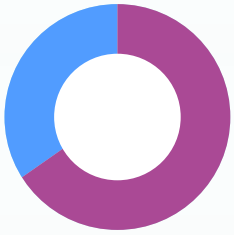
By Ethnicity

Black	46
Hispanic	3
White	30
Other	2



By Gender

Female	53
Male	28

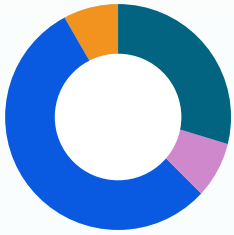


School-Based Teachers

Total: 1,156

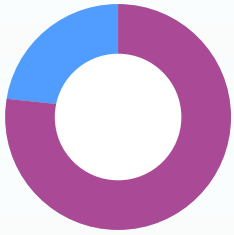
By Ethnicity

Black	344
Hispanic	90
White	626
Other	96



By Gender

Female	889
Male	267

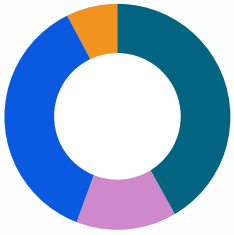


School-Based Professionals

Total: 183

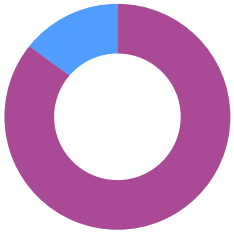
By Ethnicity

Black	77
Hispanic	25
White	67
Other	14



By Gender

Female	156
Male	27

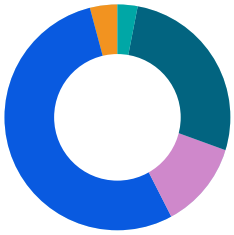


Elementary (Includes K-8 Schools)

Total: 968

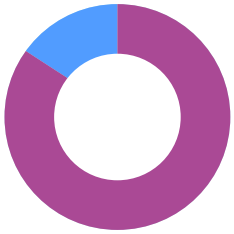
By Ethnicity

Asian	31
Black	265
Hispanic	116
White	516
Other	40



By Gender

Female	817
Male	151

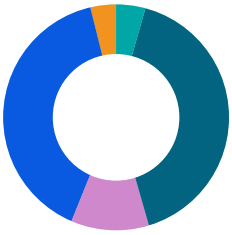


Middle Schools Hammond & George Washington

Total: 330

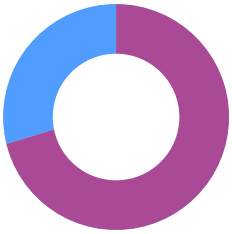
By Ethnicity

Asian	15
Black	136
Hispanic	35
White	132
Other	12



By Gender

Female	232
Male	98

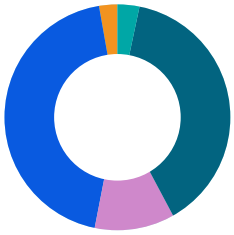


Alexandria City High School (ACHS): King Street, Satellite, International Academy, Minnie Howard Campuses

Total: 470

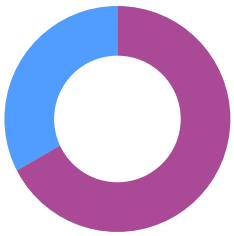
By Ethnicity

Asian	16
Black	183
Hispanic	51
White	207
Other	13



By Gender

Female	314
Male	156

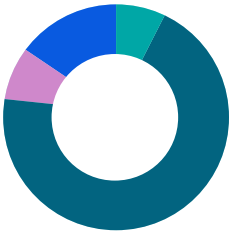


High School: Chance For Change

Total: 13

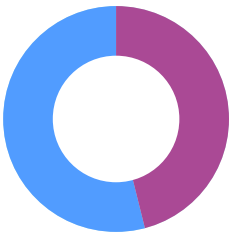
By Ethnicity

Asian	1
Black	9
Hispanic	1
White	2
Other	0



By Gender

Female	6
Male	7



Equity Climate Survey

Students in grades 6-12, staff members and families had the opportunity to share their views in the school division's equity climate survey. Over 4,000 ACPS stakeholders participated in the survey, which gathered vital feedback to help identify critical areas for improvement related to the division's previous ACPS 2025 Equity for All Strategic Plan.

The survey focused on six main themes:

- Academic environment
- Equity
- Restorative practices
- Social-emotional supports
- Engagement and inclusion
- Staff social environment

Overall, results were consistent with the previous year. Key areas of strength include:



Most families, staff and students have positive perceptions of the learning environment, teachers and school climate.



Stakeholders also report positive impressions of the social-emotional environment and supports. In particular, 83% of families say that adults at school care about all students and the majority also agree that staff knows how to connect students with supports and help students with problems other than schoolwork.



Increases were seen in family engagement as it relates to communication and support as a higher proportion of respondents report effective communication (68-77%) compared with years past.

Survey results indicate continued focus on feelings of safety (although responses improved compared to 2024) as well as staff development and support.



Nurture. Educate. Inspire.

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) Accolades

Divisionwide Awards and Recognitions

✦ **Alexandria City Public Schools' (ACPS) Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Center** was selected as one of the English Empowerment Center Community Partners of the Year — recognized for its meaningful partnership which serves Alexandria families.

✦ **Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) was among the recipients of the annual Virginia Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Impact Awards.** Virginia PTA honors unit PTAs, volunteers and school partners that help further the PTA mission "to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children."

✦ **Recognized among the 2024-25 "Impactful PTAs"** are the George Mason Elementary School (George Mason) and the Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy (Lyles-Crouch) Parent Teacher Associations for their efforts to increase family engagement with events that promoted cultural and historical aspects in the community.

✦ **ACPS was recognized with 17communications and engagement awards** from the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA).

✦ **Alexandria City High School (ACHS) parent Maureen McNulty was honored as a Virginia PTA Child Advocate of the Year.** Through all her efforts as an advocate of the ACPS budget process and breaking down cultural barriers by holding meetings in Spanish as the Mount Vernon Community School PTA President and her help in organizing meetings for parents to better understand what English Language (EL) means in practice, McNulty has become a model for PTA leaders across the City.

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) was selected for the 2025 Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Silver Anvil Award of Excellence.




CHARLES BARRETT

Award-Winning ACPS Staff



+ **The Northern Virginia Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women selected Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) Superintendent Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt** as its 2025 Eboné Image Award recipient, in the category of education, under the theme, "Rooted in Resilience: The Legacy, Spirit & Excellence of Black Women.

+ **Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) Divisionwide Family Liaison Tesfaye Amberber** was selected to receive the fifth Annual Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission Champions of Children Award. Amberber played a key role in the development of the Amharic-language Welcome to ACPS Family Toolkit which provides essential information to help newly arrived Amharic-speaking families successfully navigate the school system.

+ **Alexandria City High School (ACHS) Family Engagement Social Worker Ana Bonilla-Galdamez** was selected as the recipient of the 2025 National School Social Worker of the Year Award.

+ **Gregory Baldwin was recognized as a 2024 Men of Courage Lifetime Achievement Award** for his selfless service to the City of Alexandria students and community. Mr. Baldwin is an ACPS graduate and has served as an ACPS educator for more than 30 years.

+ **Retired ACPS Statistician and Equipment Manager Steve Kenney was honored as an Athletic Hall of Fame recipient** for his service as part of the 2008 boys state championship basketball team.

Alexandria City High School (ACHS) Orchestra Director

Veronica Jackson

has been recognized as the Orchestra Director of the Year for the Commonwealth of Virginia by the Virginia String Teachers Association (VASTA).

✦ **Superintendent Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt** was named a 2024-25 Virginia Parent Teacher Association (PTA) "Power Partner of the Year."

✦ **The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce 40 Under 40 honorees in 2025** were Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) Director of Instructional Technology Dr. Emily Dillard and Alexandria City High School teacher and Titans Varsity Volleyball Coach Danielle Thorne. Each of this year's honorees are celebrated for their impact on the Alexandria community.

✦ **Alexandria City Public School's (ACPS) Early Childhood Center (ECC) Principal Heidi Haggerty Wagner** was among the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Principals of Distinction. This new VDOE program highlights the contributions of these principals to education while also providing the opportunity to gain valuable experiences for professional growth.

Parent Teacher Association Council (PTAC) Golden Apple Awards honors educators and staff who help further family engagement through partnership with the PTAs.

2025 Recipients:

ACPS Hero: Taneika Taylor Tukan, executive director, Office of Community Partnerships and Engagement

ACPS Staff: Jodi Bobbitt, nurse, William Ramsay Elementary School

ACPS Elementary Teachers: Jorge Gonzalez-Perez, John Adams Elementary School (John Adams) and Ashley Shelton, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy

ACPS Middle School Teachers: Elizabeth Dere, George Washington Middle School and Jennifer Wilson, Francis C. Hammond Middle School

ACPS High School: Ana Bonilla, family engagement social worker, Alexandria City High School

2025 Golden Apple Honorable Mentions:

Kim Bronson: Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology, teacher

Caitlin Haney: Jefferson Houston PreK-8 IB School, teacher

Wesley Brooks-Jones: Patrick Henry K-8 School, teacher

Mark Tierney: James K. Polk Elementary School, library media specialist

Katy Pattarini: George Washington Middle School, technology specialist

Sarah Benko: George Washington Middle School, teacher

Allison Akanni: Alexandria City High School, teacher

Academic Success

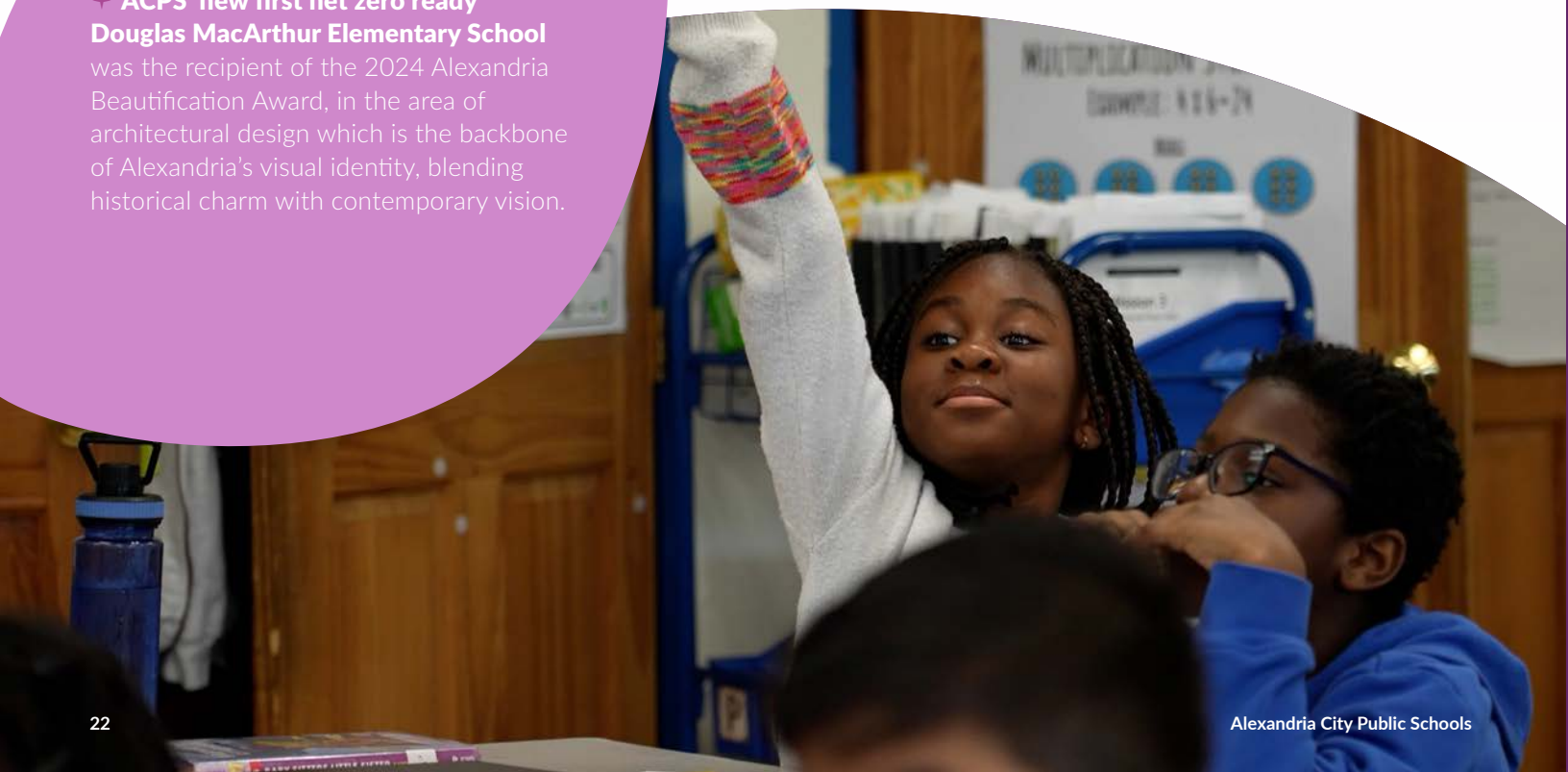
✦ **Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) was proud of the following four students:** Sophia DeThomas – Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 IB School; Leo Patterson – George Washington Middle School; Abigail Westrum – John Adams Elementary School and Joseph Zambuto – Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School for representing the division in the Fairfax County Spelling Bee in March 2025.

✦ **The Alexandria City Music Department was awarded the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) Blue Ribbon award** for the tenth year in a row. The VMEA Blue Ribbon Award is the highest award given to schools music programs in the Commonwealth of Virginia and recognizes achieved excellence in Band, Orchestra, and Choral Performance.

✦ **ACPS' new first net zero ready Douglas MacArthur Elementary School** was the recipient of the 2024 Alexandria Beautification Award, in the area of architectural design which is the backbone of Alexandria's visual identity, blending historical charm with contemporary vision.

✦ **The first-ever ACPS Middle School Girls Basketball Championship resulted in a win** as George Washington (GW) Middle School defeated Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 IB School with a score of 22-14. Both teams came into the Dec. 3, 2024 championship contest at Alexandria City High School with a 5-1 record, with GW emerging victorious and taking home the championship trophy. GW's eighth grade point guard Dallas Broussard was named Most Valuable Player (MVP) as Jefferson-Houston sixth grader Kali Bates led the charge for her team. Middle school girls' basketball officially launched the Middle School Sports Program during the 2024-25 academic year.

✦ **Alexandria City High School (ACHS) graduate and former Alexandria City School Board** student representative Zahra Rahimi's documentary "Desperate" — the story of three young Afghan women who fled Afghanistan when the Taliban took over the country - produced while she was a student was one of 2,500 submissions from more than 40 countries selected to be viewed at the New York City film festival.



Alexandria City High School Class of 2025

984

Alexandria City High School (ACHS) graduates received their diplomas in 2025.

The new ACHS graduates **plan to attend more than 134 universities**, **serve in the military**, **work at a job**, **take a gap year** or learn a technical vocation.

$2,000,000

in merit scholarships was received by the Titan Class of 2025.

The graduates in the class of 2025 were awarded **at least $2,000,000 in scholarships from colleges/universities and non-profit organizations** and corporations like HBCU Week Foundation, Inc., QuestBridge College Match, POSSE Foundation, Gates Foundation, Akerson Family Foundation, Beat the Odds Program (BTO), Army ROTC, Air Force ROTC, Navy ROTC, Alexandria Sportsman Club, Educational Opportunities for Alexandrians (EOA), United Fund (UNCF), Harry F. Byrd Scholarship Foundation as well as from many of the schools they will be attending.



The largest graduating class in ACHS history.

444

seniors (37% of the Class of 2025) graduated with an Advanced Studies Diploma.

The highest percentage of ACHS students to earn an Advanced Studies Diploma.

215

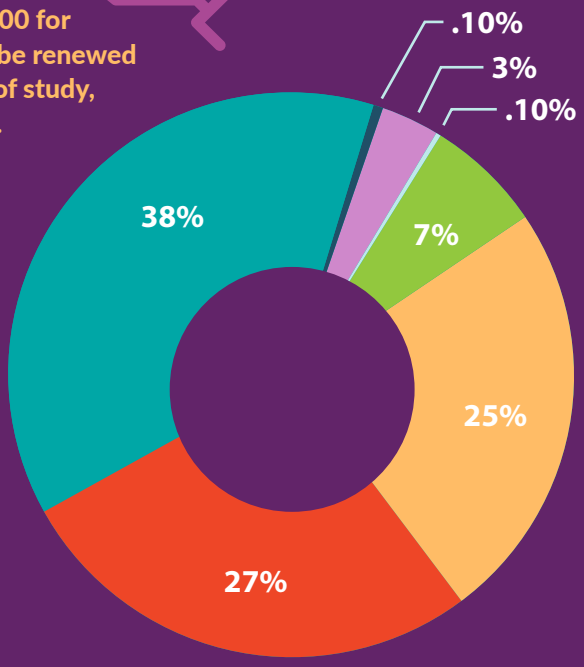
students were awarded The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, scholarships totaling $700,400 for their first year of college, to be renewed throughout their four years of study, totaling $2,611,850 in value.

20

Titan athletes signed letters of intent to compete in collegiate athletics in nine sports.

Class diversity of the 1,042* ACHS SY 2025 graduates (*includes 58 summer graduates):







Nurture. Educate. Inspire.

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) Accomplishments

Elementary and Middle School Student Accomplishments

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Francis C. Hammond Middle School (Grades 6-8)

The Francis C. Hammond Middle School Choir Program Recognitions of Excellence celebrated the school's choral students outstanding start to the 2024-25 school year. Hammond Director of Choirs Shawn C. Thorpe encouraged Hammond students to audition for shows and secure roles in major productions. As a result, the following students achieved accolades and were honored with various awards:

- **Choir Academic Award of Excellence**
  - **Powerful Aguilar II**, Tenor I
  - **Mianna Anderson**, Alto
  - **Briana Brown**, Soprano I
  - **Adrielle Cephas**, Alto
  - **Peyton Griffin**, Soprano II
  - **Tania Gutierrez**, Soprano II
  - **Leah Ladaga-Falcon**, Soprano I
  - **Gaby Martinez**, Soprano/Alto
  - **Caleb Tshivuadi**, Tenor
- **District X Honors Choir Vocal Audition**
  - **Leah Ladaga-Falcon**, Soprano I
  - **Gaby Martinez**, Soprano I

George Washington Middle School (Grades 6-8)

- Seventh grade student **Ruby Behr** was recognized as a Red Ribbon Week poster contest winner for her poster depicting the theme, "Life is a Movie, Film Drug Free."

- Four George Washington Middle School (GW) students: **Xavier Gibbons**, **Prince Francis**, **Xavier Williams** and **Victoria Williamson** sang at the choral tribute concert to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "Living the Dream, Singing the Dream" in February, 2025 at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. They are members of the Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir (COTG). Also performing with COTG was GW alumni eleventh grade student at Alexandria City High School (ACHS), **Elisa Quesada Sayler**, who is in her fifth year with the COTG choir.

- **GW celebrated 164 students** who achieved growth on their World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) last year. The students who were honored met progress as defined by the state on their overall WIDA score.

- **The George Washington Middle School Concert Choir** (GW) was among several choirs invited to perform in the inaugural One Voice Alexandria Choir Festival held at Northern Virginia Community College's Schlesinger Concert Hall on May 9, 2025.

K-8 SCHOOLS

Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 IB School (Grades PreK-8)

✦ **Jefferson-Houston students made impressive academic gains in the 2024–25 Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments.** Reading proficiency rose by three percentage points (from 53% to 56%), math increased by seven points (from 40% to 47%), and science also improved by seven points (from 39% to 46%). Advanced students excelled with a 100% pass rate in both Algebra I and Geometry, while eighth grade Civics and Economics reached a strong 73% pass rate. The most dramatic improvements came from eighth grade, which saw a 20-point increase across reading, math, and science. Notably, third grade scores also surged, with reading up 10 points and math up eight points. These achievements reflect the hard work of our students, the dedication of our teachers and the support of our families.

✦ Three students (**Yohana Bekele**, **Eliana Bekele**, **Husna Khaliqy**) were recognized for their creative excellence by the National Center of Women's Innovations demonstrated in their outstanding essays and artwork celebrating the role of women in the development of global positioning system (GPS) technology. Their inspiration came from a visit to the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus and a powerful lesson on Dr. Gladys West's contributions to satellite navigation.

✦ Jefferson-Houston was proudly represented at the Fairfax County Scripps Regional Spelling Bee by student **Sophia DeThomas**, one of four ACPS students selected for the honor.

✦ **The Jefferson-Houston Orchestra** had a truly outstanding year, earning superior (highest possible) ratings at both the District X Assessment and the Six Flags/ Music in the Parks festival. Students shined individually at the Solo and Ensemble Festival, where every participant earned superior scores and gold medals.

✦ The Girls Basketball Team—composed almost entirely of sixth graders—earned second place in the City Title game. Several Jaguars competed in swim and track through the Eastside athletic program, with sixth grader Chapman Berry and eighth grader Sofia Sandoval setting multiple swim records. Rehan Yahya made history as Jefferson-Houston's first multi-sport athlete, joining both basketball and track.



ELEMENTARY AND PRE-K SCHOOLS

Charles Barrett Elementary School (Grades PreK-5)

+ **Multilingual students at Charles Barrett Elementary** have demonstrated a consistent positive change in overall World-class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) proficiency every year since 2017–18, including an overall increase last school year from the year before.

Early Childhood Center

+ **The Early Childhood Center** successfully partnered with our families to reduce chronic absenteeism over 20 percentage points from the previous school year.

Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology (Grades PreK-5)

+ **Cora Kelly proudly launched its first Student Government Association** (SGA), creating a powerful platform for student voice, leadership and community engagement. In just their first year, SGA members presented to the School Board, volunteered at family engagement events, supported positive behavior initiatives, and even created a welcome video for new students.

+ **Cora Kelly's fifth graders successfully designed a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) arcade** using found and recycled materials. As part of an integrated project-based learning unit, students built interactive games for younger peers to enjoy, transforming everyday items into imaginative arcade experiences. Using a student-created token economy, younger students "paid" to play, while fifth graders managed operations, reinforced math and economics skills, and practiced collaboration and design thinking.

Douglas MacArthur Elementary School (Grades K-5)

+ Congratulations to third-grader **Elliot Smith**, who after eight rounds of competition became the 2025 Douglas MacArthur Elementary School champion. The top spellers among the K-5 students included: kindergarten student **Carter Leapheart**; first grade student **Andrew Lin**; second grade student **Olive Slother**; fourth grade student **Max Swain**; and fifth-grader **Ava Cabataña**.

James K. Polk Elementary School (Grades K-5)

+ **Results from the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Survey** administered to students in grades K-5 showed:

  + **95% of students** reported that they think teachers recognize students when they follow the rules/ expectations.

  + **97% of students** acknowledge that they know of an adult who will help them if needed.

  + **85% of the students** reported that they like school.

+ **Tutoring platform EduTutorVA** recognized James K. Polk third graders as having the highest tutoring percentage rate in the state of Virginia.

+ **Students' performance on Virginia Language and Literacy Screening System (VALLSS)** exceeded the average performance of students district-wide, with an exception of the kindergarten and second grade fall scores.



John Adams Elementary School

+ **Cantamos**, a part of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Sympatico music program at John Adams Elementary School, was among several choirs invited to perform in the inaugural One Voice Alexandria Choir Festival held at Northern Virginia Community College's Schlesinger Concert Hall on May 9, 2025.

Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy (Grades K-5)

+ **The Lyles-Crouch Changemakers Club** is a student-led group committed to social justice within our school community. This year, club members designed and conducted a questionnaire with parents and students across all grade levels to gather diverse perspectives. In the spring, they participated in the ACPS Learning Showcase to present the draft of their book, which aims to shine a light on the beauty of our differences, challenge harmful stereotypes, and help build a more inclusive, knowledgeable community both at school and beyond. Their hard work culminated in the publication of their book entitled *The Truth Behind the Labels*, which they dedicated with gratitude to their teachers and club sponsors, Arlette Yonkers and Tamaria Wadley.

Mount Vernon Community School (MVCS)

+ **Madeline Tarre** was selected as the ACPS elementary school poet laureate.

+ **Fourth and fifth graders were selected to participate in the Commanders Read Program.** The Commanders hosted a kick-off pep rally at MVCS and our school was selected for an end-of-year celebration with the Washington Commanders National Football League (NFL) team at the St. James.

+ **Bilingual theater club Teatro MVCS**, created in collaboration with Alexandria Children's Theater, held its first community performance entitled "Down the Rabbit Hole," a bilingual play inspired by *Alice in Wonderland*.

Naomi L. Brooks (NLB) Elementary School (Grades K-5)

+ **All grade four and five students participated in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Drone Academy.** In partnership with Virginia Tech, students explored the science of flight, discovered real-world applications across industries, practiced basic drone maneuvers and completed exciting mission challenges.

+ **All grade two and three students have built up their coding skills through hands-on Lego Education thanks to the Parent Teacher Association (PTA).** Second graders designed and coded innovative solutions to keep pets safe during extreme weather and third graders explored how animals use adaptations to survive in their habitat.

+ **The Fourth Annual Fun Run**, a fun and high-energy experience for the student body, was sponsored, organized and led by NLB's Brooks Student Council Association.

+ **Brooks Student Ambassadors** had the opportunity to participate in a unique student leadership and peer mediation skill building opportunity as fifth graders. They supported community circles for each grade level, supported school wide events and welcomed families to the school.





Samuel W. Tucker (Tucker) Elementary School (Grades K-5)

+ **Alexandria City Hall** extended an invitation to the Tucker student chorus group under the guidance of Dr. Smith to perform on Proclamation Day at the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Constitution Hall.

+ **The National Education Association** selected Tucker third graders to exclusively participate in the Read Across America event attended by Superintendent Dr. Melanie K. Wyatt, ACPS Central Office staff and the local media.

+ **Fifth grade students were honored with the Samuel W. Tucker Award** which is earned by students who exhibit excellence in academics and citizenship.

William Ramsay Elementary School (Grades PreK-5)

+ **Red Ribbon Week poster contest winners** were celebrated during an Alexandria City Council presentation in April 2025. Fifth-grader Zahra Frozanfar was recognized for her poster depicting the theme, "Life is a Movie, Film Drug Free."

+ The following fifth graders Martin Luther King Jr. poster artwork was selected to be on display in City Hall: **Abigail Lopez Barrios**, **Shadin Ahmed**, **Rayhana Faizi**, **Alexa Laluces**, **Rio Viers**, **Danielle Bertrand**, **Larry Amaya Ramirez**, **Alexa Robles**, **Emery McCrae**, **Nicolas Padilla Alcoba**, **Hasinat Rahimi**, **Zahra Frozanfar**, **Jeremiah Reap**, **Kalen Rivera Vilchez**, **Adriano Rubio Jandres**, **Shirlyn Giyopo**, **Jorat Sorosh**, **Mateo Tejada Melendez**, **Adnan Anwar Ul Hag** and **Hana Al Bahlani**.

+ William Ramsay Overall School Poetry Winner was **Gulsoom Rahimi**.

Graduating Class of 2025

Alexandria City High School (ACHS):

- King Street Campus
- Minnie Howard Campus
- Satellite Campus
- Chance For Change Campus (CFC)

✦ ACHS' **Genevieve A. Watkins** was a 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program recipient, earning a $2,500 scholarship. Two Alexandria City High School (ACHS) students were 2025 National Merit® Scholarship Program semifinalists. **Zachary Baker-Heil**, and **Rayyan Rami** are among the more than 16,000 semifinalists in the 70th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

✦ Nine students were commended in the National Merit Scholarship Program: **Madeline Cantrell**; **Maya Hayes**; **Taylor Hoganson**; **Zechariah Jemaneh***; **Samvel Mkrtchyan**; **Daniel Organek**; **Noah Sternberg**; **Corbin Winters** and **Skye Witmer**.

✦ ACHS senior **James Libresco** was selected as the winner of the Harry F. Byrd Jr. Leadership Award from Virginia's 8th Congressional District.

✦ A Virginia General Assembly proclamation honoring five students' who received scholarships was read by Virginia State Delegate Alfonso Lopez at the April 3, 2025 Alexandria City School Board meeting. They included The Posse Foundation full-tuition scholarships to **Ana Garcia** and **Seamus White** and QuestBridge recipients **Hana Lemma**, **Careen Masele** and **Essey Tesfai**.

✦ Twelve students were presented with the National African American Recognition: National African American Recognition Awardees: **Fatima Ali**; **Melkite Dawit**; **Sola Gormley-Kibona**; **Ikra Hussein**; **Olivia Imo**; **Zechariah Jemaneh***; **Carter Lytle**; **Careen Masele**; **Maxie Maultsby***; **Judah Onassis-Lee**; **Zachary Roberts and Zeinab Yassin***.

✦ Seven students were recognized for the National Hispanic Recognition Award: **Harlow Babic**; **Katherine Barcenas Merino**; **Pablo Cruz Rivera**; **Kreilys Garcia Flores***; **Arianna Martinez-Solano***; **Maxie Maultsby*** and **Gabriel Porras**.

✦ Red Ribbon Week poster contest winners were celebrated during an Alexandria City Council presentation in April, 2025 and eleventh-grader **Khamille Muhammad** was recognized for his poster depicting the theme, "Life is a Movie, Film Drug Free."

✦ Four outstanding Alexandria City High School (ACHS) student-athletes received Alexandria Sportsman Club (ASC) March Athlete of the Month honors. The students include: **Rachel Cotton** - Girls Swimming; **Desmond Damico-Lassman** - Boys Diving; **Tobias Damico-Lassman** - Boys Swimming and **Ella Stohs** - Girls Diving.

✦ Alexandria City High School (ACHS) Athletics was well-represented at the Alexandria Sportsman's Club 68th annual awards ceremony and banquet in May. Among the 17 ACHS honorees were **Sophie Anderson**, **Amelia Bawcombe**, **Desmond Damico-Lassman**, **Tobias Damico-Lassman**, **Allison Goetz**, **Luke Hales**, **Liam Jones**, **Julia Kelly**, **Thatcher Kotuby**, **Dillon Logan**, **Macon Malone**, **Arianna Martinez-Solano**, **Patrick McNally**, **Naria Medrano Quintanilla**, **Ella Stohs**, **Braelynn Tomanio** and **Seamus White** who were awarded special "Athlete of the Year" plaques. In addition, Tomanio was named Athlete of the Year in Girls Soccer.

Graduating Class of 2025 (cont.)

✦ Alexandria City High School's (ACHS) **Chelsea Bolanos Maravilla** was selected by the Alexandria Sportsman's Club (ASC) for its Inaugural Vocational Scholarship Award.

✦ Congratulations to **Kalina Janevski** who earned two of the highest awards Girl Scouts can receive. They included the prestigious Gold Award, which recognizes the extraordinary efforts of Girl Scouts who tackle pressing issues in their communities and make a lasting impact and the Girl Scout Silver Trefoil award which recognizes Girl Scouts for their volunteer efforts and dedication to their communities.

✦ 29 Titan students – the highest number in ACHS chapter history – advanced to the Distributive Clubs of America (DECA) International Career Development Conference. ACHS' 29 state winners include: **Jack Sutherland**, **Matthew Ralis**, **Sally Cox**, **Akeda Tash**, **Ivan Blackwood**, **Randy Rojas**, **Alexander Morris**, **Sofia Barlie**, **Taelor Mobley**, **Eleanor Eile**, **Rachel Eile**, **Sebastian Dagsgard**, **Caleb Goodman**, **Henry Mead**, **Christian Orrell**, **Matthew McFillin**, **Gabriel Sowa**, **Leia Hubbard**, **Neve O'Leary**, **Nathaniel Weldemiskel**, **Caleb Este**, **Rohith Prince**, **Carter Lytle**, **Megan Robbert**, **Adeara Eskinder**, **Jack Clark**, **Marisa Vidal**, **Finn McNabb** and **Molly Atkins**. In addition, students achieved honors and awards for their test scores and role plays in their competitive areas: **Jack Clark**, **Victoria Escobar**, **Ruby Gerstein**, **Julia Jefferson**, **Alexander Lindsey**, **Madesen Lynch**, **Mussa Semann**, **Peyton Turnbull**, **Marisa Vidal**, as well as **Molly Atkins/Finn McNabb**, **Nathan Biru/Will Price**, **Adeara Eskinder/Megan Robbert**, **Christian Orrell/Henry Mead**, **Grace Redican/Daniella McArthur** and **Diamond Watkins/Zabrina Taylor**. As part of the second annual Entrepreneurship DECA Pitch Lab!, three ACHS Entrepreneurship students, **Khalil Morris-Johnson**, **Akeda Tash** and **Jasmine Bailey**, held pop-up shops and sold their products to 5,000 DECA competitors.

✦ The Alexandria City High School Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) Scholarship finalists included United States Army Reserve Officers Training cadets **Daniel Organek** and **Jack Sutherland**.

✦ **A talented group of ACHS Titan Entrepreneurs** was awarded $2,500 in startup capital to bring their business ideas to life –thanks to support from Communities in Schools (CIS) Northern Virginia (VA) and ACPS partners.

✦ Alexandria City High School (ACHS) student **Anna McMahon** took first place among high school participants in the 2025 Virginia School Board Association's (VSBA) Northeastern Regional Art Contest.

**Multiple Award Recipient*



Success at every level of the journey is evident during our ACHS Satellite Campus graduation ceremony.



+ Two ACHS graduating seniors were among the scholarship recipients honored this year at the annual Northern Virginia Athletic Directors, Administrators and Coaches Association (NVADACA) breakfast banquet. **Josephine Damico-Lassman** received the Herbert Lain Holt Scholarship in honor of the former T. C. Williams High School athletic director and **Kalina Janevski** was awarded the Del Willson Memorial Scholarship.

+ **Alexandria City High School Advanced Choir (ACHS)** was among several choirs invited to perform in the inaugural One Voice Alexandria Choir Festival held at Northern Virginia Community College's Schlesinger Concert Hall.

+ **ACPS honored 58 seniors as it marked 16 years of Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) programming in ACPS**. The Class of 2025 is the twelfth AVID graduating cohort from ACHS. Longtime director Jodie Peters reported that collectively, over $6.39 million dollars was awarded to the ACHS AVID Class of 2025 by The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria (SFA). More than 80% of the AVID seniors earned at least one scholarship.

**Multiple Awards Recipient*

+ Alexandria City High School's (ACHS) **Evan Ameer Khanna** who was awarded the Gerry Bertier Scholarship by the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities.

Elementary and Middle School Team Accomplishments

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Francis C. Hammond Middle School (Grades 6-8)

A Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in the Schoolyard experience at Francis C. Hammond Middle School (Hammond) in June 2025 served as the type of hands-on learning that inspires curiosity, builds confidence and shows students the power of discovery. Enterprise Mobility and American Water volunteers joined Hammond students in this STEM experience which helps to close opportunity gaps and create a more equitable future. Hammond students also benefited as Enterprise Mobility delivered and distributed 500 backpacks filled with essential school and hygiene supplies. The event was all a part of the United Way of the National Capital Area's (NCA) Community Schools initiative, a partnership that's benefited Hammond students academically, socially and emotionally since 2017. Hammond is one of seven United Way NCA Community Schools in the region focused on helping students succeed both in and out of the classroom, preparing students for high school and beyond.

George Washington Middle School (Grades 6-8)

After school soccer participants at George Washington Middle School (GW) got a firsthand lesson in soccer and life as Pablo Rodas, the former trainer for the Salvadoran National Soccer team came to the school. Upwards of 70 students attended during their advisory period as Rodas talked about the importance of healthy nutritional habits and proper preparation for sports and how it connects to academic performance as well. Rodas emphasized the value of dedication and trying to achieve excellence which are pillars of GW. The students made a natural connection with Rodas who hails from El Salvador, asking questions and commenting about their own athletic experiences. The presentation was in Spanish and GW teacher Reynaldo Decerega served as the chief translator.

K-8 SCHOOLS

Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 IB School (Grades PreK-8)

+ **Jefferson-Houston welcomed award-winning authors virtually and in person**, including Yuyi Morales, Shannon Hale, Lyla Lee, and Matt de la Peña—the first Hispanic recipient of the Newbery Medal. A standout moment was when Kwame Alexander made a surprise in-person visit to the Girls of Color Book Club during their reading of Black Star. The annual Read-A-Thon was another resounding success, with students in grades K–5 reading over 50,000 minutes in just two weeks. The year ended with a student-created mural honoring Matt de la Peña's body of work—capping off a year of literacy, creativity and inspiration.

+ **The Jefferson-Houston (JH) Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) program** continues to grow and thrive. In addition to college visits and engaging with AVID tutors, JH students participated in a number of events in our city. Scholars were able to visit the federal courthouse and participate in a mock trial. Scholars reviewed case materials, including witness statements, evidence and relevant laws. Scholars were also assigned specific roles prior to the trial simulation. Another highlight was the AVID panel, which included City of Alexandria Mayor Alyia Gaskins. The panel offered valuable advice and guidance to our students as they navigate school, friendships and life. This year, AVID also held the first Mental Health Day for Students. During this event, students were able to attend sessions to promote positive mental, physical and emotional health prior to Standards of Learning (SOL) testing, end-of-year activities and Summer Break.

ELEMENTARY AND PRE-K SCHOOLS

Charles Barrett Elementary School (Grades PreK-5)

+ Hosted very well-attended and hugely successful **Family Engagement Nights**.

+ **Incorporated new literacy and math instructional coach positions** and supported teacher teams with a revamped Professional Learning Community structure.

+ **Students have demonstrated a consistent positive change in overall World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA)** proficiency every year since 2017–18.

Early Childhood Center

+ **Alexandria City Public School's (ACPS) Early Childhood Center (ECC) Principal Heidi Haggerty Wagner** is among the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Principals of Distinction. This new VDOE program highlights the contributions of these principals to education while also providing the opportunity to gain valuable experiences for professional growth. The VDOE program is in partnership with the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals (VASSP) and the Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals (VAESP). Principals awarded this high honor display strong leadership in the areas of improved student achievement, effective instructional leadership and developing a school environment that fosters the removal of non-academic barriers.

Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology (Grades PreK-5)

+ **Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation** lent its support to Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology for its dedication to music education. Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation has donated instruments to the school, including: five clarinets; five snare and bell kits; three trumpets; four violins (1/4 size) and three violins (1/2 size). This donation is made possible through Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation's Adopt a School campaign, with generous funding from the Van Halen family, the Meyer Levy Charitable Foundation and other generous donors who supported the campaign.

+ **The Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology Parent Teacher Association (PTA) (Cora Kelly)** was designated a 2024-25 National PTA School of Excellence for creating an environment where families feel welcomed and included and for demonstrating how strong, effective school-family partnerships enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students.

+ **Implementation of restorative practices and community circles** has been a successful staff-led, staff-facilitated initiative aimed at strengthening classroom communities and fostering a culture of empathy, respect and connection. Teachers took the lead in learning, modeling and facilitating community circles, creating consistent opportunities for students to share, listen and problem-solve together. These practices have helped students develop critical social-emotional skills, build stronger relationships and take ownership of their learning and behavior. By centering student voice and mutual understanding, our educators are cultivating classrooms where every child feels seen, heard and valued.

Douglas MacArthur Elementary School (Grades K-5)

+ **The fourth annual Alexandria City Essential Workers Appreciation Week** celebration in March 2025 was hosted by the Douglas MacArthur Elementary School staff and students and brought the community together to pay

tribute to vital employees who serve in various capacities throughout Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). Superintendent Dr. Kay-Wyatt, School Board members, Alexandria City Council members and City of Alexandria community partners and staff were all present to recognize the exceptional and essential workers across Alexandria. View the Alexandria City Essential Workers Recognition Event photo reel here.

+ **Second grade teacher Shana Smith** was the recipient for the Anne Lipnick Award for Specialized Instruction for excellence in inclusive education for her work as general education teacher. Ms. Smith has created a caring, structured environment where every student feels valued, understood and capable of achieving their fullest potential.

+ **Vocal music teacher Ryan Fitch** led a spectacular musical production of ***Phantom of the Music Room*** together with support from staff members Michelle Pineiro and Laina Dimento. Students lit up the stage with passion and energy, keeping everyone entertained and inspired from start to finish.

George Mason Elementary School (Grades K-5)

+ **School Social Worker Audrey Robinson and Speech-Language Pathologist John Michael Mulderig** were recipients of the 2025 Anne R. Lipnick Award for Specialized Instruction for their notable impact on students with disabilities.

+ **The George Mason Parent Teacher Association (PTA)** was recognized as a 2024-25 "Impactful PTA" by the Virginia PTA, in part due to transforming its traditional pasta fundraiser into an International Night to celebrate the diverse school community.





James K. Polk Elementary School (Grades K-5)

✦ **A "STEAM It Up!" grant from Reading is Fundamental of Northern Virginia (RIF NOVA)** provided every student at Polk with a kit containing both an engineering project and a brand-new book to take home. Kindergarten through second grade students learned about the difference between builders and engineers, and then planned, constructed and tested a maze made of straws. Third through fifth graders found out about different types of bridges and then used popsicle sticks, cardboard and pipe cleaners to build a bridge. Through this hands-on project, all of the students learned about the engineering principles of creating a model, testing it and improving the model for themselves. Librarian **Mark Tierney** made engineering come alive as he encouraged every student to think of themselves as an engineer after completing their projects.

✦ **Fifth grade teacher Marie Peaches** was among the more than 300 teachers nationwide to be selected as a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

✦ **Third grade teacher, Sharon Phox**, was selected as the 2024-25 Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year award recipient. She is recognized for her work with new teachers, leadership in professional development and efforts to bring families and community members into the fold.

John Adams Elementary School (Grades K-5)

✦ **English Learner (EL) teacher/mentor coordinator Jeretha Thomas** was among teachers awarded a $1,000 grant for use in the classroom from the College Football Playoff (CFP) Foundation.

Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy (Grades K-5)

+ **Core Virtues Character Education**, a literature-based character education program that introduces a new virtue each month through rich literature and diverse heroes who exemplify it is implemented school-wide. Teachers introduce and reinforce these virtues throughout the month. Each month, our school community comes together to recognize one student from every class who has consistently demonstrated virtue. Teachers write a personal paragraph about the student that is read aloud during the assembly and families—our students' first teachers—are invited to attend and celebrate their child's recognition. This schoolwide focus on character builds a strong, shared foundation of values and fosters a caring, connected community dedicated to helping students cultivate good habits of mind and heart.

Mount Vernon Community School (Grades K-5)

+ **Julanne Keil** was selected as the administrative recipient of the annual Anne R. Lipnick Award for Specialized Instruction.

+ **MVCS was selected to participate in the Terry's Locker program**, receiving a washer, dryer and laundry supplies to support MVCS students and families.

+ **MVCS held a second annual Dual Language Back-to-School day** in partnership with Casa Chirilagua and the ACPS Family and Community Engagement Center (FACE) Center. Over 300 backpacks and supply kits were distributed to families in the Chirilagua neighborhood in part through generous donations from community members.

Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School

+ **Career Day was an enormous success** with participants ranging in careers from wedding planners, firefighters, salon owners, Alexandria City Police Department, air traffic controller and zookeeper specializing in reptiles.

+ **Family Engagement was at an all time high** this year with Math Night and Literacy Night attracting over 300 students and families at each event.

+ **123 students in Grades 2-5 participated in "The Learning Hive,"** over three different sessions (fall, winter, spring). Additionally, 15 Kindergarten and first grade students received one-on-one support from a trained tutor. Nine first grade students participated in the Book Buddies program through Alexandria Tutoring Consortium and six students participated in the Kindergarten Reading Readiness program.

Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School (Grades K-5)

+ **Tucker was designated a Purple Star School in October 2024.** A Purple Star School goes "above and beyond" to create a welcoming and supportive environment that helps military children thrive academically and socially, despite the challenges of frequent moves and parental deployments.

+ **Jerylen Daniels**, Tucker assistant principal, was promoted to Principal.

William Ramsay Elementary School (Grades PreK-5)

+ **School Nurse Jodi Bobbitt** was awarded the Parent Teacher Association Council (PTAC) Golden Apple Award.

+ **The William Ramsay PTA** was awarded a National PTA Grant in the amount of $1500 to be used toward implementing the program "PTA Connected: Ready, Tech, Go!," supported by AT&T.

HIGH SCHOOLS

Alexandria City High School (ACHS):

- King Street Campus
- Minnie Howard Campus
- Satellite Campus
- Chance For Change Campus (CFC)

- **The ACHS Athletics Department was awarded a grant from ACT for Alexandria to fight systemic racism.** Here is some information about the grant: https://www.alxnow.com/2024/10/16/act-for-alexandria-awards-38k-to-these-organizations-to-fight-systemic-racism/

- **Alexandria City High School (ACHS) was one of 49 schools earning the 2024-25 Board of Education Continuous Improvement Award** based on meeting one or more of the following criteria and recognized for continuous improvement by meeting one or more of the following criteria based on performance from school years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24. An increase in the combined rate for math, reading and science for each of the past three years, with a total increase across the three years of 10 points or more; in the combined rate for two or more student groups in reading and math for each of the past three years, with a total increase across the three years of 10 points or more; or in the Graduation and Completion Index (GCI) for each of the past three years, with a total increase across the three years of four percent or more; and the school demonstrates a decrease in the dropout rate for each of the past three years with the total reduction across three years of 15 percent or more of the first year's dropout rate.





Nurture. Educate. Inspire.

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) Achievements

Department Accomplishments

ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESEARCH

+ **The Alexandria City School Board officially approved the 2030 Strategic Plan for Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS)**, titled Nurture. Educate. Inspire. The new five-year plan builds upon the work of the Equity for All 2025 Strategic Plan and reflects the voices and shared values of students, families, staff and community members.

+ **The Office of School Improvement (OSI)**, in collaboration with the Department of Accountability and Research, the Department of Student Services and Equity, launched the Improvement/Equity Liaison model to provide targeted, continuous improvement support to school leadership teams of schools identified with significant improvement needs.

+ **ACPS Evaluation and Assessment Analyst Jennifer Whitson** was selected to serve on the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Council, one of the largest education professional associations. Whitson will be among four education researchers who were voted in as division vice presidents-elect and will join AERA's 2026-27 Council, serving three-year terms.

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

Office of School Nutrition Services

+ **Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) Director of School Nutrition Services (SNS) Dr. Eric Coleman** was named Director of the Year for the Mid-Atlantic Region by the School Nutrition Association (SNA). The award recognizes the extraordinary contributions of school nutrition directors who manage effective school meal programs providing healthy, appetizing meals to students. Earlier, he was named the School Nutrition Association (SNA) Awards Director of the Year for Virginia.

+ **The Office of School Nutrition hosted U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. at Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School**—a visit that was specifically requested by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The visit offered a unique opportunity to showcase the school nutrition program and the important work happening through the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program, which provides nutritious after-school meals to our students. The visit proudly highlighted how these programs support student well-being and academic success across ACPS.

+ **The Office of School Nutrition Services has been honored with the Action for Healthy Kids – Healthy Meals Initiative Award for Recipe Innovation**. This award recognizes excellence in creating scratch-prepared breakfast and lunch recipes that follow standardized guidelines, meet weekly meal pattern requirements, and provide at least one creditable meal component. Our winning recipes—Butternut Squash Mac & Cheese, Spinach Chicken Pesto Pizza and Falafel Pita—highlight our commitment to serving nutritious, delicious meals made from fresh ingredients.

Office of Capital Programs, Planning and Design

✦ **The Capital Programs, Planning and Design (CPPD)** team reached major milestones for the George Mason Modernization Project. The design process was successfully completed and included hosting monthly community meetings and Superintendent's Advisory Team meetings with key stakeholder representatives to ensure the project reflected the needs and priorities of the school community. Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) approval was secured from the City in May 2025. All operations and technology resources were successfully transitioned to the swing space. Construction is expected to continue through the 2025 and 2026 school years, with George Mason students and staff returning to their new modernized facility in the fall of 2027.

✦ **Construction at the swing space at 1703 N. Beauregard Street continued**. The facility features two outdoor play spaces, an art room equipped with a kiln, dedicated music and media spaces and a full gym, providing a well-rounded environment for learning and extracurricular activities. The project achieved substantial completion in May 2025. With the building complete and fully outfitted, it is prepared to welcome students and staff for the 2025–26 school year.

Office of Safety and Security Services

✦ **Alexandria City Public Schools, in Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3**, was announced as one of the first 10 school districts selected to participate in a multi-year initiative to improve indoor air quality (IAQ) and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) in school facilities across the country, by the National School Boards Association (NSBA) and Go Green Initiative (GGI). Each school district will receive $50,000 in grant funding and on-the-ground technical assistance to develop and implement board-approved IAQ Management and GHG Reduction Plans. The program specifically targets low-income and Tribal school districts, helping them build capacity to address health and environmental factors that directly affect student learning.

✦ **ACPS undertook a divisionwide initiative to bring all schools and support facilities into alignment** with updated physical security measures, with a particular focus on implementing active access card screening at every building. As part of this initiative, nine buildings were upgraded with between eight and 10 new card readers per school, ensuring comprehensive coverage at primary entry points. This enhancement ensures that all individuals entering ACPS facilities are verified against current access



permissions, reducing the risk of unauthorized entry and enhancing real-time situational awareness for school administrators and security personnel.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

+ **Successfully transitioned the budget book production process from multiple programs to one cloud-based software format called ClearGov**, making budget information more accessible and transparent for our staff, community and School Board. Improvements include: PDF and interactive digital formats, multi-language translation of the book text via Google Translate, auto-populated charts and graphs with hover capability and an easy to navigate table of contents.

+ **Procurement and General Services hosted the second Annual Financial Services Forum**, where attendance increased by 52%.

+ **The following two dashboards were launched for use:** Contract dashboard on the website and Pavillion.

+ **Three business accounts were actively rolled out for streamlining the procurement process:** the Amazon Enterprise Business Account; the BJ Wholesale Enterprise Business Account and the Walmart Enterprise Business Account.

HUMAN RESOURCES

+ **The recruitment team successfully hosted the annual Licensed Hiring Fair in February**, well ahead of many neighboring districts, bringing together 48 interview panels to meet nearly 200 candidates across all content areas, including hard-to-fill positions. The team enhanced the applicant experience through the implementation of the Priority Pool tracker and expanded personalized support, such as phone screens, mock interviews and fit analyses, resulting in a more streamlined and effective hiring process for applicants, school leaders and hiring managers. Targeted marketing campaigns with employment partners and industry organizations generated strong interest across various sectors, including the federal government.

+ **In response to the launch of the new Academies at Alexandria City for the 2024–25 school year, the Human Resources team strategically adjusted its recruitment efforts** to ensure ACPS attracts qualified educators who can support these small learning communities and their specialized academic pathways.

+ **A successful Wellness "Day of Movement" event was held on April 1, 2025** at George Washington Middle School to promote health and well-being among our staff.

+ **The ACPS Summer Movement Challenge through the Summertime app was launched**. Highlights of the event included the participation of over 50 participants in a wellness walk, a stretching session and a Zumba session with licensed instructors, sponsored by our healthcare vendor, Kaiser Permanente and Powered Smoothie Bikes, sponsored by United Health Care, that allowed employees to blend their own smoothies by pedaling a bike for 10 seconds. Local health professionals were also available to provide valuable resources and consultations on nutrition, mental health, and preventive care. The Summertime movement challenge ended with 155 participants, over 62 million steps logged, and an 18% increase in team participation.

+ **Eighteen exceptional employees across the division, in partnership with the ACPS Communications team, were celebrated through the Vision, Integrity, and Passion (VIP) Awards program** continuing our morale-boosting campaign in alignment with ACPS' priority of retention of high-quality employees.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

+ **Alexandria City Public School's (ACPS) Department of School and Community Relations was honored with four awards during the Fall 2024 Conference of the Chesapeake Chapter of School Public Relations (CHESPRA)** in Harrisonburg, Virginia. An award of excellence was achieved for the School and Community Relations Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) project. The SOPs provide a clear description of tasks and responsibilities of this department within ACPS, serving as a standard for the school division.

+ **Additionally, ACPS earned honorable mentions in the special campaign category** for "Building the Plane While Flying It: The Academies at Alexandria City" and the "ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony." Another honorable mention was awarded in the special event category for "Panda Community Conversations Presents Salsa y Salsa: Creating a Sense of Belonging." These awards highlight ACPS' commitment to effective communication and community engagement.

+ **The AIM-AHEAD after-school science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) club** at Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) was awarded its third National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant. "Data Detectives:

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) received 17 NSPRA National School Communications Awards in the 2025 competition that showcases the creativity, strategy and impact of school communication professionals and education leaders across the United States. Among ACPS' awards were:

Golden Achievement Awards

Crisis Communications: Taking the "Lead" How ACPS Turned Crisis into Confidence

Event: Building Bonds Webinars: Leveraging Zoom for Family Engagement

Special Campaign: Live. Impact. Grow - Recruitment & Retention Campaign

Awards of Excellence – Publication and Digital Media Awards

Infographic: Enrollment Projections Overview Infographic

Annual Report: ACPS 2023-24 Measuring What Matters

Writing: ACPS Op-Ed The Psychology of Gratitude

Writing: ACPS Op-Ed Public Education is the Gateway to the Future

Awards of Merit

Video: Maximizing Instructional Days by Simplifying School Registration: A Multilingual Explainer Video for Families.

Video: Explore Your Leadership Opportunities: Shape the Future with Alexandria City Public Schools

Video Series: Academies at Alexandria City: Lifting Student Voices Video Series

Writing: Youngins in Progress

Handbook/Guide: ACPS Standard Operating Manual

Honorable Mentions

Annual Report: ACPS Media Relations Annual Reports

Handbook/Guide: Welcome to ACPS! Toolkit for New Families

Handbook/Guide: ACPS Back to School Guide

Social Media: ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame: Honoring Excellence Through Digital Engagement and Community Celebration

Social Media: ACPS Moments of Gratitude: A Social Media Celebration of Student Voices

Empowering Middle School Students and Teachers to Explore Health Disparities Through Big Data," was selected as an awardee for the Hub-Specific Pilots-Year 3. The after-school STEM Club will be partnering with the Alexandria Health Department to introduce big data sets to the club members. The NIH grant will support this after school STEM program for middle school students at ACPS for yet another year. This program aims to help prepare underrepresented students for a digitally proficient healthcare workforce.

+ **ACPS showcased its health informatics after-school club** that aims to prepare underrepresented students for a digitally proficient healthcare workforce, address health disparities, enhance cross-cultural communication and promote health equity at the AIM-AHEAD annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. The program expanded to include preparing STEM teachers with 21st century technology professional development training. This pilot program has grown with great success. ACPS now has clubs for four middle schools with 10 full-time science teachers. Student surveys have found high levels of satisfaction with the STEM Club.

+ **Thirty volunteers joined Superintendent Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt at Alexandria City Public School's Family and Community Engagement Center (FACE)** in August, 2024 to ensure all students had back-to-school essentials. More than 1,120 backpacks for PreK-12 ACPS students were stuffed with school supplies donated by families, community members and local organizations.

+ **Time dedicated to spelling during the Brent Place Link Club Power Hour** and at home helped students excel at the fourth Annual Alexandria Community Spelling Bee. ACPS LINK Club Site Coordinator Dawud Rawlings reported how well the students did with just two weeks of preparation. The students who took top honors included: **Natamen Alem** (fifth grade) – first place winner; **Brook Alem** (first grade) – third place winner; **Kidus Akalu** and **Mena Akalu** – runner-up awards.

+ **2025 Parent Teacher Association Council (PTAC) Golden Apple Awards ACPS Hero recipient** was **Taneika Taylor Tukan**, executive director, office of community partnerships and engagement.

STUDENT SERVICES AND EQUITY

+ **ACPS -12 Substance Use Prevention and Early Intervention Services Coordinator Fredy Martinez was recognized with a WRAPPY**, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) 2024 Youth Leadership Award for "his steadfast commitment to both prevention and safe and sober youth."

+ **Director of School Health Holly Jackson** was appointed as the ACPS representative for the Alexandria Public Health Commission.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

+ **The Alexandria City Science Fair** highlighted the critical thinking and problem-solving skills of nearly 300 Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) students. Scientists and engineers representing multiple subjects selected the winners in each category. Fifty ACPS projects were invited to the Northern Virginia Regional Science and Engineering Fair and 45 projects from Alexandria City were awarded various recognitions. The 2025 Regional Category Awards winners can be accessed here along with Society Awards recipients.

+ **Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director Tricia Jacobs** was selected to serve on the 2024 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Technology Awareness Committee.

+ **Alexandria City Public Schools celebrated the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Class of 2025** at the Alexandria City High School Minnie Howard Campus as well as AVID's accomplishments: Average AVID Participation: six years per student; Scholarship Awards: Over $6.39 million awarded collectively; The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria (SFA): Recipients: 38 out of 58 students received SFA scholarships of more than $576,000 over four years. Additionally, ACHS AVID had a rising twelfth grade student selected to the Chicago Summer Institute 2025 who will serve as a member of the student leadership group and will be teaching and guiding educators during the three-day training.

+ **Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) Celebrations of Learning showcased highlights of project-based learning (PBL) experiences in our schools this year**. The event featured 45 teachers, 150 students, and 15 community partners sharing how they learned through projects. Students and teachers shared how they developed the attributes of the ACPS Profile of a Learner: Critical Thinker, Communicator, Collaborator, Innovator, Advocate, Change-maker. Community partners shared resources for connecting learning to the real world and guests participated in mini-project demonstrations.

Department Accomplishments (cont.)

✦ **The City of Alexandria welcomed ACPS student artists to exhibit their artworks in City Hall's Vola Lawson Lobby for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Exhibit** in which second to fifth graders created artworks inspired by the theme, "Mission: Possible. Protecting Freedom, Justice, and Democracy" and the Earth Month Poster Celebration in which PreK-eighth graders made art inspired by the theme, "Steps to a Greener Alexandria." The artists were celebrated by the mayor and City Council members during a special tree planting ceremony to commemorate Earth Month and Arbor Day.

✦ **The Alexandria City High School Art Department collaborated with Del Ray Artisans Gallery** to exhibit artworks from ninth-twelfth grade art students that were judged by local Alexandria artists throughout the month of May.

✦ **The Alexandria City High School Band Program was selected as a 2024-25 school year Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association (VBODA) Honor Band**. This is a highly distinguished award that requires a music program to achieve a superior rating at the most difficult grade level of music during District Assessment, as well as audition for, be selected and participate in varying other competitions and events regionally and state-wide.

✦ **With generous support from its Amazon partners, Alexandria City Public Schools launched a focused initiative in summer 2025** to strengthen computer science integration across all K–8 classrooms. This work supports ACPS' commitment to preparing students for a future where computational thinking, problem-solving and digital literacy are essential.

✦ **In an exciting partnership with the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus, three ACPS middle school drone soccer teams had the unique opportunity to take their STEM learning to new heights this year**. The Innovation Campus hosted the teams as part of the United States Drone Soccer program—an innovative, fast-paced indoor sport where students build, program and fly drones in competitive matches. ACPS students gained hands-on experience in unmanned aviation systems, combining engineering, programming and teamwork in a thrilling and engaging environment as well as developed technical skills, and strengthened problem-solving, collaboration and strategic thinking skills.

✦ **Alexandria City Public Schools' partnership with the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus** to expand access to high-quality computer science and STEM education also provided hands-on professional development for ACPS educators in emerging technologies, including drones, data bots, and foundational computer science instruction. These training experiences empower teachers to deliver engaging, interdisciplinary lessons that build students' digital literacy, problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

✦ **With the opening of the Alexandria City High School Minnie Howard campus pool, ACPS successfully transitioned its SPLASH (Students Physically Learning About Swimming and Health) program** from Chinquapin to our own ACHS Minnie Howard campus. This move allowed us to continue offering all ACPS fourth grade students a full week of aquatic basics and water safety instruction under the guidance of trained swimming



instructors. All 14 elementary schools participated in the program with approximately 1,200 fourth grade students benefiting from this hands-on experience. The sessions served as both an introduction to water safety and a chance to build swimming skills in a supportive, structured environment. Post-program survey data showed clear evidence of growth and student enjoyment. Here are a few highlights:

- **Self-identified beginners dropped** from 10.7% before SPLASH to just 2.9% after.
- **76.6% of students** reported feeling comfortable going fully underwater.
- **96.3% said** they learned important water safety tips.
- When asked how they felt about SPLASH, **71.7% responded "SPLASH was awesome!"** while only 1% said they did not enjoy it.

+ **Another successful pilot was our Tiny Titan Swim Program**, offered to Minnie Howard Early Childhood students. These young learners received swimming lessons every other Wednesday, building foundational water skills and safety awareness. Due to its success, this program will continue into the next school year. These programs wouldn't be possible without the commitment of our Aquatics Physical Education teacher, support from the City of Alexandria's Recreation Department and Title IV funding, which provides stipends for our certified water safety instructors.

+ **Swim training was also expanded to ACPS' high school Program of Studies** with the introduction of Aquatic Safety Training and Aquatic Fitness courses. Eight students became certified lifeguards and water safety instructors, with three gaining summer employment through Recreation and Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA).

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

+ **The Technology Integration Specialist (TIS) team completed the Virginia Society for Technology in Education (VSTE) Certified Coaching program** to better support schools with the use of instructional technology to support the ACPS curriculum.

+ **Alexandria City High School King Street and Mount Vernon Community School** received classroom technology upgrades, including new SMARTBoards and document cameras.

+ **The inaugural Teachers of Innovation Cohort** began in January and ran through December 2025.



2025 Principal And Teacher Of The Year

Two highly-accomplished Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) educators were celebrated as Suzanne Hess was announced as the 2025 ACPS Principal of the Year (POY) and Sharon Phox as Teacher of the Year (TOY) at the May 8, 2025 Alexandria City School Board meeting. Hess has been a part of the ACPS family for more than two decades and is the principal of Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School. Phox, an educator and mentor for 20 years, teaches third grade, serving as an English language (EL) teacher at James K. Polk Elementary School. School Board Chair Dr. Michelle Rief and Superintendent Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt made the 2025 POY and TOY announcement, acknowledging how all ACPS' principals and teachers inspire, guide and foster a love for learning in our students, contributing to their overall success.



Suzanne Hess, Principal, Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School

Suzanne Hess joined ACPS in 2001 at John Adams Elementary School, establishing herself as a dynamic educator with a passion for nurturing young minds. Her leadership abilities became evident in her various roles within ACPS, culminating in her position as an English learner (EL) specialist and department chair, where she championed inclusive practices and student success. In 2015, Hess embraced a new challenge as she was appointed assistant principal at Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School - and then went on to become its principal. Hess emphasizes collaboration, motivation and support as cornerstones of her educational philosophy. Principal Hess' commitment to education is deeply rooted in the inspirational legacy of Naomi L. Brooks and her motto, "Bloom where you are planted," which is illustrated in the nurturing school environment Hess has created among her students and staff.

Sharon Phox, Teacher, James K. Polk Elementary School

Sharon Phox exhibits a strong commitment to instructional excellence and academic success for all students and uses her endorsement of English as a second language to emphasize differentiated instruction in order to meet the needs of a diverse student population. She works tirelessly to ensure students' strengths are highlighted and their needs are supported. Her core teaching beliefs center around the conviction that every student has the potential to succeed, and her role is to adapt her instruction to meet her students' needs. Phox also serves as a mentor coordinator, coaching new staff on best practices and monitoring their progress during the school year. Her involvement in school activities also extends to the school's annual talent show and the school garden project. Phox was also named the 2026 Virginia Regional Teacher of the Year for Region Four by the Virginia Department of Education. Additionally, she was selected as the recipient of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce's Educator of the Year.

Capital Improvements

CAPITAL PROGRAMS, PLANNING AND DESIGN

1703 N. Beauregard

The swing space at 1703 N. Beauregard Street was completed in June 2025, to serve as the temporary home for George Mason Elementary School students and staff during the school's modernization. Designed to provide a full and engaging learning environment, the new space includes a gymnasium with a climbing wall, a media center, an art room equipped with a kiln and two outdoor play spaces.

George Mason

The George Mason Elementary School modernization project is moving forward following a series of key milestones. The ACPS School Board selected the school's design in fall 2024, reflecting a vision for a modern, sustainable and student-centered learning environment. The design was further refined in spring 2025 through collaboration with the project team, community members, and City partners. In May 2025, the City approved the Development Special Use Permit (DSUP), allowing the project to advance into the construction phase summer 2025.

Educational Facilities

Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning (HVAC) Improvements

- Alexandria City High School King Street Campus
- Mount Vernon Community School
- George Washington Middle School

Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT) Installation

- Charles Barrett Elementary School
- John Adams Elementary School
- Mount Vernon Community School
- Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School

Stormwater Improvements

- Mount Vernon Community School

Gymnasium Renovations

- Early Childhood Center

Kitchen Renovations

- Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy
- William Ramsay Elementary School

Asbestos Remediation

- Alexandria City Public Schools Transportation Facility
- Charles Barrett Elementary School
- Francis C. Hammond Middle School
- John Adams Elementary School
- Mount Vernon Community School
- William Ramsay Elementary School

Building Envelope Repairs

- Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School
- Francis Hammond Middle School

Partnerships

Including the dozens of partners named throughout this report, ACPS had 200 distinct partnership agreements with city agencies, community partners and corporations as well as 58 higher education partnerships designed to expand the capacity of the division to meet the needs of our students, families and staff in 2024-25. Three partners received the Virginia School Board Association Business Honor Roll designation:

Bloomberg Industry Group

Bloomberg Industry Group continued to inspire secondary students' interest in the accounting, tax, legal and technology fields through mentorship, hands-on educational programming and speaking engagements. Bloomberg tailors educational programming to classroom content so that students in the Academy of Business & Government and Academy of Education engage in mock interviews, simulated contract negotiations, problem-solving sessions and hackathons that bring to life the interdisciplinary aspects of tax, accounting, computer science and cyber security.

Inova™

Inova Health System: Over the years, we have partnered with Inova to connect uninsured students and families to appropriate and affordable healthcare services through its Partnership for Healthier Communities initiative, support the transition of students with disabilities by implementing Project Search, a one-year internship program for students with disabilities in their last year of high school, and encourage healthy eating and exercise among students through various programs including iPATH and Inova Healthy Plate Club. Most recently, our collaboration with Inova has expanded to support our Career and Technical Education efforts by encouraging students to make the connection between their coursework and practical work experience, explore various health care career paths and dream big. Through Inova's Dream Big program, ACPS students engage with healthcare team members, tour and observe Inova facilities and participate in demonstrations and simulations.

campagna center
EARLY CHILDHOOD • WRIGHT TO READ • CAMPAGNA KIDS
BUILDING BETTER FUTURES • NEW NEIGHBORS

The Campagna Center: In addition to their well-known early childhood programs and hallmark out-of-school time programs, The Campagna Center expanded its partnership with us to help fill the gap between classroom theory and practical experience for our "Teachers for Tomorrow" students. Through an innovative collaboration with our Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, Campagna provides dynamic, lively learning environments where our "Teachers for Tomorrow" students work hand-in-hand with seasoned and skilled teachers at The Campagna Center, learning from them, apply the 22 workplace preparation skills taught in our CTE courses and the course materials and putting instructional ideas into practice.







Additional Partnership recognition: Building on its monthly publication of a feature article on a partner organization in the ACPS Express newsletter, ACPS expanded its partnership recognition efforts in 2024-25. In spring 2025, we began a weekly partnership spotlight, Meet the Partners, through a series of question and answer (Q&A) articles on our partnerships with community organizations and institutions. Among featured partners in 2024-25 were Alexandria Tutoring Consortium, Move2Learn, Little Friends for Peace and Alive!, where we highlighted how these partnerships inspire our students and address barriers to learning.







Volunteer Program

During the 2024-25 school year, Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) directed its efforts toward enhancing and strengthening the volunteer program. A small, yet mighty staff approved about 3,500 volunteer applications, including those affiliated with more than 50 partner organizations and helped place volunteers at all school levels who supported field trips, tutoring and mentoring, athletics, gardening, parent-teacher groups, Career Days and more. The ACPS volunteer team streamlined the application form as well as program materials and launched virtual open houses for applicants resulting in an increased number of approved volunteers. Additionally, several initiatives were put in place to support schools with volunteer recruitment and management, including monthly school volunteer reports, enhanced outreach to the ACPS volunteer database and a new employee resources page in Canvas. Additionally, ACPS partnered with the City of Alexandria program known as Volunteer Alexandria to highlight an outstanding volunteer at each school with community-wide recognition and appreciation for their service.

Our caring community serves as volunteers in our schools every day and shows students how invested everyone is in their well-being and learning.



Family Information Line

Family liaisons and outreach assistants continued to connect families in need of assistance through the Family Information Line. Families can text or call the Family Information Line Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For **English and Spanish**, text or call 703-619-8055
For **Amharic**, text or call 703-927-6866
For **Arabic**, text or call 703-927-7095

Language Line Direct Response

A language-support service makes calling ACPS schools easier for thousands of families who speak Spanish, Amharic, Arabic, Pashto, Farsi and Dari. Language Line's Direct Response service allows ACPS families to contact their school with interpretation service already on the line, eliminating language barriers they may have encountered in the past. ACPS is the first school system in Virginia and the third in the country to implement this Language Line service. Call us at 1-833-611-1667.

Follow us on Social Media

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To share a concern or comment with ACPS leadership or to ask a question about divisionwide issues, community members can write to **ask@acps.k12.va.us**.

ASK ACPS
ask@acps.k12.va.us

ParentSquare