

SCHOOL, FAMILY & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Great things happen when we work together—from sharing knowledge and expanding our capacity to creating better outcomes for the families, students and community we serve.

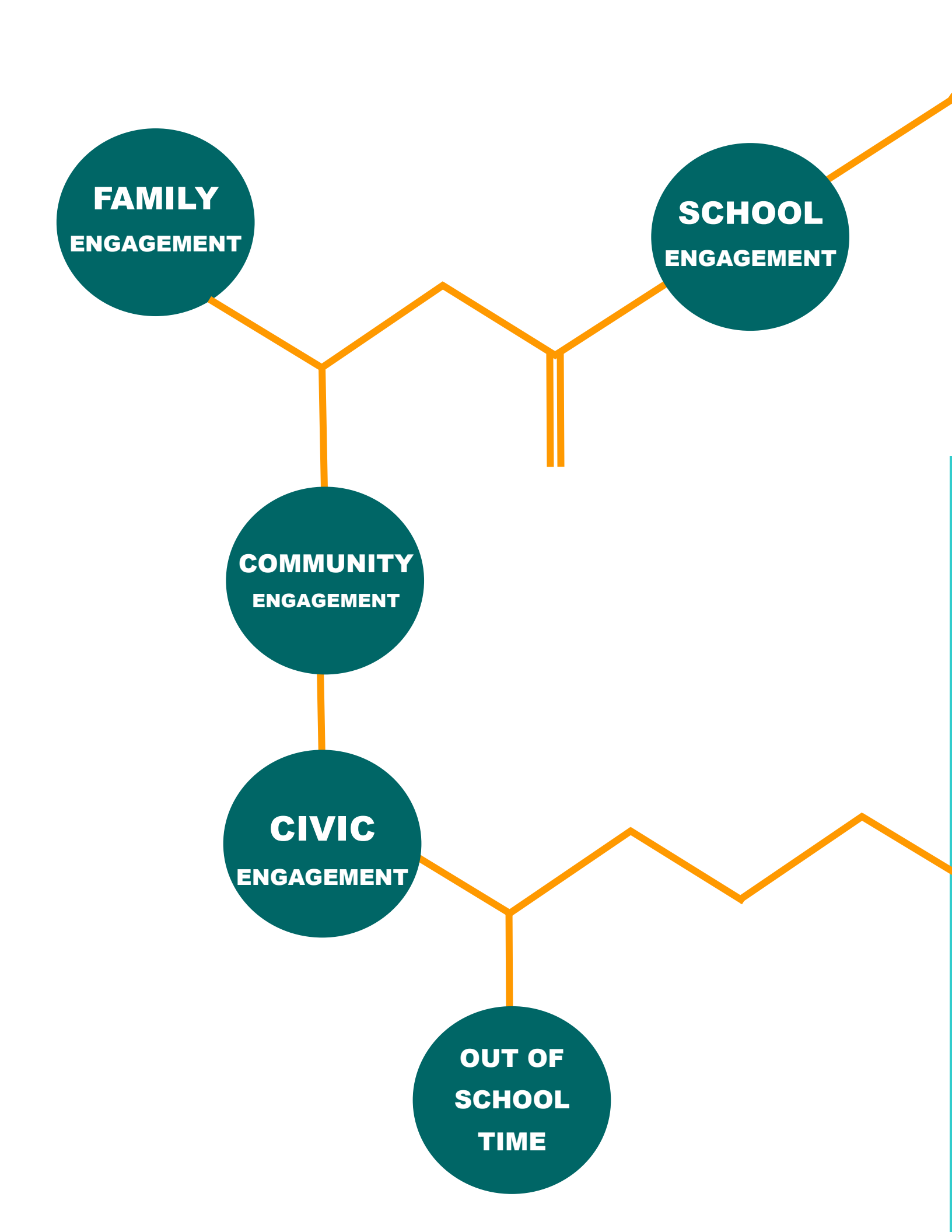
**FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT**

**SCHOOL
ENGAGEMENT**

**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

**CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT**

**OUT OF
SCHOOL
TIME**





SCHOOL, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The realignment of the ACPS School, Family and Community Partnerships Office presents an opportunity to refresh a “team” approach for our office staff and our approach to our work. Forming domains of specialty with fluidity across functions coupled with an avoidance of strict vertical structure, embodies an organizational structure that is more nimble and **more impactful**.

Essential to sustainability is the ability of our team to understand that the strengthening of our specific areas of work are part of a bigger picture where we acknowledge and appreciate that our individual domains are anything but specific. Each component of our structure — family and community engagement, school engagement and public outreach, partnerships and civic engagement — is aligned and a part of our **larger goal**. Like a molecule, our team is a group of unique individuals bonded together by our commitment to partner with families and the community in the education of Alexandria’s youth.

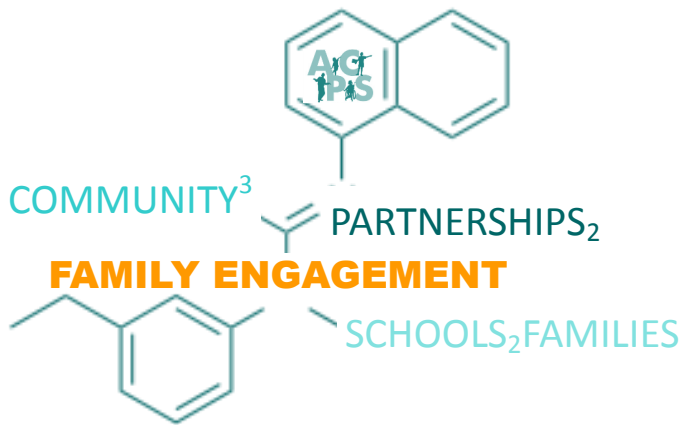
Within the following pages, each domain of our Office is outlined individually for clarity and to ensure fiscal transparency. However, each is a critical piece of an educational ecosystem of **integrated partnerships** critical to ensuring every child succeeds. Without each element, the work is not complete. By **working together** across our areas of expertise, great things happen. Together, as a team, we provide a comprehensive and scientific approach that is more efficient and more effective to producing **positive outcomes** for the families, students and community we serve.






OUR TEAM

A group of individual staff bonded together by our commitment to engage and empower families and the community in the education of Alexandria's youth.



 **For more information:** ACPS Parent/Guardian and Family Engagement Policy Regulations (File: IGBC-R).



Objective: ACPS will collaborate with parents and guardians in providing the high-quality services they need to be leaders in the education of their children.



Goal: 90% of families and community members completing annual survey will indicate they are satisfied with the services ACPS provides to engage families in their child's education.



Key Performance Indicators:

- Number of enrolled participants in FACE workshop series
- Percentage of participants that regularly participate and complete workshop series

Strategy 1: Engage families in meaningful opportunities designed to support children's academic success and healthy social/emotional development.

- Coordinate and facilitate workshops during the Fall in collaboration with full-time Parent Liaisons at various school sites that are designed to help families know and navigate their children's schools.
- Support school-based Parent Liaisons in the coordination of Principal Chats and family workshops per school that support students' academic and social/emotional development.
- Coordinate 4-week "Link to Learning" training series with teachers and instructional coaches at elementary schools with a focus on improving reading, math and/or science proficiency of identified students below grade level and their families.
- Coordinate division-wide family engagement events, including Science Nights and Healthy Conversations.

Strategy 2: Connect ACPS families to tools, information and services that support educational achievement and overall quality of life.

- Expand the knowledge base of Parent Liaisons by informing them of available school and community tools/resources and assist them to broker resources for families by connecting them to the appropriate school/community point of contact.
- Pilot a Home Visiting Program at Brent Place to build trusting and meaningful relationships with families to help support academic and social/emotional development of their children.

Strategy 3: Eliminate barriers to family engagement for ACPS families who are low-income, limited English proficient and/or historically-disenfranchised families.

- Supervise division-wide Parent Liaisons who connect families to language specific tools, info and resources through onsite school/community supports and management of bilingual info lines.
- Coordinate language-specific family engagement workshops/training sessions.
- Train Parent Liaisons to identify language needs and coordinate interpreter services for school-based parent conferences and meetings.
- Offer childcare, interpreter services and transportation (when appropriate/ feasible) for family and community engagement opportunities.



Objective: ACPS will actively engage families, students, staff, and community members regarding school programs and activities, volunteer opportunities, and events.



Goal: 90% of families and community members completing annual survey will indicate ACPS provides opportunities to volunteer for school programs, activities, and events.



Key Performance Indicator: Number of volunteers actively engaged in schools as measured by Keep-N-Track system

Strategy 1: Offer family and community activities/events within targeted high-need communities to enhance equity in the delivery of engagement opportunities.

- Maintain active partnerships with community organizations and public agencies located within and/or serving Alexandria's high need communities, including three FACE community sites.
- Coordinate and facilitate ongoing family engagement workshops at Brent Place to address important academic achievement and social/emotional development issues.
- Coordinate year-long English language classes to empower immigrant parents to be able to access resources and further engage in their children's learning.
- Coordinate "Strengthening Families" and "Parenting Wisely" weekly sessions in targeted high need Alexandria communities to provide families with knowledge/skills needed to carry out child-rearing responsibilities and promote positive child learning.
- Coordinate computer literacy trainings, including introduction to Canvas, Google docs and other online learning tools, to connect refugee parents to their children's learning.
- Design, coordinate and support the execution of community walks to assist school staff and/or administration to better understand the community they serve and help build trusting school-family relationships.

Strategy 2: Connect ACPS parent/guardians with meaningful opportunities to volunteer within schools.

- Provide ongoing volunteer management and screening training to school-based Parent Liaisons and Volunteer Liaisons.
- Support school-based Parent Liaisons and Volunteer Liaisons to identify volunteer opportunities relevant to their school community and connect volunteers to opportunities within the school day.
- Engage volunteers to facilitate and support tutoring and enrichment services during afterschool programs.

Strategy 3: Engage community organizations and businesses in volunteer opportunities.

- Engage community partners in opportunities to provide voluntary services to help address gaps in services and enhance equity for ACPS student and families.
- Connect community organizations and businesses to opportunities to serve ACPS through community giving projects.



Objective: ACPS will create an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect to ensure effective communication in schools, enhanced engagement with families, and culturally responsive relationships.



Goal: 90% of families and community members completing annual survey will indicate they feel welcome to attend school activities.

Strategy 1: Build the capacity of ACPS schools to develop two-way trusting relationships with families and implement effective family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement.

- Train Parent Liaisons to facilitate an environment that is welcoming to all families and respectful of culture and diversity.
- Provide consultation to school administrators on effective development of culturally appropriate communication with families designed to enhance family-school partnerships.
- Provide professional development to school leadership and teachers on best practices strategies designed to improve family engagement within their schools.
- Coach school staff on effective facilitation of information to families using adult theory and dual capacity frameworks.



The pending ACPS evaluation of ACPS family and community engagement efforts to be conducted by an outside vendor will help determine additional strategies necessary for meeting this goal in future years.



Objective: ACPS will use a wide variety of media to reach out to the community on issues of importance to the people of Alexandria.



Goal: 90% of families and community members completing annual survey will indicate they can easily obtain information about ACPS services and activities.

Strategy 1: Coordinate effective outreach strategies designed to increase communication with our hardest to reach families.

- Develop multilingual and family-friendly tools and resources designed to increase knowledge of and access to services.
- Distribute information and resources in the preferred method and language of the families served.
- Employ Parent Workers to make personal multilingual phone calls to families to inform them of important events and to solicit their input.

Strategy 2: Enhance digital/web presence to increase community access to important information and resources.

- Maintain an ACPS partnership webpage that provides access to information, opportunities, policies and forms for individuals, including potential partners.
- Maintain family-friendly department/program webpages, offering tools, resources and information in multiple languages.
- Maintain volunteer web portal and promote ACPS volunteer opportunities.

Strategy 3: Provide opportunities for ACPS families and community members to provide feedback on issues of importance.

- Conduct an annual Title I family engagement evaluation and ACPS 2020 surveys that assess ACPS effectiveness in eliminating barriers to parent participation, meeting parents' needs in assisting student learning and implementing strategies to support successful school and family interaction.
- Use annual evaluation findings to improve family engagement programming.



Objective: ACPS will partner with external organizations to extend its services and programs, to encourage a sense of community ownership of our schools, and to support the development of the academic, social, physical, creative, and emotional needs of students.



Goal: 90% of families and community members completing annual survey will indicate there is mutual (shared) respect and trust between ACPS and the community.

Strategy 1: Expand capacity of ACPS staff, schools and departments through in-kind partnership agreements with community partners.

- Liaison formal agreement process from initiation through execution to ensure that community partners and schools/depts. are in agreement regarding scope of services and provisions adhered to.

Strategy 2: Expand capacity of ACPS staff, schools and departments through resources provided by outside funders.

- Identify and apply for local, state and federal funding that support priorities identified within the ACPS Strategic Plan 2020.
- Seek and apply for grant funding to help supplemental teacher equipment, supplies, and innovative instructional improvements.
- Promote up to date lists of teacher grant opportunities as well as provide on-site support and instruction on how best to apply for available teacher grants. Provide help for teachers using Donor's Choose Website.

Strategy 4: Build and maintain positive relationships with stakeholders and partner organizations to foster a sense of community ownership in our schools.

- Coordinate Superintendent community sessions to engage business leaders, community partners and city officials.
- Promote partnerships by highlighting their contributions through videos, eNewsletters and social media channel.
- Identify, communicate and support opportunities for partner organizations to obtain additional funding.
- Coordinate city-wide school-supply drive with business, public and private entities to provide backpacks and school supplies to economically disadvantaged students division-wide.
- Coordinate and host ACPS Partner and Volunteer celebration.



Key Performance Indicators:

- Number of formal partnerships
- Percentage of schools reporting satisfaction with partnerships

Strategy 5: Investigate, develop and implement systems designed to increase external organizations' support of ACPS.

- Implement clearly defined policies and procedures for donations.
- Design and implement clearly defined policies and procedures for corporate, commercial, promotional sponsorships.
- Explore and make recommendation for the development of an ACPS Educational Foundation.

Strategy 3: Expand and enhance capacity to support the academic, social, physical, creative, and emotional needs of students during afterschool hours.

- Manage LINK Club, a 21st Century Community Learning Center that facilitates academic tutoring/ homework help, project-based learning, enrichment activities, field trips and social emotional support services after-school and across summer to K-5 students residing at Brent Place.
- Coordinate efforts with school leadership and City/community organizations to duplicate LINK Club program services for high need eligible students afterschool at Title I schools.
- Identify/seek additional funding opportunities and/or in-kind support from community partners to support additional enrichment opportunities for LINK Club programs at Title I schools.
- Identify/seek additional funding opportunities to replicate LINK Club's academic services at additional community sites serving high-need students after school (ARHA, Boys & Girls Club & Community Lodgings)
- Collaborate with ACPS leadership to offer annual training opportunities to City and community OSTP providers that support the alignment of in-school and after-school time.
- Provide quarterly achievement data reports to community partners who serve ACPS students afterschool in an effort to better target the needs and supports provided to students.