

Date: March 21, 2019

For ACTION: \_\_\_\_\_

For INFORMATION:   X  

Board Agenda: YES   X  

NO \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** Terri Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer  
Theresa Werner, M.Ed., J.D., Executive Director of Specialized Instruction

**THROUGH:** Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** Students with Disabilities (SWD) Evaluation Draft Action Plan

### **BACKGROUND**

The evaluation of services to students with disabilities was designed to provide a comprehensive review of the current state of programs and services for students with disabilities, and to their families, to inform the division and relevant stakeholders in areas of strengths and opportunities for improvement.

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) hired Hanover Research to gather and analyze the feedback provided by all stakeholders. Hanover provided a final summary of the Draft Action Plan feedback, which is attached to this memorandum. In addition to the PCG evaluation, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) completed its Results Driven Accountability (RDA) monitoring review of ACPS schools on Friday March 15, 2019. A verbal summary exit report was provided to the district on March 14, 2019, with a full written report to the division in no less than eight weeks.

The purpose of this Action Plan is to take the framework provided by PCG, the feedback obtained from stakeholders and the community, as well as from VDOE, and translate that into a three-year plan towards improved outcomes and experiences for students with disabilities and their families. In its current form, the Plan goes beyond striving for outcomes on summative statewide assessments and grapples with systemic issues surrounding culture and climate as well as accountability and fidelity of implementation which needs to be addressed to realize progress. The next steps for this Action Plan are to incorporate the newest feedback, and in conjunction with the original steering committee, revise the Plan as needed.

The system began in January to implement many of the steps already outlined in the Plan. The Office of Specialized instruction is refining a coordinated systemic plan for the professional development of administrators and staff regarding best practices for students with disabilities focused on appropriate identification and service delivery. The superintendent has identified the membership categories for an Interdepartmental Central Office team, which will guide the implementation of the evaluation, recommendations, and action items. Working in conjunction with the Department of Human Resources, there are multiple steps towards enhancing teacher recruitment applied to the spring recruiting calendar. The Offices of Accountability and Specialized Instruction are working to develop and implement a monitoring system to drive a shared culture of accountability for ensuring an inclusive environment and positive outcomes for students with disabilities. By continuing to work collaboratively with our internal and external stakeholders, ACPS is developing the systems and supports for students with disabilities and their families that will lead to every student succeeding.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the SWD Evaluation Draft Action Plan for future discussion regarding possible planning, programmatic, and/or budgetary changes.

**IMPACT**

The SWD Evaluation Draft Action Plan provides ACPS with a critical roadmap to address programming and services for students with disabilities. Once approved, the Action Plan will provide clear, measurable outcomes so that the division may chart a purposeful course over the next three years to address the needs of students with disabilities and meet the call of every student succeeds.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. 190321\_PowerPoint\_Students\_with\_Disabilities\_Evaluation\_Draft\_Action\_Plan
2. 190321\_Students\_with\_Disabilities\_Evaluation\_Draft\_Action\_Plan
3. 190321\_Hanover\_Analysis\_Special\_Education\_Action\_Plan

**CONTACT PERSON**

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