

## BOARD BRIEF

Date: May 10, 2019

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda:

No

**FROM:** Jennifer Mursaloglu, Ph.D., Evaluation & Assessment Analyst

**THROUGH:** Gregory Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Clinton Page, Ed.S., Chief Accountability Officer

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

**TOPIC:** Second Quarter Discipline Data

### **SUMMARY:**

The enclosed brief highlights second quarter discipline data for the division. The report provides a multi-year comparison of the number of discipline referrals and out-of-school suspensions by school, percentage of suspensions within subgroups, and short and long-term suspension reasons.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Throughout the year the Department of Accountability analyzes discipline data across all schools within the division. Quarterly discipline data are reviewed and monitored by various internal stakeholders within the division to inform procedural, programmatic and other discipline related practices.

### **FINDINGS:**

Table 1 shows a three year comparison of the number of discipline-related referrals for all schools within the division. Overall, the data show that there was a slight decrease in the number of referrals across the division. However, there was an increase in the number of referrals at the elementary level and a decrease at the middle school level across all three years. Table 2 represents a three-year comparison of the number of short and long term suspensions and the number of students suspended by school for the second quarter. During 2018-19, there was an increase in the number of suspensions across all levels within the division, when compared to data from 2017-18.

Table 3 represents a two-year comparison of the percentage of suspensions within historically disproportionate subgroups by educational level. The data reveal that Black males, Hispanic males and students with disabilities remain disproportionately suspended at a higher rate. Table 4 provides a two-year comparison of the suspension reasons disaggregated by non-violent and serious/violent offenses. The suspension reasons were coded and grouped using the Virginia Department of Education's Discipline, Crime and Violence (DCV) Guide. Given the overall increase in suspension numbers, results also revealed that there was an increase in the number of non-violent and serious/violent offenses when compared to second quarter data from 2017-18. The ratio of violent to non-violent suspension

within each school year showed a six percentage point increase in non-violent offenses in 2018-19 compared to the previous year. An analysis of discipline data for the third quarter is currently in progress.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the information within this memo and the attached discipline report pertaining to quarter two discipline findings.

**IMPACT:**

Although the number of discipline related referrals has decreased across the division, the number of short and long-term out-of-school suspensions across the division is on the rise across all education levels when compared to second quarter data from 2017-18. Moving forward ACPS must focus on addressing the disproportionate percent of Black males, Hispanic males, and students with disabilities who are being suspended at a higher rate. Further, the division must unpack the root causes leading to the increase in suspensions within the current year to begin to plan strategic steps in the immediate and in future years.

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. *Quarter 2 Discipline Data*

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