

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ACPS Alumni Study is intended to gather and analyze a wealth of data about students who have recently graduated from the Alexandria school system, and to continue gathering data on them for several years afterward, in order to evaluate the division's curriculum, programs and services.

The principal topics addressed in the report are:

- The preparation of students for post-secondary education and employment
- The academic achievement of various groups of students

Data from three primary sources are used: 1) the Alumni Data File; 2) the T.C. Williams High School Class of 2003 Final Senior Plans & Transcript Request; and 3) the Follow-up Survey for Graduating Class 2003 Alumni of the Alexandria Public Schools.

The following highlights show the most significant findings from the report:

- The overall grade point average (GPA) of 2003 graduates was 2.74 out of 4. A large disparity existed with regard to ethnicity: the mean GPA was 3.28 for White students, 3.09 for Asian students, 2.62 for Hispanic students, and 2.40 for Black students. This gap was much larger in Alexandria than in the U.S. as a whole.
- There was also a significant gender disparity when it comes to GPA: females averaged a 2.88, while males averaged a 2.60. This difference of 0.28 was higher than the national average of 0.20.
- GPA gaps based on ethnicity, ESL status, meal status, and TAG status widened dramatically in junior and senior year.
- 90% of Alumni Survey respondents were attending college as of winter 2004. Once again, there was a significant disparity with regard to ethnicity: 100% of White and Asian respondents were attending college, compared to 77% of Black and Hispanic respondents.
- Of those Alumni Survey respondents in college, 37% felt they were better prepared than their fellow students; 49% felt they were at the same level of preparedness as their fellow students, and 12% felt they were not as well-prepared.
- 29% of respondents were employed. When asked to rate how well T.C. Williams prepared them for doing their job effectively, the average response was 3.33 out of 5. Their average job satisfaction was 3.13 out of 5.