

Date: August 31, 2018

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION X

Board Agenda: Yes _____
No X

FROM: Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer, Department of Accountability

THROUGH: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr, Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Ramee Gentry, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: ACPS 2020 Survey Results

BACKGROUND:

This is the third consecutive year that Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) conducted a survey to measure division-wide performance related to the ACPS 2020 strategic plan. The purpose of this survey was to measure public perceptions of progress within goal areas of the strategic plan from different stakeholder groups. The survey was available from April 8th through May 1st, and was accessible online in English, Spanish, and Arabic. Paper versions of the survey were also available at ACPS schools in Amharic as well as English and Spanish.

ACPS encouraged parents and community members to participate through various means. Current ACPS parents with valid email addresses on file received an email invitation to participate in the survey and reminders were sent out periodically throughout the survey administration window. Elementary schools received letters for parents regarding the survey. The FACE Center encouraged participation through its channels. The survey was publicized through ACPS Express and social media (including Twitter and Facebook) as well as through community listservs (for example, the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities). ACPS also reached out to civic associations; community leaders via text message and email in English, Spanish, Amharic, and Arabic through Blackboard connect; libraries; preschools; phone calls through the FACE Center; Principal Coffees; Dar Al-hijrah Mosque; Amharic Language Summit; apartment complexes in the West End; and food distribution sites. The results PowerPoint summarizes the 2018 results and compares them to the results from the spring 2016 and spring 2017 surveys.

Participation

There were 2,186 respondents to the survey, 88% of which were current ACPS parents. Fifty-one percent of respondents identified themselves as White, followed by Hispanic or Latino (21%), Black or African American (17%), Multiracial (5%), and Asian (5%). The total number of 2018 respondents (N=2,186) was 44% higher than the total number of 2017 respondents (N=1,517). In comparison to previous years, this year, the survey sample was more representative of the ACPS population by race and ethnicity and there was an increase in the number of non-English responses.

Limitations

Survey limitations include sample representativeness and generalizability. While improved in 2018, based on the smaller response from non-parent community members, aggregate results are largely indicative of current ACPS parent respondents (88%). It is noted that survey respondents within this sample are not representative of the entire City of Alexandria population nor that of the school system when looking by race/ethnicity.

Results

Overall, 74% of respondents reported perceiving the quality of the school system as “excellent” or “good”, an 11 percentage point increase in comparison to last school year. Additional findings are noted below:

- The percentage of strongly agree or agree responses increased or remained constant for all survey items this school year. The item “There is mutual (shared) respect and trust between ACPS and the community” had the largest increase with 18-percentage points.
- The item “I feel welcome to attend school activities” had the highest percentage of favorable responses (strongly agree or agree) with 93%, and the item “ACPS facilities are well maintained” had the lowest with 63%.
- The percentage of participants who had a favorable (excellent or good) opinion of the quality of ACPS rose to 74%, an 11 percentage point increase from last school year.

RECOMMENDATION:

Review the *ACPS 2020 Survey Results PowerPoint* for an understanding of parent and community perceptions of ACPS and progress towards the division’s strategic objectives and goals within *ACPS 2020*.

IMPACT:

This year’s ACPS 2020 Survey results serve as the third year of data collection and will be inserted into the ACPS 2020 Scorecard. Data from this survey will be used to annually monitor progress in the critical areas identified within the division’s strategic plan. These data, in conjunction with other data sources, serve to identify and inform the requisite division action steps necessary within goal areas to continue to move the division forward toward the ultimate goals set forth within *ACPS 2020* and explicitly stated in the division’s clarion call of ‘*Every student succeeds*’.

CONTACT PERSON: Clinton Page

ATTACHMENTS: 1. *ACPS 2020 Survey Division Results PowerPoint*