

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Department of Curriculum and Instruction



A Message from Dr. Terri H. Mozingo, Chief Academic Officer

Welcome to the eleventh edition of the *Pursuit of Excellence Newsletter* for 2018. This version will update you on the latest developments in a variety of key areas including: (1) trends, focus areas, and high-priority projects involving the Department of Curriculum and Instruction; (2) information relating to the Mathematics Standards of Learning; (3) literacy updates pertaining to October 8, 2018; (4) announcement from the Office of Talented and Gifted; (5) updates from the Office of English Learner (EL) Services; and (6) Specialized Instruction related professional development offerings. **Thank you for your continued support! Have a wonderful week!**

Assessment Updates Presented to School Board

On September 13, 2018, the *Assessment Update: 2017-2018 Preliminary Results* were presented to the School Board. This presentation provided preliminary division and school level performance on key assessment results during the 2017-2018 school-year.

This year, we have narrowed our focus in Curriculum and Instruction to three areas: (1) *Academic Achievement and the Opportunity Gap*; (2) *Equitable Resources and Materials to Schools*; and (3) *Professional Learning Opportunities*. These priorities touch every student, every subgroup, and every subject in some way. The Assessment Updates [memo](#) and [presentation](#) outlines our continued and new priorities to support student achievement.

ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan: Every Student Succeeds				
Mission	Vision	Goals	Objectives	Targets
Goal 1: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity				
Top Three Priorities for Curriculum and Instruction				
Academic Achievement and the Opportunity Gap	Equitable Resources and Materials to Schools	Professional Learning Opportunities		
				
ACPS School and Department Improvement Plans				

ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan Goals

1. **Academic Excellence and Educational Equity:** Every child will be academically successful and prepared for college, work and life.
2. **Family and Community Engagement:** ACPS will partner with families and the community in the education of Alexandria's youth.
3. **An Exemplary Staff:** ACPS will recruit, develop, support, and retain a staff that is best for Alexandria's students.
4. **Facilities and the Learning Environment:** ACPS will provide optimal and equitable learning environments.
5. **Health and Wellness:** ACPS will provide access and support that enables students to be healthy and ready to learn.
6. **Effective and Efficient Operations:** ACPS will be efficient, effective, and transparent in its business operations.

Process for Data Analysis

Goal: Improve outcomes for all students.

Process: Use specific questions to analyze the data and identify strategic actions to improve student performance.

Criteria: Please consider the following "rules for analysis" as you prepare and present your data: (a) **Respond** to each of the data questions; (b) **Display** each data set in a simple table or chart; (c) **Use** a color-coding system to explain the data; (d) **Describe** trends, patterns, and categories in the data; (e) **Disaggregate** the data to address question; and (f) **Provide** implications and inferences of the data.

1. Prepare the Data

- a. What data source(s) are we analyzing?
- b. What do the terms in the data report mean, if applicable?
- c. How was the data collected?

2. Analyze and Interpret the Data

- a. What factors may have contributed to the data?
- b. What does the data seem to tell us?

3. Plan Action/Instruction

- a. What actionable strategies and/or interventions will the school implement to address the critical standards?
- b. What actionable strategies and/or interventions will you need from the division to address the critical standards?

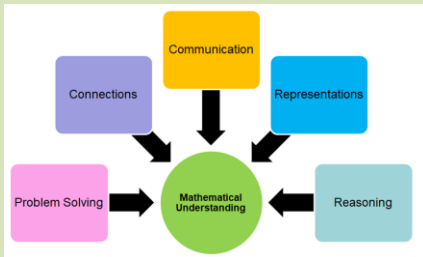
3. Act/Instruct and Reassess

- a. How and when will we reassess/progress monitor the effectiveness of the strategies and interventions?
- b. After the strategies/interventions are implemented, what assistance is still needed and how will the support be provided?



Planning for Instruction with the 2016 Mathematics Standards of Learning (SOLs)

The revised 2016 Mathematics Standards of Learning are rooted in Virginia's Process Goals for Students. The content of mathematics standards is intended to support the five process goals for students. Click [here](#) for additional information on these goals.



When planning, educators should spend time unpacking and understanding the standards.

Unpacking	Understanding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do students need to know and be able to do? • “How” will students be expected to learn these concepts? • What content parameters exist? • What representations will students use to make sense of the concepts? • What new vocabulary will students encounter? • What are some common student misconceptions? 	<p>Making other connections...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What prerequisite knowledge will students need to be ready to learn? • How does this standard connect to other standards? • What conceptual understanding does this standard require? What procedures will need to be connected to these concepts? What opportunities exist to apply the mathematics? • What mathematical process goals can be accessed through this content?

The Curriculum [Canvas](#) will provide teachers with meaningful instructional resources and planning guidance aligned to the 2016 Mathematics SOLs. For support, contact Julia Neuffer (K-5) at julia.neuffer@acps.k12.va.us or Suzanne Futrell (6-12) at amy.futrell@acps.k12.va.us.

October 8, 2018 - Literacy Updates

All elementary teachers who teach ELA are to attend one of the following October 8th half-day sessions (attached to the email) to support them in teaching the word study/phonics component of the new adoption. *The Words Their Way Classroom* teacher guides will be distributed to registered teachers who attend the sessions. Teachers are also highly encouraged to attend one of the following sessions to provide time for facilitated planning with the newly adopted reading materials. For more information, please contact Cynthia McDougal at cynthia.mcdougal@acps.k12.va.us.

2016 Mathematics Standards of Learning (SOLs) – Update

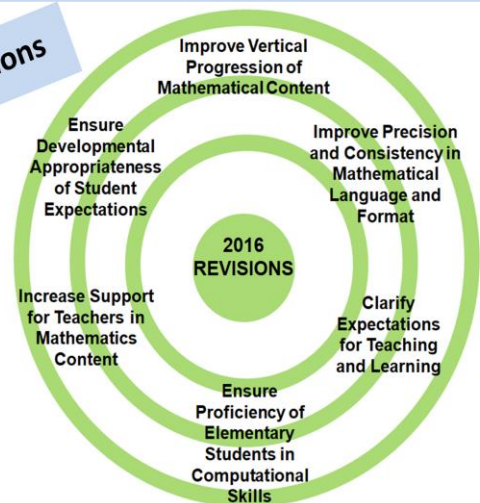
On September 22, 2016, the Board of Education adopted the Proposed Revised 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning* and the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework*, click [here](#) to access.

The 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning* identify academic content for essential components of the mathematics curriculum at different grade levels. The *Mathematics Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* amplifies the standards and further defines the content knowledge, skills, and understandings measured by the *Standards of Learning* assessment.

This year, 2018-2019, is the year for **full implementation** of the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning*. This means:

- The written and taught curricula reflect the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning*.
- The Standards of Learning assessments will measure the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning*.

Foci of Revisions



Calling All Teachers Interested in TAG

Do You Have Any Teachers Interested in Gifted Endorsement? Did you know that ACPS supports teachers interested in getting a gifted endorsement through a partnership with the College of William and Mary?

To find out more, please plan to attend an information session on September 28, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in the GW Middle School Library. Dr. Janice Robbins, professor at William and Mary, will be there to provide an overview of the courses and answer questions around logistics, work load, etc. Application packets will be available. Classes begin January 2019!

If you have any questions, please contact Donna Brearley at frances.brearley@acps.k12.va.us.

English Learner (EL) News

ACPS has several professional learning opportunities (attached), which are categorized into three main areas: (1) *Division-Wide* - open to all employees; (2) *EL Office Sponsored Professional Learning* - outside of ACPS - are open to all EL teachers; and (3) *Site Specific* - available to staff in participating schools.

To participate in professional learning opportunities outside of ACPS, staff should follow the steps below:

- 1) Send the name of the event you are interested in attending to Michael Suppa via email (michael.suppa@acps.k12.va.us).
- 2) Complete the Travel Authorization form provided.
- 3) Secure your principal's approval and signature on the Travel Authorization form, and submit the completed form to Michael Suppa.
- 4) Receive and retain confirmation of registration.

For more information, please contact Dr. Bethany Nickerson via email (bethany.nickerson@acps.k12.va.us).



Specialized Instruction PD Updates for October 8, 2018

Elementary Special Education Teachers

Elementary Special Education Teachers should attend one of the following sessions:

Section #	Section	Time
18218	Kindergarten Words Their Way Classroom	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
18219	Kindergarten Words Their Way Classroom	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
18220	First Grade Words Their Way Classroom	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
18221	First Grade Words Their Way Classroom	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
18222	Second Grade Words Their Way Classroom	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
18223	Second Grade Words Their Way Classroom	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
18224	Third Grade Words Their Way Classroom	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
18225	Third Grade Words Their Way Classroom	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
18226	Fourth Grade Words Their Way Classroom	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
18227	Fourth Grade Words Their Way Classroom	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
18228	Fifth Grade Words Their Way Classroom	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
18229	Fifth Grade Words Their Way Classroom	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

AND attend one of the following sessions as appropriate:

Section #	Section	Time
18212	Number Worlds Training: Refinement	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
18210	Number Worlds Training: Implementation	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Or attend an additional content specific session of your choice.

Secondary Special Education Teachers

New Teachers

Section #	Section	Time
18258	Standards-Based IEPs for New Secondary Teachers	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Teachers Implementing Number Worlds in Math Intervention Elective:

Section #	Section	Time
18212	Number Worlds Training: Refinement	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
18210	Number Worlds Training: Implementation	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Secondary Co-Teachers (ELA, Social Studies, Science):

Section #	Section	Time
18255	Achieve3000: Refinement	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
18256	Achieve3000 Training: Implementation	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

And / Or attend content specific sessions of your choice.

Special Education Paraprofessionals

Attend one of the following sessions:

Section #	Section	Time
18253	Developing the SDI Toolkit for SPED Paraprofessionals	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
18254	Developing the SDI Toolkit for SPED Paraprofessionals	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

AND

Elementary - Attend one of the Words Their Way Trainings

Section #	Section	Time
18218	Kindergarten Words Their Way Classroom	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
18219	Kindergarten Words Their Way Classroom	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
18220	First Grade Words Their Way Classroom	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
18221	First Grade Words Their Way Classroom	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
18222	Second Grade Words Their Way Classroom	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
18223	Second Grade Words Their Way Classroom	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
18224	Third Grade Words Their Way Classroom	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
18225	Third Grade Words Their Way Classroom	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
18226	Fourth Grade Words Their Way Classroom	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
18227	Fourth Grade Words Their Way Classroom	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
18228	Fifth Grade Words Their Way Classroom	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
18229	Fifth Grade Words Their Way Classroom	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Secondary - Attend a content session related to a course/subject you are supporting.

