# Every Student Succeeds

# **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 <u>memo</u> and <u>presentation</u> 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 Construction Equitable Resources and Materials to Schools Professional Learning Opportunities

#### **Process for Data Analysis**

**Goal:** Improve outcomes for all students.

<u>**Process</u>**: Use specific questions to analyze the data and identify strategic actions to improve student performance.</u>

<u>Criteria</u>: 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?

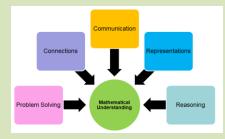


ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan Goals Academic Excellence and Educational Equity: Every child will be academically successful and prepared for college, work and life.
 Family and Community Engagement: ACPS will partner with families and the community in the education of Alexandria's youth.
 An Exemplary Staff: ACPS will recruit, develop, support, and retain a staff that is best for Alexandria's students.
 Facilities and the Learning Environment: ACPS will provide optimal and equitable learning environments.

- Health and Wellness: ACPS will provide access and support that enables students to be healthy and ready to learn.
- Effective and Efficient Operations: ACPS will be efficient, effective, and transparent in its business operations.

### 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 <u>here</u> for additional information on these goals.



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

Unpacking	Understanding	
What do students need	Making other connections	
to know and be able to	<ul> <li>What prerequisite</li> </ul>	
do?	knowledge will students	
• "How" will students be	need to be ready to learn?	
expected to learn these	<ul> <li>How does this standard</li> </ul>	
concepts?	connect to other standards?	
What content	<ul> <li>What conceptual</li> </ul>	
parameters exist?	understanding does this	
What representations	standard require? What	
will students use to make	procedures will need to be	
sense of the concepts?	connected to these	
What new vocabulary	concepts? What	
will students encounter?	opportunities exist to apply	
What are some common	the mathematics?	
student misconceptions?	<ul> <li>What mathematical process</li> </ul>	
	goals can be accessed	

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

through this content?

# October 8, 2018 - Literacy Updates

All elementary teachers who teach ELA are to attend one of the following October 8<sup>th</sup> 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 <u>cynthia.mcdougal@acps.k12.va.us</u>.

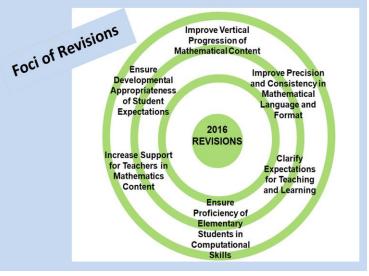
# 2016 Mathematics Standards of Learning (SOLs) – Update

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

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



# **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 <u>frances.brearley@acps.k12.va.us</u>.

#### **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.

 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 <u>Elementary Special Education Teachers</u>

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

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:				
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 Teacher	rs			
18258	Standards-Based IEPs for New Secondary Teachers	9:00 a.m 3:30 p.m.		
Teachers Implementing Number Worlds in Math Intervention Elective:				
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):				
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		
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	<ul> <li>Attend one of the Words Their Way Trainings</li> </ul>		
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.			

#### **More Professional Development for Paras**

On October 8, 2018, there will be several courses for Paraprofessionals to attend:

#### #15596 Kindergarten Words Their Way Classroom (for Teachers, Paraprofessionals, and Specialists working with Kindergarten Students)

Sessions: 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

How can Kindergarten educators use 'Words their Way' to implement responsive word study instruction? In this halfday session, educators will study their student data and the Words their Way classroom implementation guide to prepare for assessment-driven word study instruction.

#### #15588 Move2Learn "Brain Boost" Instruction for Classroom Teachers

Brain Boosts for Classroom Teachers and Paras

Elementary classroom teachers, are you interested in cutting down on discipline problems while simultaneously stimulating the minds of your young learners? This session will involve partnering with valued community supporter and local icon Running Brooke, as well as hearing from industry experts looking to further discuss the critical area of need. This active presentation will provide attendees with both the research behind the importance of classroom "Brain Boosts", as well as effective mean of implementing them in the elementary classroom setting. We hope to see you there!

#### #15430 Para to Para

#### Para to Para: Part 2

How can Paraprofessionals and teachers work together as an effective team to support the needs of all students in the classroom? These sessions will support paraprofessionals and the various aspects of the job.

#### #15601 Professional Learning for Kindergarten Paraprofessionals Working with Bilingual and Emergent English Learners (ELs)

Professional Learning for Kindergarten Paraprofessional Working With English Learners.

How can we effectively meet the needs of serving our Kindergarten English Learner students? During this workshop, Kindergarten Paraprofessionals will identify the best practices and principles of effective instruction for EL students and second language acquisition for early emergent bilinguals. Additionally, they will analyze teaching and learning processes that facilitate oral language development, as well as, student to student interaction and discuss how these can be incorporated in to classroom instruction.

#### #15436 Promoting Science and Literacy with School Gardens

#### K-2 School Garden Sessions

How can a school garden or outdoor space be utilized to enhance the curriculum and teacher Virginia science standards in grades K-5? Participants will learn how school gardens can help teachers personalize the teaching of science standards by providing authentic learning opportunities for students. Teachers will have the opportunity to go outside and tour the gardens of Jefferson Houston School. While in the garden teachers will engage in a brief demonstration lesson that can be customized for any grade level. Ideas for literacy and math connections will also be integrated in the session. All of the garden lessons presented will be placed in Canvas for teachers to access during the Fall and Winter season. This session is appropriate for paraprofessionals.

#### **Teaching For Success: Positive Teaching Practices**

Welcome to the beginning of an excellent school year! Please see below for some tips on ways to achieve a positive learning environment: (Submitted by Arnecia Moody)



1. Attitude is everything. Remember to have a positive attitude as you enter your school building every day. Make sure to show yourself some self-compassion and kindness every day. Also, positive thinking enhances your mood and reduces stress.

2. **Infuse positivity in your classroom.** Inspire optimism to share positivity with your students. As you create your classroom space, sprinkle in some positive quotes to keep motivation high. A positive environment can do wonders in your classroom.

3. **Remember your purpose**. When things go wrong renew your spirit by reminding yourself of your love of education. Greet every day with the same optimism and hope as your first day working. Remember to stay focused on the positive.

4. **Demonstrate caring**. Building a positive classroom environment and relationship with your students is a way to engage them further. When students are engaged in their learning, they are more likely to perform well and enjoy the learning process.

\*Partially Adapted from 7 Tips to Encourage a Positive Attitude in Students