



Arlington Public Schools Whole Child Working Group

Goal

The Whole Child Working Group will help APS ensure that each child is healthy, safe, supported, academically engaged, and challenged by developing a framework that will inform School Board decision-making related to meeting the needs of the whole child. The Group's work will serve as groundwork for the development of future School Board priorities and the next APS strategic plan.

Charge

The WCWG is charged with the following tasks:

1. Define APS's vision for supporting the whole child.
2. Consider what other communities and/or organizations are doing to support the whole child.
3. Develop a framework for identifying whole child needs and services in APS and across the community, and where linkages, gaps, barriers, challenges, and/or opportunities exist.
4. Recommend short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals, criteria, and/or a process to assist the School Board in developing a sustainable system to support the whole child.

Study Committee

The School Board will appoint a Chair to lead the Working Group and membership that includes representation from APS staff, parents, students, Arlington County staff, and the community.

One School Board member will serve as liaison to the Working Group.
The Working Group will be supported by an APS staff member.

Products and Timeline

The Working Group will be appointed and begin meetings in early February. The Group will establish its own meeting schedule and work tasks, which will include efforts for public engagement. All Working Group meetings will be open to the public and will allow time for public comment.

The Working Group will provide a status update to the School Board in April and a report to the School Board in June, 2016. The Group will produce materials that respond to the four elements in the charge above.

Resources

In order to assist the Working Group, the following resources are provided. The first is text drawn from the School Board's 2015-2016 priorities that were adopted on July 1, 2015. The second is text drawn from the School Board's Strategic Plan.

School Boards Priority on the Whole Child

- To ensure that each child is healthy, safe, supported, academically engaged and challenged, review and strengthen efforts that effectively align, integrate and foster collaboration among resources of APS, the County government, non-profits, businesses, faith-based organizations and the Arlington community. Our goal is to place each child at the center and provide the necessary educational support and services. This includes services related to supporting:
 - Basic needs, such as food, housing and health care; safety and security
 - Wellness, including exercise, nutrition and stress management
 - Academic support, with tutors and mentors, enrichment, and advanced learning opportunities
 - Leisure activities, including after school activities, recreation, and sports programs.
- Continue the implementation of the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Policy to strengthen and expand FACE programs. Review strategies to strengthen family and community engagement throughout APS and develop indicators to measure progress.

Strategic Plan Goal 5: MEET THE NEEDS OF THE WHOLE CHILD

Arlington Public Schools will nurture students' intellectual, personal, social, and emotional development with services and strategies that support students and their families to enable students to learn and develop their potentials.

The most important functions to strengthen support services include:

- Promoting the development of internal and external assets in students;
- Developing dynamic partnerships between parents and schools, including the implementation of parent education and training to cultivate their involvement;
- Incorporating comprehensive physical, mental health, and wellness services;
- Implementing and enforcing the anti-bullying policy and procedures system-wide; and
- Maintaining internet safety and social media policies and procedures, and expanding opportunities to ensure that students have knowledge of and practice accepted norms, rules, and laws of being a responsible technology user.

Adopted February 4, 2016