

# UNIFIED IMPLEMENTATION TEAM REPORT



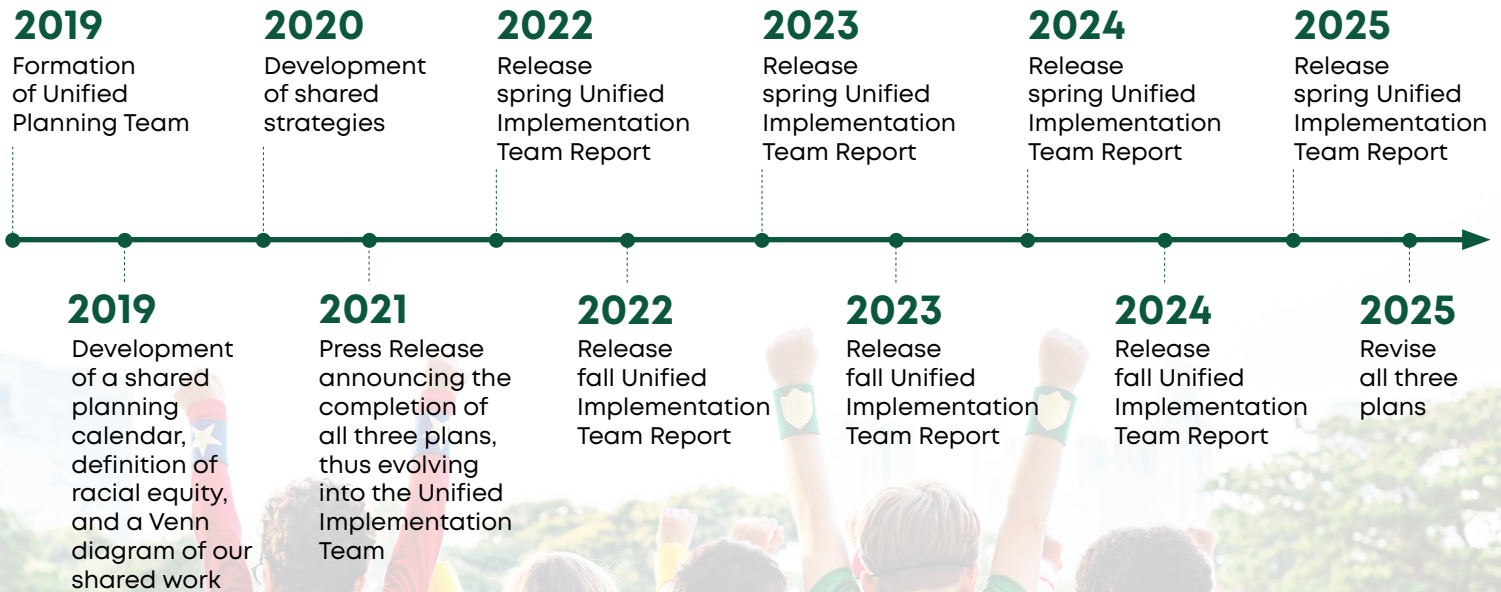
## PURPOSE

The **Unified Implementation Team** comprises leadership from **Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS)**, the **Alexandria Health Department (AHD)** the **Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)** and the **Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria (PHA)**. The Implementation Team was formed after the organizations' successful collaboration to create their respective long-term strategic plans. Links to those plans are shown in the resources section of this report. The organizations' earlier work together demonstrated the importance of continuing their collaboration during the plans' implementation for best achieving significant results for the children and adults in Alexandria. In fact, their plans together have five aligned strategic areas that the Implementation Team will coordinate and work together on to achieve mutual goals and results. The Implementation Team committed to the underlying principles of **1-trauma-informed approaches, 2-racial equity and 3-developmental assets approaches**.








Learn more and see each of the respective plans at [alexandriava.gov/go/3361](http://alexandriava.gov/go/3361).

## TIMELINE



## ALIGNED STRATEGIES

-  **Develop** job readiness, career and employment opportunities.
-  **Engage** students and families with supports and services within schools.
-  **Improve and increase** out of school learning.
-  **Enhance** technical infrastructure and close the digital divide.
-  **Implement** integrated collaborative systems that help families and the community support the socio-emotional and physical development of children and youth.



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## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY INITIATIVES



### DEVELOP JOB READINESS, CAREER AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The **Workforce Development Center** is equipping youth and adults for success through training, employment, entrepreneurship and leadership opportunities. This includes increasing access to work-based learning by investing \$1.7 million in **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** funds in the **Re-Employment and Upskilling Initiative**.



### ENGAGE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITH SUPPORTS AND SERVICES WITHIN SCHOOLS

The **RULER** (Recognize, Understand, Label, Express, Regulate) curriculum is being included in classroom instruction to assist students with social-emotional wellness by teaching students to recognize, understand, label, express and regulate their emotions effectively.

**DCHS Behavioral Health Services** added four school-based mental health professionals, to serve high school campuses, middle schools and k-8 schools. The team is also working with **ACPS** to increase access to **Family Mental Health Services** in schools.



### IMPROVE AND INCREASE OUT OF SCHOOL LEARNING

**ACPS** is establishing and implementing opportunities for parents/families to build their own skills and deepen knowledge regarding how to support student learning at home through the five **LINK Club** sites. The **LINK Club program** (Linking Instruction, Nurturing Knowledge) is a high-quality after school program with an emphasis on academic achievement support and opportunity for high-need, low-income students at no cost to families.

**Project Discovery** sponsored the Real Cost of College: How to Pay for It workshop for parents in January 2022.

The **Youth Support Network** established a **Social-Emotional Learning Work Group** to support the professional learning and well-being of staff in fostering the development of children. The Network also established a **Middle School Programming Work Group**.



### ENHANCE TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Alexandria City Council allocated ARPA funding to create an **Alexandria Digital Equity Plan** to identify barriers in the community and provide short and long-term recommendations. City Council also allocated ARPA funding to establish a Broadband Specialist and Policy Analyst position.

Funds provided by the **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund** are enabling **ACPS Technology Services** to implement projects needed to upgrade the information technology structure that will help meet the increased demand on systems and improve network security and student internet safety.



### IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED COLLABORATIVE SYSTEMS THAT HELP FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT THE SOCIO-EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**ACPS** has over 160 partners who are implementing a broad range of support through the school day, after school and during the summer. These partners include **Amazon, Virginia Tech** and many **local nonprofits**.

**Safe Routes to School** encouraged ACPS families and staff to participate in the fall **National Walk to School Day 2021**.

## FUTURE GOALS

The Unified Implementation Team will continue to focus on the work that is being done through policies, programs and educational outreach. Future reports will include outcomes achieved and any gaps or needs that are identified.

## RESOURCES

- **Alexandria City Public Schools Equity for All Strategic Plan 2025**
- **Community Health Improvement Plan 2025**
- **Children and Youth Community Plan 2025**

