

Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission - A Snapshot



The CYFCC Defined

- We act as the voice of the community and provide important information for decision makers.
- We advise both the City Council and ACPS on issues affecting children, youth and families.
- We were formed in 2011 by City Council and School Board.
- There are 25 voting members, 4 non-voting liaisons.

The Commission's Core Purpose

- **Advise and advocate** for youth and family wellbeing.
- **Oversee** the Children & Youth Community Plan (CYCP).
- Guide **equitable and data-informed** decisions.
- Provide **recommendations** to city and schools.
- Foster **collaboration** across systems.

Why It Matters: Aligning Systems for Shared Impact

- 1 in 4 Alexandrians is under 18.
- City and ACPS decisions shape family life.
- CYFCC ensures youth priorities guide policy.
- Coordinated systems create stronger outcomes.
- **Advocacy today builds tomorrow's opportunity.**

Empowering Alexandria's Future: CYFCC's Commitment

- Submit a citywide vision for youth and families (CYCP).
- Track and review progress annually.
- Recommend funding and budget priorities.
- Engage the community through outreach.
- Advocate for supportive legislation.

Maximizing our Impact: Core Responsibilities for CYFCC Members

The effectiveness of the CYFCC rests on the **active commitment and engagement** of every member. We require dedication across four critical areas to ensure we fulfill our mission:

Sustained Attendance: Demonstrate reliable engagement by **attending at least 75% of all scheduled meetings annually**. This continuous presence is vital for maintaining continuity and ensuring full representation in the decision-making process.

Strategic Preparation: Commit to **thorough review of all materials** beforehand. Arrive prepared to meetings, ready to contribute **informed insights** and participate effectively in strategic discussions.

Active Contribution: Drive the Council's work forward by **serving on a standing committee**. Dedicating your expertise to a focused area helps us deliver tangible progress on critical priorities.

Leadership & Advocacy: Actively champion the **Children and Youth Community Plan (CYCP)** goals within your personal and professional networks. We expect all members to operate with a **spirit of collaboration and a clear, shared purpose**, turning the Council's vision into real-world impact.

Voting Members vs. Non-Voting Members

- 15 members = quorum when there are no vacant positions
- 25 voting members: citizens, city staff, ACPS staff.
- 17 citizen appointees, 4 city, 4 ACPS employees.
- 4 non-voting liaisons: 2 City Council, 2 School Board.
- Volunteers vote only in committee work.
- All voices shape Commission outcomes.

**Members of the staff of city or schools who believe they have a conflict in performing tasks that advocate directly (such as testimony, op-eds, letters, etc.) should not be assigned to an active advocacy role (or be a member of the de facto Advocacy Committee), as each Commissioner should be willing and able to fulfill his or her role on a Goal Committee.*

How We Work: Committees in Action

- Committees, based on the Children and Youth Community Plan, that power the CYFCC's work.
- Goal Groups | Advocacy & Policy | Finance & Grants.
- Outreach & Membership | Research & Data | Implementation & Monitoring.
- Goal Groups ensure follow-through and accountability.
- Staff and volunteers expand capacity.

CYFCC Goal Groups

Goal 1: All Children, Youth, and Families will be Physically Safe and Healthy

Goal 2: All Children will be Academically Successful and Career Ready

Goal 3: All Children will have Positive Experiences

Overarching:

- Outreach/Recruitment
- Coordinated and Equitable Systems (City and School Staff)
- Advocacy

Potential Process Improvement

Develop work groups aligned to the three priorities (**violence prevention, cost of living, and school conditions**) to enable commissioner participation and deepen engagement .

- These work groups will extend open invitations to all commissioners and allow flexible involvement based on availability
- Coordinate outreach for violence prevention work and requests input on potential community partners to engage.
- The approach aims to balance meaningful participation with commissioners' varying time commitments.

The Impact: From Vision to Measurable Change

- Guide development of the Children & Youth Community Plan.
- Deliver annual policy recommendations.
- Honor leaders via Champions of Children Awards.
- Inform city and school budget priorities.
- Advance shared accountability for outcomes.

Call to Action: Step Into Your Impact

- Know your Goal Group's work and goals.
- Represent your community authentically.
- Connect CYCP to your professional circles.
- Be informed, proactive, and visible.
- Champion Alexandria's youth every day!