



BY ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL



Roger
Sierra.

TOPIC

Student Representation And Responsive School Conditions

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

This issue focuses on the lack of student agency and participation in decision making at ACHS. It directly affects the daily lives of students through policies such as Minga check ins at King Street that act as a surveillance system on students rather than a focus on student well being. Also, leads to side effects like the reduced 19 minute lunch stat.

RESULT



0.99%
of local committee
seats are held by
students (1 out of 101)

CYCP GOAL AND STRATEGIC AREA

Strategic Area:
Engaged and Informed community.

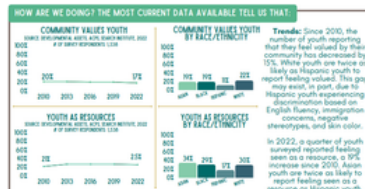
“Safety and Belonging and
“Supportive and responsive School
Conditions” from the 20206 Youth
Priority Issues list.

SIGNIFICANCE

This matters because of ‘Safety and Belonging” and “Supportive School Conditions” are identified as top priorities for Alexandria youth in 2026. When student feel that their voice doesn’t matter, it creates a culture of marginalization. This is especially important with Black and Latino students to consider, because of the issue prevails then less engangment and trust in school an increase.

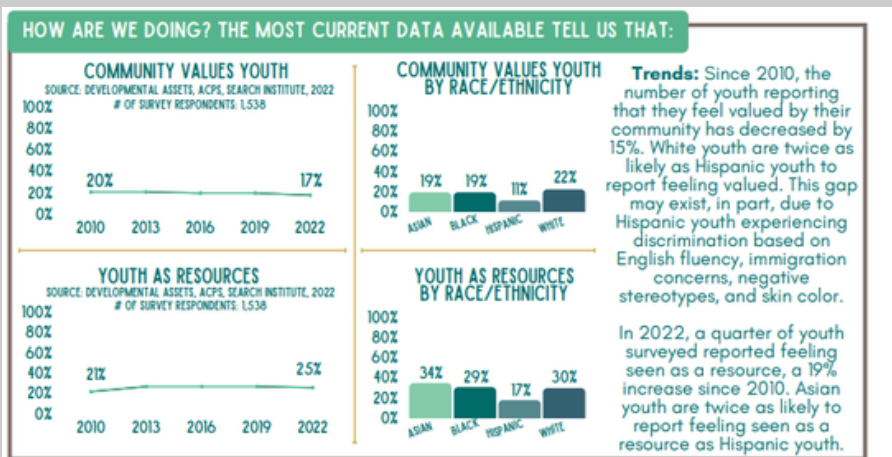
15% of Latinos
and 16% of
Black students
have the
lowest levels of
development
assests.

This graph proves that the story
behind the data is one of racial
inequality. While 85% of Latino
students feel like they lack the
resources to thrive, it confirms
that policies like the minga
tracking system are likely
worsening this gap



HOW ARE WE DOING?

While ACPS aims for “Equity for all,” current data reveals a stark ‘Asset Gap’ across racial lines. Currently, only 15% of Latino/Hispanic students and 16% of Black Students report having high levels of development assets, compared to 25% of white students. This 10 percentage point disparity, coupled with a minimal 0.99% student representation on decision making committees, indicates that administrative policies are failing to provide equitable ‘Supportive School Conditions’ for the most marginalzied groups at ACHS.



IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of current ACPS School conditions is driven by a focus on highly effective administration. Some key actions have been the district wide deployment of the Minga Digital ID system, overseen by Lee Conroy (director of Safety and Security), to standardize campus monitoring. The roll out of this and the bell time shifts mandated by the 2025 Transportation Study were designed to streamline operations. This however occurred without a ‘student impact assessment,’ leading to a significant bottleneck in the cafeteria where students only have on average 19 minutes of eating time. A side effect that disproportionately affects the sense of belonging for students of color, who already report a 10% lower level of developmental assets compared to their peers.

PARTNERSHIPS

ACPS School Board: Holds the legal authority over school policies.

Alexandria Peer Advocate Program: Teaches students about healthy life choices and resources.

The Search Institute: Provides qualitative data on student sentiment for this report



PERFORMANCE EFFORT

We are not getting the desired results; the 17% stat of students feeling less valued meaning that administrative efforts are not aligning with student needs for belonging.

Nuanced perspective analysis:
There is a tension between administrative goals and student needs. School Security (Lee Conroy) views the Minga System through a lens of safety mandates from previous security failures. In contrast, students of color view these measures of security as surveillance, which leads to a 10% lower ‘perceived care’ score to White peers.

PERFORMANCE EFFECT

Barriers: High leadership turnover and staff resignations hinder stable student and teacher relationships.

Positive Factors:
Institutional transparency through public report cards and support from faculty members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy change: Mandate that all ACPS decision making committees include at least 10% student representation.

System Change: Restructure bell times to allow for a minimum of 30 minutes for lunch to meet the wellness goals of the Children and Youth Master Plan.

ONLINE

ACPS Equity for all dashboard; city of Alexandria youth resources directory.

IN PERSON

Eric Coleman (school nutritional services) and Lee Conroy (safety and security services)

CITATIONS

12th- Citations in APA format.

- **School Conditions Report:**
- City of Alexandria. (2025, November). School conditions. alexandriava.gov
- **Youth Empowerment Report:**
- City of Alexandria. (2025, March). 2025 RC - youth empowerment. alexandriava.gov
- **Survey Aggregate Data:**
- Alexandria City Public Schools. (2022, February). Attitudes and behaviors survey: ACPS aggregate. alexandriava.gov
- **Board Vacancies Webpage:**
- City of Alexandria. (n.d.). Vacancies. Boards and Commissions. alexandriava.gov

Source Evaluation; This report gathers data from the Search Institute (highly credible for gauging youth sentiment) and the ACPS transportation study (accurate for logistical data). While the Equity Dashboard provides essential baseline goals, its administrative bias must be balanced by the 2026 Youth priority brief, which reflects real student ‘safety and belonging’ concerns.