

In schools throughout the City, students continued to learn more and perform better. Spirits were high among principals, teachers and students. Test scores rose, extra funds were channeled to schools that needed them most, and facilities were built and renovations were planned to create the best learning environments.

STEADILY IMPROVING TEST SCORES

This year the primary mission of the Alexandria Public Schools was to focus efforts on meeting the rigorous Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL). Spring test results showed that the school system continues to improve overall. Five schools came closest to meeting the accreditation mark: Douglas MacArthur Elementary, Charles Barrett Elementary, John Adams Elementary, James K. Polk Elementary, and Francis C. Hammond Middle. State accreditation standards require that 70 percent or more of students in grades 3, 5, and 8, and secondary students taking certain courses, pass the Standards of Learning tests. Compared to last year, the greatest gains were achieved in fifth grade mathematics, eighth grade writing, and high school world history. Fifth grade history was the area in which students need the most improvement, while the best student performance was in fifth grade writing. This year’s challenge is to continue the strong, steady improvement and work toward having all schools reach the accreditation benchmark set by the state.

GIVING SCHOOLS EXTRA SUPPORT

To meet the accreditation challenge the school system directed more resources to the schools that need the most support. In February, the Alexandria City School Board unanimously approved \$581,000 in extra funding for the elementary schools that have the greatest percentage of poor children. Based on a locally adopted formula, there is a sliding scale of supplements per student receiving a free or reduced price meal. Mount Vernon Community School received \$192,000 and William Ramsay Elementary received \$214,000 for this school year. Approximately 72 percent of the students at both schools receive free or reduced price meals. Since 1996, Alexandria City Public Schools have continued to provide a set dollar amount per at-risk student to each school, and this program will continue. This year combining the two allocations of funds has provided a total of nearly \$750,000 directed to raise the student achievement of children who need

Did You Know?

Alexandria Schools in FY 2000

Per Pupil expenditure
\$10,029

Operating budget
\$110,464,597

Technology Initiative
\$4,164,882

Number of schools
13 elementary
2 middle
1 ninth grade school
1 high school
1 alternative high school

Average class size
Elementary school: 20
Middle school: 21
Secondary school: 23

Students eligible for free or reduced meals
52%

the most support.

BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF STUDENT MOBILITY

In another innovative move, the Alexandria School Board requested a study of elementary school student mobility and its effect on student achievement.

Released in March, the study found that for each of the last three school years, approximately 31 percent (or 1,900) of the system's 6,100 elementary students move into, move out of, or move around in

Alexandria's schools every year. This has major implications for student achievement since national research indicates that such mobility can have a negative effect on individual learning and on the school as a whole. This school year, the school system will implement some of the study's recommendations to ease transition challenges for students and schools.



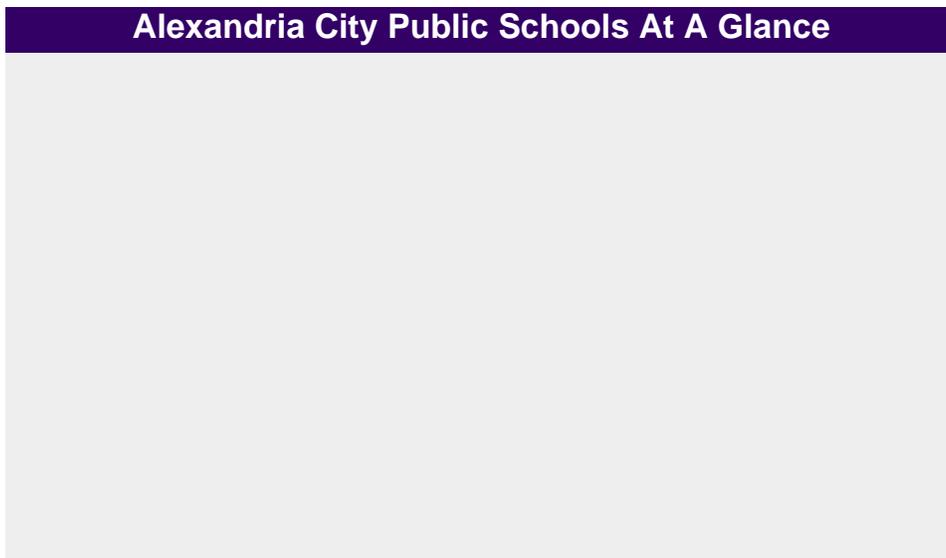
PREPARING FOR ENROLLMENT INCREASES

In the last year, several important school building projects began in an effort to address rising school enrollment. Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School, Alexandria's first new school in 30 years, will welcome students in September.

Located in the new Cameron Station development, the 80,000-square-foot Tucker Elementary will offer 28 home rooms, a science lab, an art room, two music rooms, a media center equipped with a computer lab and television studio, gymnasium, cafeteria, and stage.

To ensure that the two middle schools are ready to accommodate expected enrollment growth, an architectural team worked with parents, staff members, administrators, and school board members throughout the year to design additions at both George Washington and Francis Hammond Middle Schools. Construction is expected to begin next spring with completion in July 2002.

Alexandria City Public Schools At A Glance



Graduates

Students to post-secondary education (1999): 89%
AP and honor courses offered at T.C. Williams High: 19
National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists: 5
National Achievement Scholarship semi-finalist: 1
National Hispanic Scholar: 1
AP exams taken: 402
AP scores of 3 or higher: 71%
SAT scores:
Mean Verbal-481
Mean Math-480

Students

African American: 46.5%
Asian Pacific: 5.9%
Hispanic: 24.7%
Native American: 0.2%
White: 22.6%
Countries of birth: 66
Native languages: 45

Faculty

Number of teachers: 1,110
Number of support staff: 740
Advanced degrees: 66%
Starting salary: \$31,165
Average salary: \$43,737

Volunteers

Business and community partnerships: 90
School volunteers: 2,500

For More Information

Website: www.acps.k12.va.us

[k12.va.us](http://www.acps.k12.va.us)

Public Information:

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Información: (703)

461-6550 (ESL)

TDD: (703) 824-6666

Job Hotline: (703)

824-6600

Attendance Zones:

(703) 824-6635

LAUNCHING NEW FOCUS SCHOOLS

As a result of the redistricting plan approved by the School Board in June 1999, and implemented in September 2000, two existing elementary schools were transformed into focus schools. Jefferson-Houston School for Arts and Academics will have special offerings in the visual and performing arts, while Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy will feature phonics-based instruction and in-depth teaching of math and science. Lottery applications for Alexandria's two new focus schools exceeded the number of open slots with 204 applications received for 132 openings.

In addition, 104 applications were received for the 55 slots open at Cora Kelly Magnet



School.

Alexandria City Public Schools, poised to meet the challenges of the coming school year, depend on parents and community members to be involved in making the schools the best they can be. Schools, parents, and community working together ensure students are well prepared to enter the world of work or higher education.