

Date: August 3, 2016

For ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

For INFORMATION  X

Board Agenda: Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
No  X

**FROM:** Clinton Page, Ed.S, Chief Accountability Officer

**THROUGH:** Alvin L. Crawley, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Karen Graf, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** 2015-2016 Developmental Assets Survey Results

**BACKGROUND:**

In partnership with the Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC), Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) administered the Search Institute's Developmental Assets Survey during spring 2016 to students in grades 8, 10, and 12 (n=1476). The survey is administered once every three years to ACPS students with results being used to inform the efforts of city agencies, local non-profits, community leaders, and schools in ensuring the health and wellbeing of tomorrow's citizenry.

The Search Institute's framework of Developmental Assets measures the external supports and internal strengths young people need to grow into successful citizens. The assets represent 40 research-based positive experiences and qualities that influence young people's development helping them to become caring, responsible, and productive adults. External assets are the networks of support, opportunities and people that stimulate and nurture positive development in youth. Internal assets are the young person's own commitments, values, and competencies. Youth with high asset levels are less likely to engage in high-risk behaviors (such as violence, sexual activity, drug use, and suicide), and more likely to engage in thriving behaviors (such as helping others, doing well in school, and taking on leadership roles).

Results

The Department of Accountability created two summary tables displaying results for external (Table 1) and internal (Table 2) assets across the three most recent survey administrations occurring in school years 2009-10, 2012-13, and 2015-16. These tables were created to allow stakeholders to analyze trends across and within assets for the past six years to best inform next steps.

Overall, results showed growth (> 2 percentage points) from the 2013 administration in 18 assets, relative stability (+/- 2 percentage points) in 15 assets, and decline in 7 assets. The majority (n=13) of assets that improved were internal assets and specifically in the categories of "Positive Values" (ex. caring, equality and social justice, integrity etc.) and

“Commitment to Learning” (ex. achievement motivation, school engagement, homework etc.) where ten out of 11 assets increased between three and 11 percentage points. Some areas of continued focus fall within the external assets and specifically the categories of “Support” (ex. positive family communication, other adult relationships, caring neighborhood etc.) and “Empowerment” (ex. community values youth, service to others, safety etc.) where results have remained largely flat or declined across eight of ten assets since 2010.

Along with the summary tables prepared by the Department of Accountability, the Search Institute’s full reports with executive summaries for the division as well as individual schools are attached for review. These reports will also be posted to the ACPS website the week of August 8<sup>th</sup>. Due to its small population, Jefferson-Houston does not have a school level report. Results for students at Jefferson-Houston who participated in the survey are contained in the aggregate division report.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Review the 2015-2016 Search Institute Developmental Assets Survey results and historical trends for an understanding of ACPS student health and well-being. Based on the results, develop a set of strategic actions necessary to facilitate change in identified areas.

**IMPACT:**

In the coming weeks ACPS will identify three to four strategic actions to drive change in areas of continued focus for the coming school year. Concurrently, ACPS will work collaboratively with the CYFCC to identify areas and strategic actions the commission may take to continue to act as a change agent in the improvement of outcomes for the young people of Alexandria City.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- (1) Historical Tables Showing Percentage of Youth Reporting External & Internal Assets*
- (2) Division Aggregate Executive Summary & Complete Report*
- (3) George Washington Middle School Executive Summary & Complete Report*
- (4) Francis C. Hammond Middle School Executive Summary & Complete Report*
- (5) T.C. Williams High School Executive Summary & Complete Report*

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer