

SCHOOL DIVISION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. Background

The school division is committed to excellence in education, equality of educational opportunity, and the recognition of each student's individuality. Inasmuch as students differ in their rate of physical, mental, emotional, and social growth and vary in their needs and abilities, learning opportunities are provided that are consistent with personal development and potential. Programs emphasize diagnostic and prescriptive instruction, allowing an individual approach to each student's learning style and educational needs.

The educational program introduces each student to a variety of interest and content areas that offer exposure to the range of opportunities available in later years. These experiences produce the basis for further education, future employment, responsible citizenship, and lifelong learning. As students demonstrate increased maturity, they may assume more responsibility for the decisions regarding their education.

The school environment should be responsive and conducive to learning. The physical environment facilitates and enhances the learning experiences available to each student. A responsive environment includes competent, dedicated teachers using a variety of techniques and a classroom atmosphere where students can function and develop according to their abilities. Safety, physical comfort, and appearance also are vital environmental components.

Teaching and learning are about problem solving. Education is the process by which teachers and learners are put in the best possible environment so they can do this together. To be successful, staff must:

- Understand and adhere to our mission, vision, goals, values, and core beliefs,
- Know our community, its history and its ability to shape the future,
- Develop and enhance our organizational resources and reach,
- Provide leadership in the area of our expertise and work effectively with others, and
- Work continually to capture the attention and earn the trust and respect of our community.

The Strategic Plan through its Vision, Mission, Goals, and Core Values positions the Division to meet challenges that our students and other customers, our organization, and our community face in the future.

B. Vision

All learners believe in their power to embrace learning, to excel, and to own their future.

C. Mission

Albemarle County Public Schools' core purpose is to establish a community of learners and learning, through relationships, relevance, and rigor, one student at a time¹.

D. Goals

INTRODUCTION

The Albemarle County Public Schools exists and functions for the benefit of its students. Therefore, in partnership with our families and community, we have a responsibility to ensure that all children of Albemarle County have equal educational opportunities and, through our curriculum and programs, to create an environment in which teaching and learning are challenging, dynamic, and comprehensive.

The goals of Albemarle County Public Schools are grounded in the understanding that the aim of education is personal growth: the development of individual talents, abilities, and values; the acquisition of knowledge; and the pursuit of understanding. Education is essential for intellectual, moral, social, emotional, and aesthetic development that allows students to be responsible members of a democratic society and enjoy a better quality of life. The Albemarle County Public Schools will nurture a climate that promotes trust, idea sharing, and sensitivity to student needs and ensures a healthy environment for intellectual development for all children.

Education is a process that extends throughout one's life. Albemarle County Public Schools recognize that a commitment to education entails a commitment to lifelong learning. For this reason, teachers and students have a common responsibility to strengthen their intellectual skills and nurture individual understanding. In presenting our philosophy, we fully understand that our success as a Division will be determined by what we do.

Albemarle County Public Schools has identified one strategic goal and five supporting objectives to advance the Division's focus. This goal and objectives support the Division to become more focused on core work; more diverse in its delivery structure; broader in its approach to teaching and learning; and, more stable and relevant within the various communities with which staff interacts.

By accomplishing the following goal and objectives, the Division will better assist all students to achieve high levels of learning and to pursue their dreams for their future:

Our One Student-Centered Goal

All Albemarle County Public Schools students will graduate having actively mastered the skills they need to succeed as 21st century learners, workers, and citizens.

¹ The notion of one student at a time is quoted from Eliot Levine's book titled One Kid at a Time (2002)

Our Objectives

The following five objectives represent our commitments for how we intend to achieve our one student-centered goal.

1. We will engage every student.

ACPS will engage every student in meaningful, authentic and rigorous work through the use of instructional best practices and supportive technologies that will motivate students to be self-directed and inquisitive [lifelong learners](#).

2. We will implement balanced assessments.

ACPS will implement a [balanced assessment system](#) that accurately reflects student demonstration and mastery of our [Lifelong-Learner Competencies](#).

3. We will improve opportunity and achievement.

ACPS will improve [lifelong-learning](#) opportunity and achievement for all students and enrollment groups.

4. We will create and expand partnerships.

ACPS will create and expand partnerships with parents, community and business leaders to fulfill their essential roles as actively engaged partners in supporting student achievement and [lifelong-learning](#) outcomes for student success.

5. We will optimize resources.

ACPS will optimize all resources to achieve the school division's strategic goal and [lifelong-learning](#) outcomes for student success.

Indicators to provide evidence of progress toward each goal's attainment are found on the Division's web site and updated semi-annually. In addition, the School Board will receive a yearly report on the status of the Division's curricula. At such time, the School Board will approve any substantive changes to curricular documents.

E. Division Core Values

The Division's core values represent those essential to developing young adults who think critically, solve problems, and use their minds in skillful ways that prepare them for their future. The core values of the Albemarle County Public Schools make a critical statement about the commitment of the organization to creating a community of

respect and learning excellence for all young people so that they will achieve at the highest levels possible.

EXCELLENCE. We believe in meaningful learning that stretches people to the frontiers and boundaries of their abilities.

YOUNG PEOPLE deserve the best we have to offer. Each individual child is capable and has the right to safety, mutual respect, and learning.

COMMUNITY. We believe in our collective responsibility to work together in a cooperative effort to achieve common goals by building communities of practice, establishing a high quality learning community, and listening to the community.

RESPECT. We treat all individuals with honor and dignity.

F. Lifelong-Learner Competencies

The Division has identified 12 Lifelong-Learner Standards that set expectations for how students develop a wide variety of knowledge, understanding, and skills. The Lifelong-Learner Standards serve as a guide for teachers as they develop units, lessons, and tasks. These standards articulate the necessary components of lifelong learning that allow all students to succeed as members of a global community and in a global economy. The Lifelong-Learner Standards are overarching process-based standards, not discrete fact-based standards that can be addressed in a single lesson or even a single unit. These standards demand attention over time and across all disciplines.

Lifelong learning places emphasis on results. To develop the skills and habits associated with lifelong learning, students must: learn beyond the simple recall of facts; understand the connections to and implications of what they learn; retain what they learn; and be able to apply what they learn in new contexts.

- Plan and conduct research.
- Gather, organize, and analyze data, evaluate processes and products; and draw conclusions.
- Think analytically, critically, and creatively to pursue new ideas, acquire new knowledge, and make decisions.
- Understand and apply principles of logic and reasoning; develop, evaluate, and defend arguments.
- Seek, recognize, and understand systems, patterns, themes, and interactions.
- Apply and adapt a variety of appropriate strategies to solve new and increasingly complex problems.
- Acquire and use precise language to clearly communicate ideas, knowledge, and processes.
- Explore and express ideas and opinions using multiple media, the arts, and technology.
- Demonstrate ethical behavior and respect for diversity through daily actions and decision making.

- Participate fully in civic life, and act on democratic ideals within the context of community and global interdependence.
- Understand and follow physically active lifestyle that promotes good health and wellness.
- Apply habits of mind and metacognitive strategies to plan, monitor, and evaluate one's own work.

G. Standards of Quality and Objectives

The School Board accepts the overall goals of public education as expressed by the Standards of Quality legislated by the Virginia General Assembly and implemented by State Board of Education regulations.

The School Board reports its compliance with the Standards of Quality to the Board of Education annually. The report of compliance is submitted to the Board of Education by the chairman of the Board and the Superintendent.

H. Standards of Quality--Programs and Services

The School Board commits itself to providing programs and services as stated in the Standards of Quality only to the extent funding thereof is provided by the General Assembly.

Adopted: July 1, 1993

Amended: October 9, 1995; March 24, 1997; April 6, 1998; November 8, 1999;
May 26, 2005; December 8, 2011; June 26, 2014; August 8, 2019

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:8

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