

MEMORANDUM

TO: APS School Board  
CC: Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent; Dr. Gerald Mann, Chief Academic Officer  
FROM: Jenny Roahen Rizzo, Vice Chair - Subcommittees, ACTL  
RE: **4 final ACTL subcommittee recommendations, School Year 2024-25**  
DATE: April 4, 2025

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Attached please find final recommendations from the following ACTL subcommittees. If the subcommittee made substantive changes to their document after meeting with the School Board in work sessions, those changes are highlighted in **yellow** or **blue**.

Other ACTL subcommittees are continuing to work on their final recommendations and will submit them by the end of the school year.

<b>Advanced Academics &amp; Talent Development Advisory Committee</b>	
Co-chairs: Mary Wierzbicki, John Schaus  Staff liaison: Cheryl McCullough	<b>Recommendation #1:</b> Ensure that all APS school actions plans and principals' evaluations include measurable metrics for at least one year of academic growth each year for all students.  <b>Recommendation #2:</b> Faithful implementation of full complement of middle school intensified courses: 6 <sup>th</sup> grade Disciplinary Literacy and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade World Geography.
<b>Early Childhood Advisory Committee</b>	
Chair: Kate McKenney  Staff liaisons: Elaine Perkins, Cameron Childs	<b>Recommendation:</b> Understand barriers to Virginia Preschool Initiative enrollment, particularly in Title 1 schools, to meet community needs and increase participation, reducing early achievement gaps.
<b>Social Studies Advisory Committee</b>	
Chair: Nathaniel Green Vice chair: Anjy Cramer  Staff liaison: Christine Joy	<b>Recommendation #1:</b> That the School Board make specific instruction on hand-written note-taking a top priority for Social Studies courses, both for in class lectures and out-of-class reading assignments, beginning in 8 <sup>th</sup> grade when all students take World Geography. APS should make appropriate resources available to Social Studies faculty to teach effective note-taking. While APS should permit considerable flexibility in the instruction, substantive instruction on handwritten notes should be integrated into the curriculum each year, throughout the academic year, in every Social Studies class.  <b>Recommendation #2:</b> That the School Board align the 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> grade social studies curriculum to the course sequence defined in VDOE's 2023 History and Social Studies Standards of Learning.
<b>Student Services Advisory Committee</b>	
Chair: Dana Milburn  Staff liaison: Dr. Darrell Sampson	<b>Recommendation:</b> Ensure that every APS school has at least one full-time social worker and one full-time school psychologist, as required by the 2024 APS Planning Factors Study Final Recommendations, Slide 10, by hiring an additional 5.3 elementary school social workers and 4 elementary school psychologists.