



The School Board was pleased to receive recommendations from the remaining four ACTL subcommittees on February 25, 2025: Advanced Academics, Student Services, Social Studies, and Early Childhood. The School Board also heard updates on the work ACTL is doing and the Advisory Committee Working Group. We thank the leadership of ACTL, our subcommittee chairs and membership, and the staff who support these efforts for the positive and productive commitment to the School Board and for providing us with these useful recommendations.

The memo below sets forth the School Board's response and proposed points of focus for APS based on the recommendations received. Please note that where multiple recommendations were made, not every recommendation may be addressed below.

Advanced Academics: The School Board agrees with the need to support our advanced learners and, at the same time, acknowledges the importance of developing strategies to support and encourage students with disabilities and English learners to participate in intensified classes. The School Board supports the suggestion that principals' evaluations include measurable metrics to reflect progress towards the goal of at least one year of academic growth for all students.

Student Services: The School Board recognizes the value of our social workers and school psychologists. However, budget constraints present a challenge to the recommendation of one FTE per school. As alternatives, the Board supports an equitable approach based on each school's specific needs, in addition to other approaches that support our students' well-being, such as (without limitation) access to affordable after-school programs and mentoring programs

Social Studies: The School Board appreciates the importance of note-taking in all subjects, including social studies, and recognizes it as a valuable skill to be learned, in addition to recognizing the need to provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. Additionally, the Board endorses the importance of international studies, as APS takes pride in fostering global learners and ensuring that students gain an understanding of diverse cultures and histories.

Early Childhood: The School Board supports the committee's recommendations regarding the sliding scale. Additionally, the County Board is actively working on expanding affordable daycare options within the county. During the Pre-CIP process, as building capacity and enrollment projections are reviewed, it is anticipated that some elementary school buildings will have excess capacity. This presents an opportunity to explore whether this available space could be utilized to address the need for early childhood education opportunities in our communities.

ACTL Report:

The School Board greatly appreciates the efforts of Mike Cieslak and the leadership of ACTL. To ensure broader representation, the Board encourages engagement with schools without committee representation to ensure representation of those school communities. Some Subjects for future engagement with ACTL that were discussed include artificial intelligence (AI) and Summer School. Finally, the School Board is committed to continuing the recent trend of responding to the recommendations of ACTL and its subcommittees.

Advisory Committee Working Group:

The School Board is excited to see this work aligning with our strategic plan. ASEAC is currently the only committee required by the Virginia Code; the School Board will endeavor to communicate at the start of each year what assistance from our councils would be helpful and to identify focused questions to help guide work plans. We continue to support representation of all perspectives and voices when forming these councils and approving their memberships.