Advanced Academic Program Advisory Committee (AAPAC) Annual Report to the School Board SY 2025–2026

Presented by Cheryl Napoli & Holly Glaser, Co-Chairs

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Agenda

- Committee Charge
- Background Information
- Key Findings
  - Strengths and Challenges of Full-time AAP delivery models
- Recommendations
- Previous Year Charge Follow-up

Committee Charge

The 2020 external review of identification practices for Full-Time Advanced Academics recommended the division expand Local Full-Time AAP services into every elementary and middle school over the next five years, with accompanying review and support for high level implementation.

AAPAC will learn about the implementation of the expansion of Local Full-Time service delivery model, the strengths and challenges of the local and center-based delivery models, and consider how the current service delivery models meet (or do not meet) the needs of our advanced learners.

Background Information

- 29 elementary schools are Full-time (FT) AAP Centers.
- 109 elementary schools offer at least one year of Local FT AAP, with 66 schools who had fully operational local programs before the 2020 external review, and an additional 22 schools with fully operational Local FT programs since that expansion started.

Key Findings

- Offering two delivery models for Full-time advanced academic services (Local and Center programs) provides meaningful benefits for students and families.
- Offering family choice of delivery models remains a significant strength.
- Recommendations address the need for stronger accountability, communication, and additional program evaluation.

Strengths

Strengths of the dual-delivery model:

- Provides meaningful family choice and supports differing needs of families
- Supports diverse learner needs
- Increases access to advanced academic opportunities to all elementary schools
- Allows students to remain in neighborhood schools when desired

Challenges

- Inconsistent implementation measures
- Variability in teacher preparation
- Confusion among families about differences between models
- Limited collaboration opportunities across schools

Recommendation 1:
Collect Reliable Data on Fidelity of Implementation & Student Outcomes

Expand the current Fidelity of Implementation tool to include objective measures:

- Track teacher certification, student growth, and student experience.
- Provide targeted support for schools that show need
- Monitor longitudinal outcomes

Recommendation 2:

Invest in Teacher Capacity for Working with Advanced Learners

- Incentivize AAP endorsement and certification.
- Expand funding for coursework done outside contract hours.
- Increase integration of professional learning about advanced learner's academic and social-emotional needs.

Recommendation 3:

Improve Communication about & Positioning of the Full-Time AAP Delivery Models

- Emphasize that the options are to ensure "best fit for student need."
- Clarify similarities, differences, and grouping practices at both Local and Center options for students and families.
- Expand feeder/center and/or pyramid orientations

Recommendation 4:
Strengthen Collaboration Among Full-Time AAP Teachers & Schools

- Increase collaboration across schools and programs providing Full-time AAP services.
- Share best practices system-wide.
- Build time on professional learning days for both vertical and horizontal collaboration for Local and Center Full-time teachers.

Recommendation 5:
Conduct Robust Evaluation of Full-Time AAP

- Conduct a robust review of Local and Center Full-time programs, externally if budget allows.
- Gather stakeholder feedback.
- Establish ongoing monitoring and continuous improvement processes.

2024-2025 Charge Follow-Up

AAPAC will learn more about the Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) options for FCPS high school students, including analyzing access, participation rates, and numbers of student exams in order to make recommendations about effective practices and possible areas for improvement.

Improved Academic Planning and Access

- FCPS AP/IB comparison tool now includes Dual Enrollment (DE) opportunities
- Improved course planning, expanding use of Naviance into early middle school course planning to support students accessing HS credit courses

2024-2025 Charge Follow-Up

Expanding Advanced Coursework Options

- AP Seminar English 10 offered in all AP high schools and 1 IB high school.
- AP Business Principles and AP Cybersecurity approved for SY 26-27
- Pilot IB/DE Business Management course approved for SY 26-27
- Working with NOVA to expand DE options

Building Teacher Capacity

- Teacher credentialing cohort established at Radford University for Mathematics
- Teacher credentialing cohort established at George Mason University for History
- Expansion of training on AP/IB Exam Workbooks, and College Board Instructional Planning Reports