ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General laws, Chapter 30A, Section 20, notice is hereby given for the following meeting of the:

Arlington School Committee Curriculum Instruction Accountability and Assessment Monday, June 2, 2025 3:30 PM

> In person: Arlington Public Schools District Office 14 Mill Brook Drive 2nd Floor, School Committee Room Arlington, MA 02476

> > Via Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89762700457

Open Meeting (L. Exton)

OMS Civics Project - Student Presentation

Heterogeneous Grouping Initiative Update

• AHS Grade 9 Heterogeneous Subcommittee Mtg 250512

Student Services Review Update

• APS Student Services Review Update_Preview

District Goals 2025-2026 DRAFT

• District Goals Status Update 2024-25 - 2025-26 Goals Draft Minutes from May 12, 2025 meeting for approval

• CIAA Draft Minutes May 12, 2025

Future Agenda Items

Schedule Future Meetings

Adjournment (L. Exton)

The listings of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Stated times and time amounts, listed in parenthesis, are the estimated amount of time

for that particular agenda item. Actual times may be shorter or longer depending on the time needed to fully explore the topic.

Submitted by L. Exton

Massachusetts law requires all open session meetings of public bodies to be accessible to members of the public, including those with disabilities. If you need reasonable accommodations in order to participate in the meeting, contact the Administrative Assistant to the Arlington School Committee Liz Diggins at ediggins@arlington.k12.ma.us.



Meeting Location - Hybrid

Summary:

In person: Arlington Public Schools District Office 14 Mill Brook Drive 2nd Floor, School Committee Room Arlington, MA 02476

Via Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89762700457



Open Meeting (L. Exton)



OMS Civics Project - Student Presentation



Heterogeneous Grouping Initiative Update

Summary:

• AHS Grade 9 Heterogeneous Subcommittee Mtg 250512

ATTACHMENTS:

Type File Name

Description

AHS Grade 9
Presentation AHS_Grade_9_Heterogeneous_School_Cte._Mtg_250512_(2).pdf Heterogeneous School
Cte. Mtg 250512 (2)



Heterogeneous Grade 9 English

School Committee Meeting - June 2, 2025

Historical Timeline, 2020-2025



2020-21 Heterogeneous Grouping during remote instruction. Interest from teachers and some community members to explore expansion options.

2021-22 Study Group recommends 2-year pilot

2022

- March 22, Community Forum
- March 28 Community Forum
- April 5 Community Forum
- March 29 Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Accountability Subcommittee
- April 14 School Committee
- October 27 School Committee
- December 21 Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Accountability Subcommittee

2023

- March 30 Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Accountability Subcommittee
- May 22 Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Accountability Subcommittee
- June 15 School Committee
- October 17 School Committee
- December 14 School Committee

2024

• April 25 - School Committee - Recommendation to continue heterogeneous English 9

2025

- May 12 Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Accountability Subcommittee
- June 2 Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Accountability Subcommittee

Outcomes and Evaluation

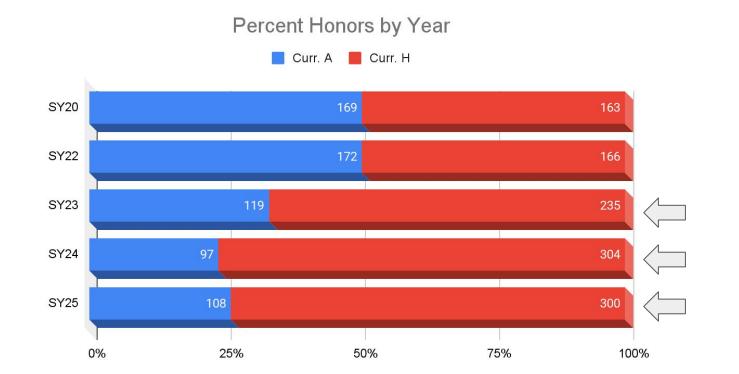


We are looking for equal or better outcomes by level and demographic group for each of the following:

- Honors level participation
- Student grades
- Rigorous Expectations: Pre and post survey (Panorama) of classroom expectations, teacher student relationships, and classroom belonging
- Future enrollment in honors
- Achievement and MCAS scores (long-term impact)

Freshman ELA Percent H at Q3 by Year





Freshman ELA Percent H at Q3 by Year



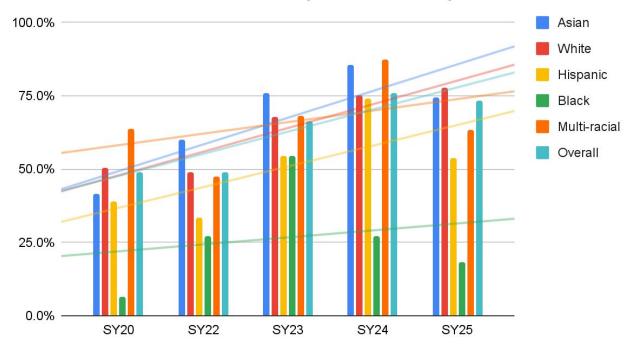
	SY20	SY22	SY23	SY24	SY25
Curr. A	169	172	119	97	108
Curr. H	163	166	235	304	300
Percent H	49.1%	49.1%	66.4%	75.8%	73.5%

Foundations of English Enrollment



Freshman ELA Percent H at Q3 by R/E and Year

Percent Honors by Race/Ethnicity Q3



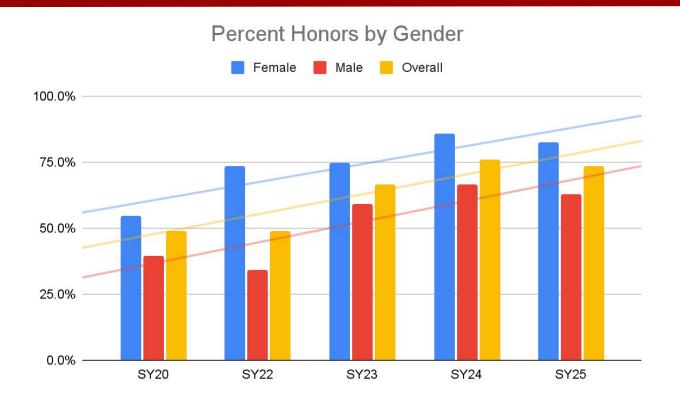
Freshman ELA Percent H at Q3 by R/E and Year



	SY20	SY22	SY23	SY24	SY25
Asian	41.7%	60.0%	75.9%	85.7%	74.4%
White	50.6%	48.9%	67.7%	75.1%	77.9%
Hispanic	38.9%	33.3%	54.5%	74.2%	53.8%
Black	6.3%	27.3%	54.5%	27.3%	18.2%
Multi-racial	63.6%	47.6%	68.2%	87.5%	63.3%
Overall	49.1%	49.1%	66.4%	75.8%	73.5%

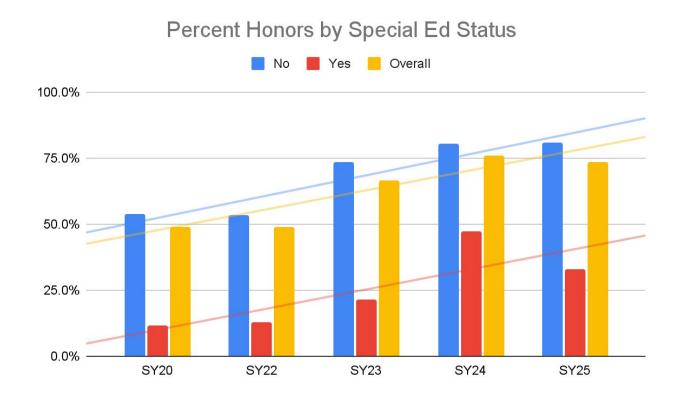
Freshman ELA Percent H at Q3 by Gender and Year

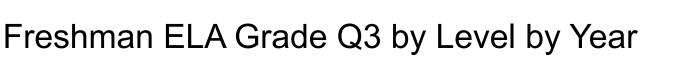




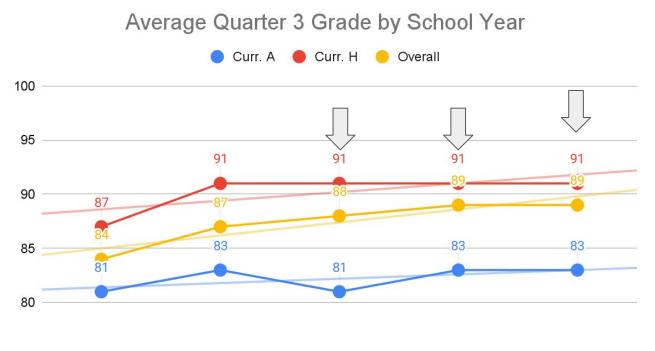
Freshman ELA Percent H at Q3 by IEP and Year

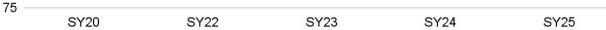














Freshman ELA Grade Q3 by Level by Year

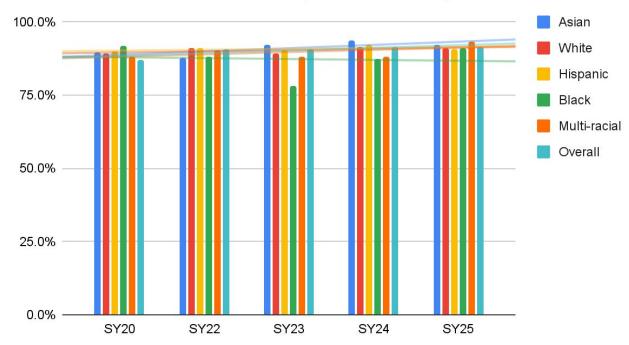
	SY20	SY22	SY23	SY24	SY25
Curr. A	81	83	81	83	83
Curr. H	87	91	91	91	91
Overall	84	87	88	89	89

Foundations of English Grades

Freshman ELA Grade Q3 by R/E by Year

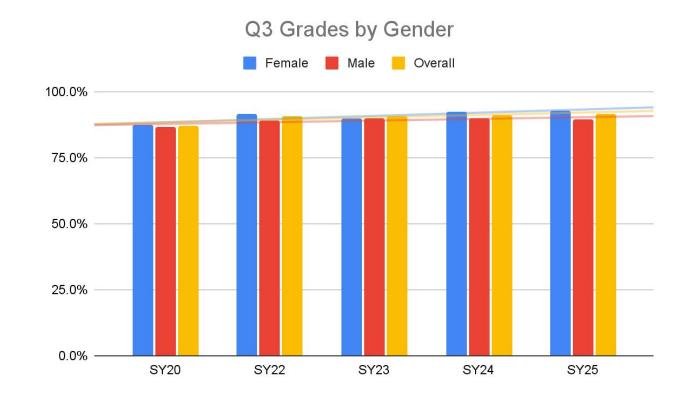


Q3 Grades by Race/Ethnicity



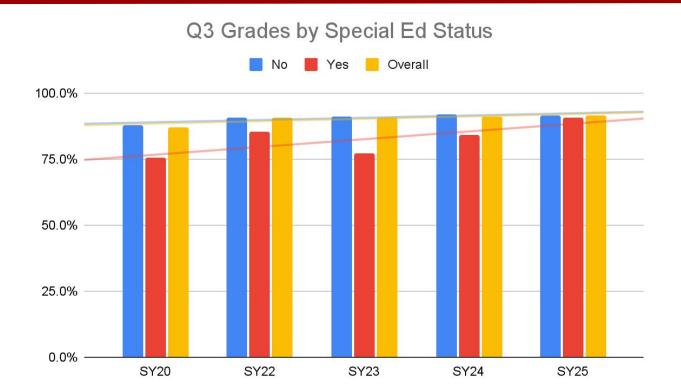


Freshman ELA Grade Q3 by Gender by Year



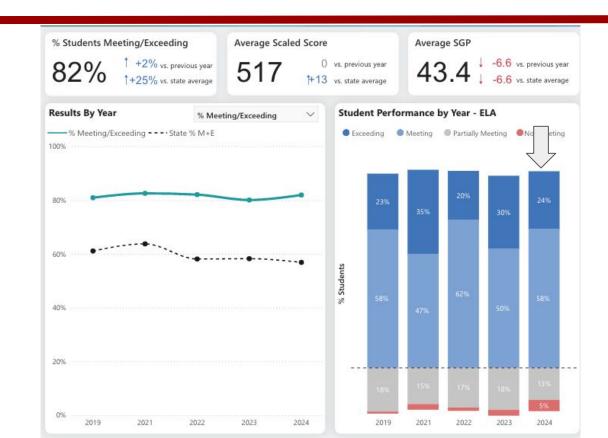
Freshman ELA Grade Q3 by IEP by Year





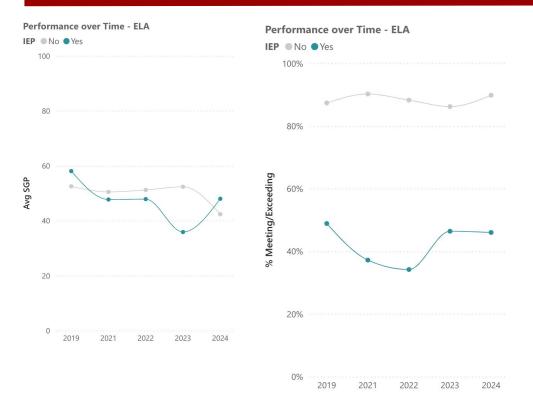


MCAS Levels SY2019 - SY2024



MCAS 2024: How does that work?





Questions arose in 2024 MCAS results when growth trends seemed to contradict achievement trends in year-over-year gap analysis.

- There is an evident improvement in growth for students with IEPs, and a "drop" in growth for students without IEPs.
- Achievement, however, improved for students without IEPs, and looked stable year-over-year for students with IEPs.

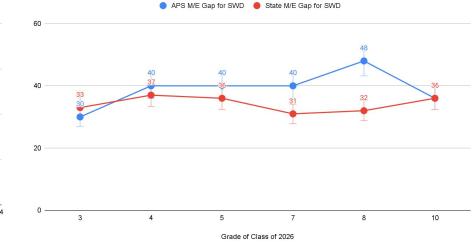
What can explain this? Cohorts and state trends.

MCAS Gaps 2019-2024, Year-over-Year for Students w/IEPs

Gap Trend: APS and State for 10th Grade SWD, 2019-2024

APS M/E Gap for SWD
 State M/E Gap for SWD
 To a state M/E Gap for SWD
 State M/E Gap for SWD
 To a state

APS v. State M/E Gap for Class of 2026



This looks at year-over-year gaps in 10th grade ELA. In this case, you want to see a downward trend (indicates a decreasing gap). In 2021 and 2022, our gap was bigger than the state's gap for students with disabilities. In 2023, grade 10 was within error, and in 2024, the APS gap was the same as the state's achievement gap.

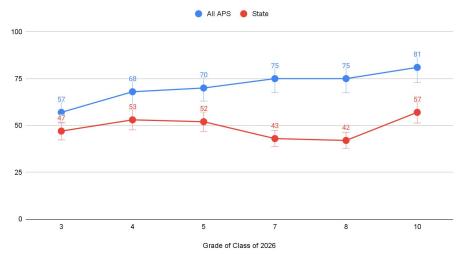
This is the same analysis, but by cohort. It therefore makes sense that the final data point is the same as the graph to the left. This shows that the achievement gap for students with IEPs was lower than the state gap in 3rd grade, widened relative to the state (the state had a narrower achievement gap) as they moved through grades 4-8, and was the same as the state gap for students w/IEPs in Grade 10.



MCAS Outcomes 2019-2024, Cohort Analysis for Class of 2026, All & Ss w/IEPs

PONDES

Overall Outcomes v. State, Class of 2026



Ss w/IEPs Outcomes v. State, Class of 2026

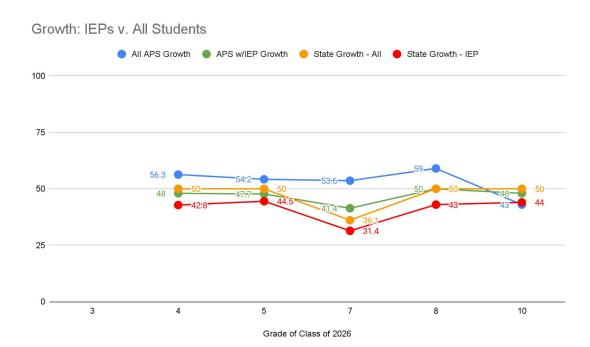


This shows overall outcomes in ELA for the Class of 2026. Overall cohort outcomes in ELA have steadily improved for Class of 2026 as a whole, while statewide they dipped in middle school with a significant *state* growth jump in 2024 (this is important to understanding the growth curve discrepancy, since growth is a comparison with the state, for the cohort).

For students with IEPs, cohort outcomes dramatically *improved* for Students with IEPs in 10th after a dip in 8th that mirrored a smaller state-wide dip.

MCAS Outcomes 2019-2024, Cohort Analysis for Class of 2026, All & Ss w/IEPs



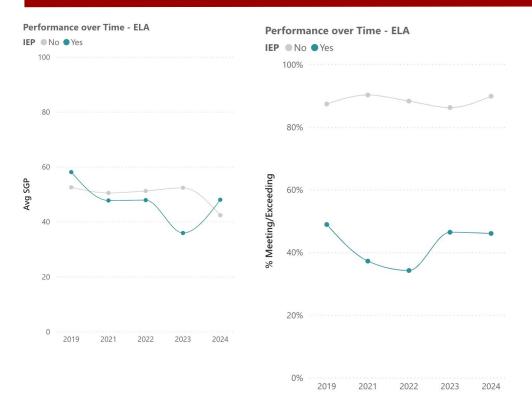


This shows overall growth over time in ELA for the Class of 2026, for both APS and the state, for all students and student with IEPs.

Overall cohort outcomes in ELA have steadily improved for Class of 2026 as a whole, while statewide they dipped in middle school with a significant **state** growth jump in 2024 (this is important to understanding the growth curve discrepancy, since growth is a comparison with the state, for the cohort).

MCAS 2024: How does that work?



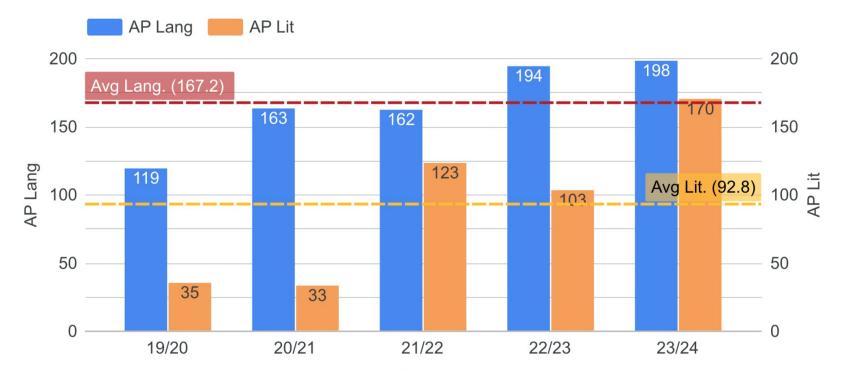


In order to close achievement gaps, growth should be higher for the target group for a sustained period of time.

Lower growth in a given year could be an indicator of several things, and should always be considered alongside cohort and state-level data in order to understand what it is telling us. In this case, it is telling us that improved achievement from 8th to 10th was more significant for students with IEPs than for their classmates - but that does not mean that there was not improved achievement for all students, or each group of students. Analysis of cohort data is required to answer that question.



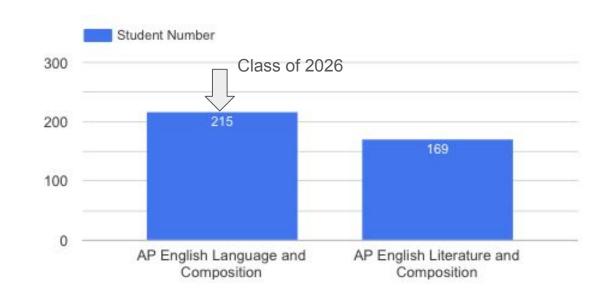
Students Taking AP Lang and AP Lit by Year



Year

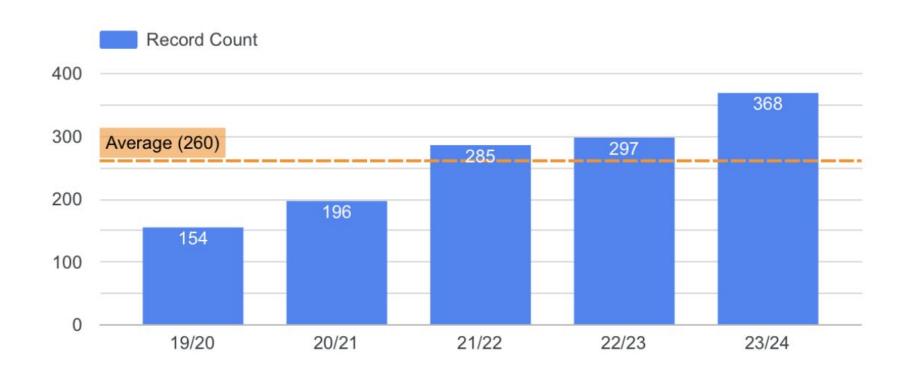


Students Taking AP Lang and AP Lit SY25



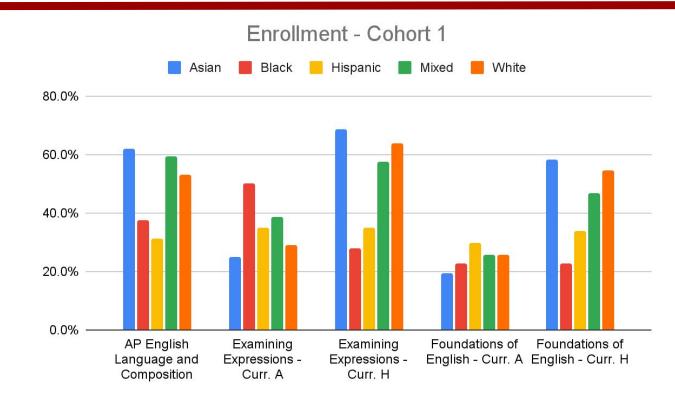
Count of AP Test Takers







Enrollment in ELA Course - Class 2026 Race



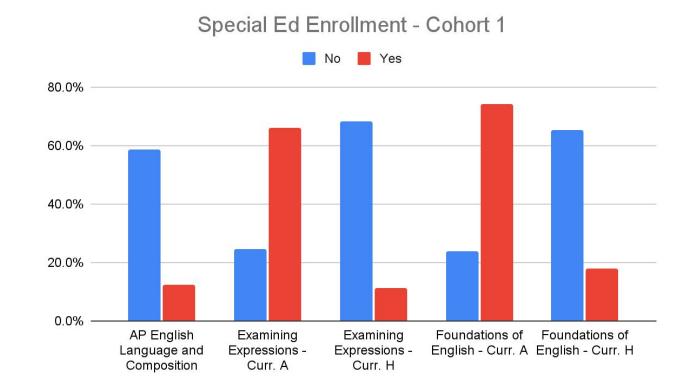


Enrollment in ELA Course - Class 2026 Race

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Mixed	White
AP English Language and Composition	61.8%	37.5%	31.1%	59.3%	53.2%
Examining Expressions - Curr. A	25.0%	50.0%	35.0%	38.5%	29.2%
Examining Expressions - Curr. H	68.8%	27.8%	35.0%	57.7%	63.9%
Foundations of English - Curr. A	19.4%	22.7%	29.8%	25.7%	25.8%
Foundations of English - Curr. H	58.3%	22.7%	34.0%	46.7%	54.4%

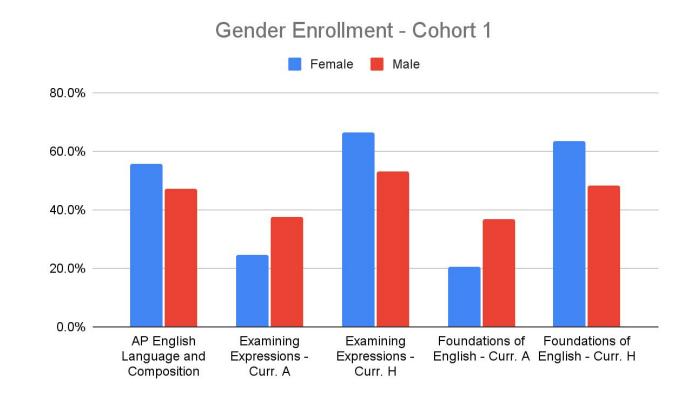


Enrollment in ELA Course - Class of 2026 SpEd



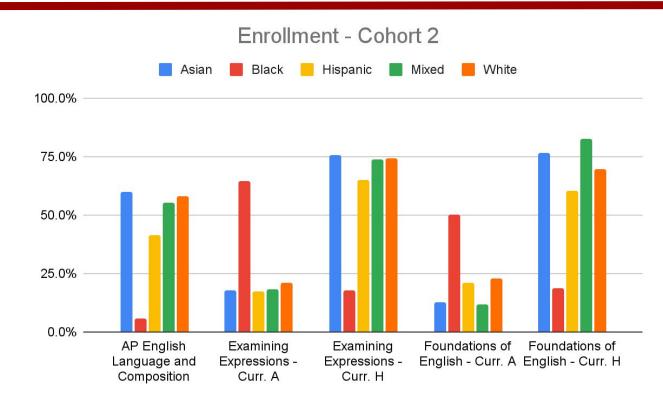


Enrollment in ELA Course - Class of 2026 Gender





Enrollment in ELA Course - Class of 2027 Race



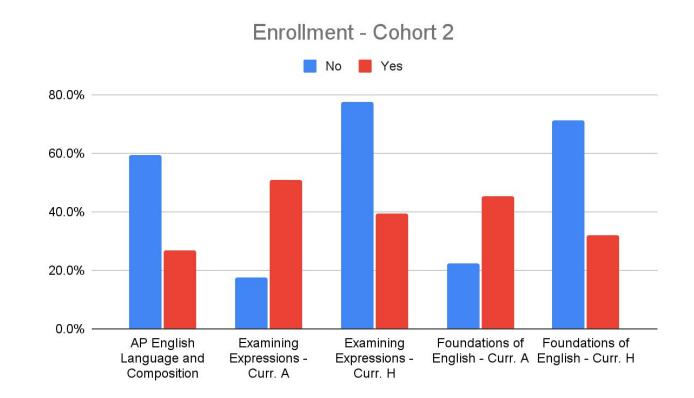


Enrollment in ELA Course - Class of 2027 Race

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Mixed	White
AP English Language and Composition	60.0%	5.9%	41.3%	55.3%	58.1%
Examining Expressions - Curr. A	17.8%	64.7%	17.4%	18.4%	21.0%
Examining Expressions - Curr. H	75.6%	17.6%	65.2%	73.7%	74.2%
Foundations of English - Curr. A	12.8%	50.0%	21.1%	11.8%	23.1%
Foundations of English - Curr. H	76.6%	18.8%	60.5%	82.4%	69.6%

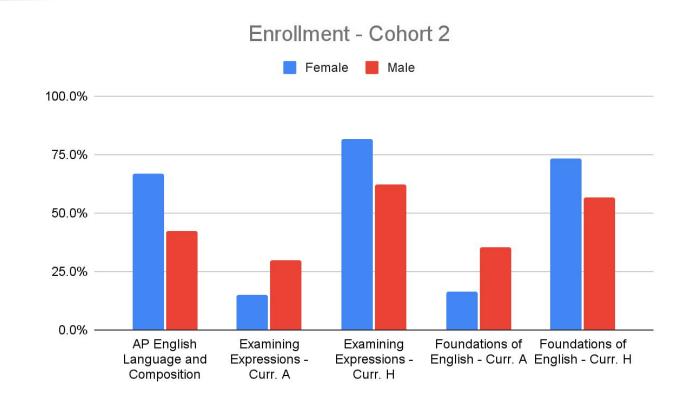


Enrollment in ELA Course - Class of 2027 SpEd





Enrollment in ELA Course - Class of 2027 Gender

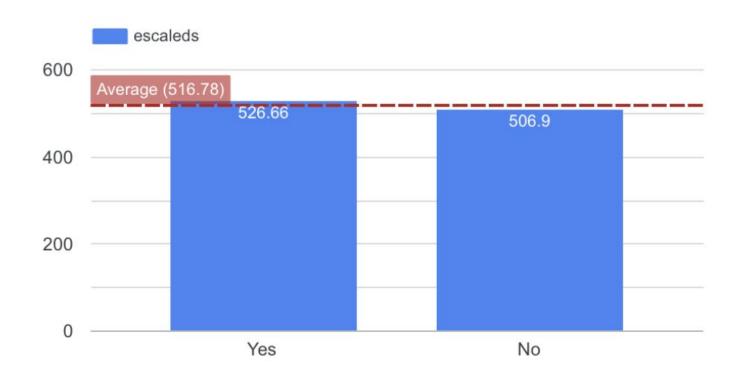


Rough Draft Slides



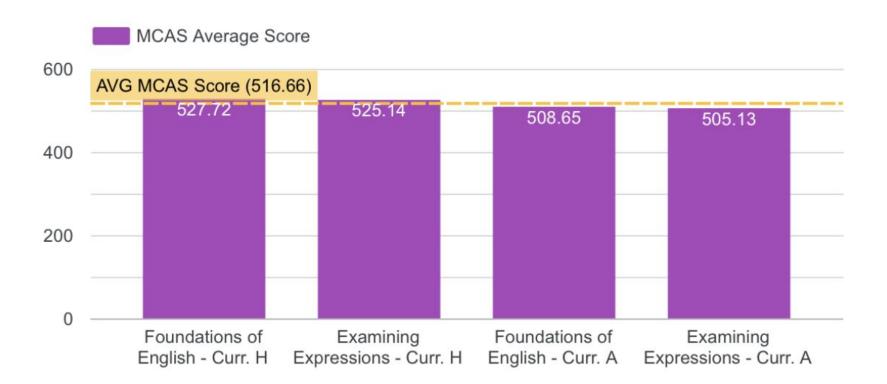
Average MCAS Score of AP Takers





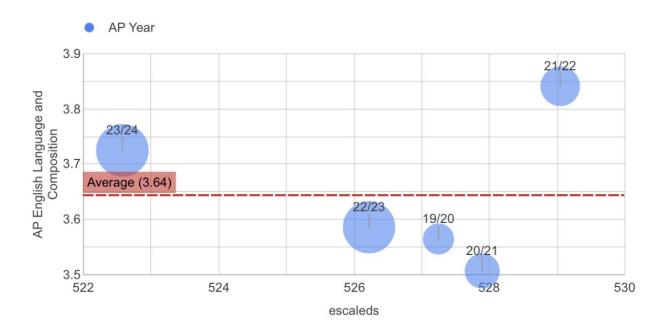
Average MCAS Scores by Course





PON DE

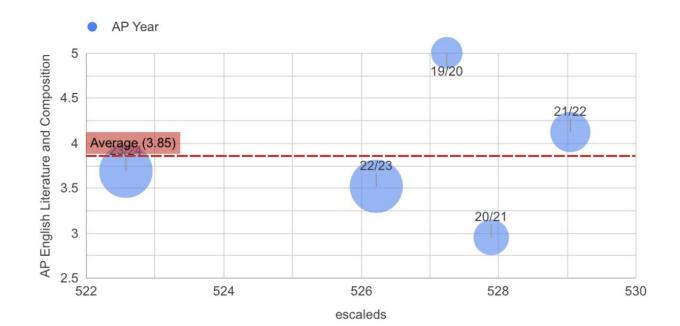
ELA Outcomes - MCAS by AP Lang



Distribution of MCAS Scaled Scores by AP Score

ELA Outcomes - MCAS by AP Lit

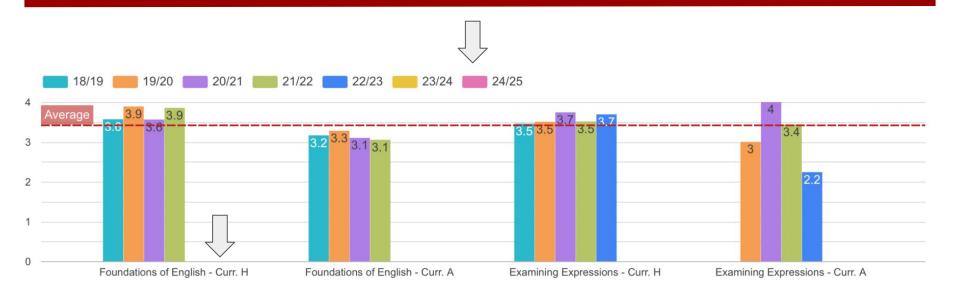




Distribution of MCAS Scaled Scores by AP Score

AP ELA Lang by ELA Course and Year





Avg. AP English Lang. Score per ELA Course Taken over Years

AP ELA Lit by ELA Course and Year





Avg. AP English Lit. Score per ELA Course Taken over Years

WHY "Heterogeneous Grouping?"



- Commitment to inclusion and equity
- Evidence of effectiveness
 - Research
 - Staff, Student, Family feedback
 - AHS experience (existing classes and 20-21 classes)
- Disproportionality (Slide 13)
 - Disproportionate participation rates by race, IEP status, ELL status
 - Tracking impacts
 - Different classroom experiences (rigorous expectations)
- DEI and mindset advantages
 - Growth Mindset Approach (Students & Teachers)
 - Moves from labeling students to labeling the kind of learning
- Familiar practice

Next Steps



- Enlarge the conversation Staff meeting panel, ILT PD planning
- Complete the pilot evaluation
 - Final SY2024 grades
 - Spring Panorama survey
 - Spring Parent survey
 - Teacher feedback
- Future enrollment in honors
- Achievement and MCAS scores (long-term impact)

Resources



- <u>AHS Grade 9 Heterogeneous Staff Mtg 240410</u>
- HGE9 Pilot Parent/Guardian Meeting 2/15/24
- Heterogeneous Grade 9 English Pilot SC 231214 FINAL Fall Data
- Heterogeneous Grade 9 English Pilot SC 230615 Spring Data
- Heterogeneous Grade 9 English Pilot CIAA Presentation 3/29/22
- Heterogeneous Grade 9 English Pilot FAQ 9/22
- English 9 Heterogeneous Pilot Proposal
- Heterogeneous Grouping Initiative Website
- October 2022 Presentation English 9 Heterogenous Pilot
- <u>Snapshot of a heterogeneous classroom</u>
- Quarter 1 2022 English 9 Pilot Data
- <u>December 2022 Presentation English 9 Heterogeneous Pilot</u>
- Semester 1 2022-23 English 9 Pilot Data



Student Services Review Update

Summary:

APS Student Services Review Update_Preview

ATTACHMENTS:

	Туре	File Name	Description
D	Presentation	APS_Student_Services_Review_Update_Preview.pd	f APS Student Services Review Update_Preview



Arlington Public Schools Student Services Review Update and Preview

Liz Homan

June 2, 2025

Why a Review?



Core Purpose of Internally-Commissioned Reviews: Continuous Improvement through Formative Assessment at the District Level

From the APS Strategic Plan:

Major Milestones	<u>Year 1:</u>	<u>Year 2:</u>	<u>Year 3:</u>
	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
Identify and Implement Curricula aligned to Deeper Learning Instructional Vision	Establish curriculum review cycle and identify which curricula will be reviewed when	Implement curriculum	review cycle

Why a Review?



Primary Goal of This Year's Review: Effective Implementation Strategic Plan Initiatives Surrounding MTSS

APS will develop a comprehensive, consistent, clear, and well-communicated MTSS. This framework is designed to meet the needs of all students by ensuring that schools make evidence-driven decisions, monitor progress and usefulness of supports for students, and use evidence-based supports and strategies with appropriate – and if necessary, increasing – intensity to sustain student growth.

MTSS is not just a list of structured interventions, but rather a cohesive system for the procedures and resources in a school to fit together to ensure a high quality education for all students. Benefits of an effective MTSS include:

- Consistent structures and effective implementation across schools.
- Increased achievement and opportunities of students across focal groups.
- Provision of precise supports to students in the areas they most need them.
- Ability for all students who need it to receive needed evidence-based intervention while ensuring access to aligned Tier 1 programming.
- Provision of enrichment and challenge to students in academic domains where they demonstrate proficiency.

Why a Review?



Secondary Goal of This Year's Review: Effective Implementation of Contract Provisions

3. Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, for scheduling purposes and in all classrooms, the number of students with IEPs should not exceed 50% of the total number of students in the class. This includes co-taught classrooms but does not include sub-separate special education programs, small group special education classes, small group general intervention classes, and Menotomy Preschool.

Findings Preview



In particular, our interviews and review of materials noted that the interviewees would like to see the following:

- the development of responsive and thoughtful programs that enable as many students with disabilities as possible to be successful within District schools;
- strong, consistent practices and protocols that enable the special education process to work more effectively and efficiently for students, staff, and families;
- commitment to a culture of collaboration, curiosity, and mutual respect across the district in which to create options and opportunities for students;
- identification of solutions that would offer Arlington students a wider range of special education and general education programming options that would, in turn, provide more opportunities for students to remain directly supported by and actively involved in the Arlington Public Schools; and
- clear and flexible guidelines for implementing the collective bargaining language dealing with caseloads and the 50% of a class provisions.

Recommendations Preview



Clarity of Programming, Roles, and Responsibilities in Special Education Structures:

- Provide clarity surrounding roles and responsibilities of different leadership roles in making special education determinations and taking part in the special education process;
- Ensure consistent implementation of expectations in the IEP Team Process;
- Articulate the continuum of services in writing for the broader community;

Assertive and Clear Articulation of the District's Approach to Inclusion, with ongoing Professional Learning:

- Provide professional development regarding tiered interventions, inclusion expectations, disability categories, and options for providing individualized services to students;
- Reaffirm the district's vision for both a robust MTSS and a responsive and accepting inclusion model, with clarity about the similarities and differences between the inclusion models the district supports;
- Clear and accountable plan for implementation of plan to increase inclusion across system

What's Next?



Bill Lupini and Cyndy Taymore

- Ribas Consultants, and
- Former Superintendents, Collaborative Executive Directors, and Public School Special Education Administrators,

Will join Regular School Committee Meeting to present full review on June 17, 2025

The District will (or already has):

- Share the report with the APS community, along with our planned steps in response, following the presentation on June 17th;
- Align 2025-26 Goals to recommendations from the report;
- Plan professional learning for to support action on recommendations; and
- Return to this document to inform and reflect on the effectiveness of action steps over the next few years.



District Goals 2025-2026 DRAFT

Summary:

• District Goals Status Update 2024-25 - 2025-26 Goals Draft

ATTACHMENTS:

	Туре	File Name	
۵	Goals	District_Goals_Status_Update_2024-25 _2025-26_Goals_Draft_(2).pdf	

Description

District Goals Status Update 2024-25 - 2025-26 Goals Draft (2)

2025-26 District Goals and Objectives	 Central Office Department(s) 	 Strategic Priority Alignment
Goal #1: APS will improve the experiential outcomes (as measured by climate and culture surveys) and academic outcomes (as measured by MCAS achievement and growth) of students in focal groups through a focus on major instructional priorities, implementation of curriculum and practices aligned with deeper learning, by:	Teaching and Learning	PRIORITY 1: EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY
Implementing a revised DCAP/MTSS plan and providing professional learning to all educators district- wide on the MTSS/DCAP plan and framework.	Teaching and Learning, Student Services, "Excellence, Access, and Opportunity"	1.3 Implementing Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
Facilitating a working group of APS stakeholders to research and propose equitable and accessible math course pathway options for grades 6-12 and any other recommendations from the committee with regards to schedules, structures, resources, or adjustments needed PreK-12.	Teaching and Learning, Superintendent's Office	1.1 Instructional Vision and Coherence, 4.3 Communication and Partnership
Implementing common protocols for use in adult collaborative time such as ACE, SST, and ILT, and providing teachers with opportunities to engage with student-level data as a routine practice in adult learning as a core component of these protocols.	Teaching and Learning, Student Services, "Excellence, Access, and Opportunity"	2.2 Reimagining Professional Learning, 1.1 Instructional Vision and Coherence, 1.2 Student Belonging and Adult Support
Goal #2: Establish and support a "culture of learning" among APS Staff that encourages collaboration across roles and with families, values innovation, and prioritizes coherence for individuals and groups, by:	Human Resources	PRIORITY 2: VALUING ALL STAFF
Implementing the terms of new bargaining agreements that call for more supportive onboarding and ongoing professional learning for paraprofessionals and clerical staff / administrative assistants;	Human Resources, Superintendent's Office, Teaching and Learning, Student Services	2.3 Competitive Compensation, 2.2 Reimagining Professional Learning, 2.1 Pathway to Teaching Programs
Implementing professional development focused on Tier 1 instruction that strengthens system-wide coherence by incorporating opportunties for educator choice and opportunties for collaboration across schools and departments.	Teaching and Learning, Student Services, "Excellence, Access, and Opportunity"	2.2 Reimagining Professional Learning, 1.1 Instructional Vision and Coherence
Goal #3: Implement a systematic approach to operational functions of the district, including budget planning and implementation, capital improvements, and day-to-day response to operational challenges, by:	Finance and Operations	PRIORITY 3: OPERATIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY
Implementing the APS Instructional Technology and Space Vision & Guiding Principles and Plan	Finance and Operations, Teaching and Learning	1.2 Student Belonging and Adult Support, 3.1 Inclusive and Modern Spaces and Operations
Establishing effective Central Office Workflows to enhance operational accountability, with an explicit focus on improving the connections between finance, human resources, and payroll to ensure effective data practices.	Finance and Operations, Human Resources, Superintendent's Office	3.3 Enhanced Facility Stewardship, 3.1 Inclusive and Modern Spaces and Operations
Implementing and adjusting as necessary operational procedures developed in 2024-25 for reporting facility needs, establishing rental formulas, ensuring building safety, and responding to emergency situations.	Finance and Operations, Superintendent's Office	4.3 Communication and Partnership, 3.3 Enhanced Facility Stewardship
Goal #4: Establish ongoing partnerships with families through implementation of protocols for effective communication and development of priority-aligned partnerships with Town and parent organizations, by:	Communications and Family Engagement	PRIORITY 4: PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES
Implementing protocols and templates developed in Winter-Spring 2025 for family communication, including district-wide professional learning for educators on communication and two-way partnership with families.	Communications and Family Engagement, Superintendent's Office, Teaching and Learning, Student Services	1.2 Student Belonging and Adult Support, 4.2 Welcome Center and Registration, 4.3 Communication and Partnership
Sustaining and further developing partnerships across Town agencies and Town-wide parent organizations to make resources more visible, available, and accessible for APS Families, and provide for consistency where it is appropriate and aligned with district priorities to do so.	Communications and Family Engagement, Finance and Operations	3.1 Inclusive and Modern Spaces and Operations, 4.1 Access to Before- and After-School Services, 3.2 Healthy Meals for All
Supporting school implementation of strategies to support partnerships with families, including rollout of stipend-based school-family liaisons, initial rolloout of ParentSquare, implementation of new resources to support welcoming families new to APS, and school-based family resource sites.	Communications and Family Engagement, Student Services	4.2 Welcome Center and Registration, 4.3 Communication and Partnership



Minutes from May 12, 2025 meeting for approval

Summary:

• CIAA Draft Minutes May 12, 2025

ATTACHMENTS:

- Туре File Name Description D
 - CIAA_Draft_Minutes_May_12__2025_(2).pdf CIAA Draft Minutes May 12, 2025 (2) Minutes

Arlington School Committee Curriculum Instruction Accountability and Assessment Subcommittee Meeting Monday, May 12, 2025 3:30 PM

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members: Liz Exton, Paul Schlichtman , Len Kardon Other Committee members: Jane Morgan, Laura Gitelson Administration: Dr. Homan, Dr. Ford-Walker, Dr. Janger, Ms. Cooney, Mr. Spiegel Members of the Public: Cheryl Miller, Stephanie Form-Weems

Liz Exton opened the meeting at 3:34pm.

Heterogeneous Grouping Initiative Update

Presentation postponed to June 2 as slides and data received did not meet the subcommittee's requests. Subcommittee clarified expectations for the presentation.

Question from Dr. Homan: What is the purpose of the presentation?

Subcommittee Response: Where are we going next? Is the "intervention" working? Presentation should include:

- data for focal groups (enrollments, normed by cohort size (eg. slide 15, etc))
 - Q from admin: Does that include signup for AP for next year? A: Yes
 - AP Participation rate
 - 10th grade honors enrollment
 - MCAS data
- norming of data by cohort size
- MCAS data for focal groups; analysis on the Meets/Exceed % drop vs. the SGP increase
- panorama data/survey broken out by focal group

Discussion and Possible Vote of Approval - Job Descriptions

- Multimedia Production Teacher Job Description 2025
- Motion to recommend job description for approval by the full committee by Paul, second by Len.
- Voted 3-0 in favor. .

District Goals

- District Goals Status, 2024-2025
 - Most items are in progress.
 - Good structure for presentation.
 - Suggestion to rate level of progress, eg: substantial progress vs. some progress

- District Goals DRAFT 2025-26
 - Subcommittee members gave feedback on structure and specific details.
 - Schedule for approval by full committee: May 29th full committee first read, June 2 CIAA fine tuning, June 4 full committee final read, possible vote.

Future Agenda Items

June 2 meeting, 3:30pm

- Heterogeneous Grouping Initiative
- DEIBJ HOLD
- District Goals fine tune/final read
- Student Services Review presentation

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn Motion by Paul, seconded by Len. 3-0 vote in favor of adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 4:37pm.



Future Agenda Items



Schedule Future Meetings



Adjournment (L. Exton)



Submitted by L. Exton