

The Smaller Learning Communities (SLC) grant awarded from the U.S. Department of Education to Anne Arundel County Public Schools to restructure five high schools into smaller units, or Smaller Learning Communities. The goals of the project are to enhance academic achievement, increase academic rigor and student achievement and create a better school climate.

AACPS Goals Compared to SLC Grant Goals

County Goals	How Addressed in SLC Grant
<b>Goals #1: Academic Achievement</b>	
85% of students in grades 2,4,6, and 8 will be performing at the "proficient" level in reading, math, and writing, as defined by the MSDE in compliance with <i>No Child Left Behind</i> (the ESEA Reauthorization).	The SLC grant focuses at the high-school level.
45% of eighth grade students enrolling in and successfully completing Algebra I.	Addressed by retention objectives (see bottom of chart)
20% of eleventh grade students competing in regional, state and /or national co-curricular competitions.	The percentage of students participating in extracurricular activities will increase by 20%
40% of high school seniors will have completed at least one advanced placement course and 70% of those students will perform at a level of 3 or better.	The percentage of students enrolled in and passing Advanced Placement courses will increase by 30%. The percentage of students who take classes for which they receive both high school and college credit will increase by 20%.
75% of high school students will take the SAT, and the average scores will increase by 5%.	The percentage of students taking the SAT will increase by 25%, their average scores will increase by 15 points.
90% of special education students will earn a Maryland high school diploma.	Not specifically addressed.
Disparities based on race, gender, or socio-economic status will be no greater than 10 percentage points on all academic measures.	All of the objectives address this goal.
<b>Goals #2: Safe and Orderly Environment</b>	
95% of respondents on an annual climate survey will indicate that they feel safe at school and believe students are well-behaved.	The number of incidences of school violence will decrease by 50%. The number of disciplinary actions will decrease by 50%. The number of reported incidences of alcohol or drug use will decrease by 50%.
100% of schools will be "safe," in accordance with the definition by MSDE in compliance with the <i>No Child Left Behind Act</i> .	Will comply with MSDE definition.
<b>Goals #3: Community Collaboration</b>	
95% of respondents on an annual survey will indicate that schools communicate effectively and that school environments are welcoming.	The grant aims to create welcoming school environments, communication should be improved by grouping students in smaller units.
In all schools, the number of community/business partnerships and volunteer programs directly supporting academic achievement will increase by 10%.	The grant has a large component of business community involvement as a strategy to reach the above objectives.
<b>SLC Objectives for Retention</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9th grade retention rates will decrease by 30%</li> <li>In schools whose attendance is below the state satisfactory standard, attendance will be at the state satisfactory level of 94%.</li> <li>In schools whose attendance is currently at the state satisfactory standard, attendance will be at the excellent standard of 96%.</li> <li>The dropout rate will decrease to 3%, the Maryland State standard.</li> </ul>	<b>SLC Objectives for Achievement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The percentage of students receiving a D or an E in 9th grade will decrease by 20%.</li> <li>The average GPA will increase to 2.0 among all disaggregated groups.</li> <li>The percentage of students who are academically eligible to participate in extracurricular activities will increase by 25% (to be academically eligible, students must have a 2.0 GPA)</li> <li>The percentage of students who are academically eligible to participate in extracurricular activities will increase by 25% (to be academically eligible, students must have a 2.0 GPA)</li> </ul>

This update is brought to you by the Smaller Learning Communities grant project of the Anne Arundel County Public Schools, 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 674-7710 x277.

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