

1                   **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND EDUCATIONAL EQUITY**  
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3 Alexandria City Public Schools pledges to educate students in an atmosphere of excellence  
4 and educational equity that prepares them for citizenship and ensures they are challenged  
5 to stretch their talents and aspirations. Upon graduation, students may aspire to pursue  
6 college, a career, or independent living. Although educational equity does not mean that  
7 all students will have the same experiences or the same results, it does mean that the  
8 education provided by ACPS will respond to each student’s individual challenges,  
9 interests, and abilities, and that each student will be provided with the tools needed to  
10 excel.

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12 The School Board will provide leadership and resources that support constructive and life-  
13 affirming educational outcomes for our students. Through an individualized approach to  
14 monitoring students’ interests and progress, ACPS will build on the strengths and gifts of  
15 each student.

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17 ACPS believes each student will reach high levels of achievement when supported by a  
18 challenging curriculum, effective instruction, engaging relationships, and an environment  
19 that promotes his or her well-being academically, emotionally, physically, and socially.  
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21 ACPS commits to policies, regulations, and practices that incorporate and are consistent  
22 with the following principles:

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24       • Developmentally responsive educational practices and inclusive learning  
25       environments empower students to perform at high levels. ACPS will maintain and  
26       employees will use differentiated teaching strategies, assessment and other tools  
27       that support students in their learning.
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29       • Educational outcomes are not presumed by income, race, disability, gender, first  
30       language, or family background.
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32       • Access to educational programs, services, and opportunities does not depend on  
33       eligibility criteria other than those prescribed by ACPS policies, or local, state, or  
34       federal law. ACPS employees are expected to be aware of such applicable ACPS  
35       policies and local, state, and federal laws.
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37       • Home, school, and community all play a vital role in student success.
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39       • Providing a challenging educational program to every student with an emphasis on  
40       acceleration of learning opportunities is the responsibility of each administrator,  
41       teacher, and staff member.
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43       • By working together, administrators, teachers, and staff members model  
44       collaborative behavior to improve the quality of learning for all students. Each

45 employee is responsible and accountable for the learning and achievement of all  
46 students and will help build a culture that reinforces this responsibility.

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48 • Employees advocate for the success of each student through program  
49 recommendations and robust communication with students and their families  
50 regarding opportunities for learning.

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52 • Positive educational outcomes are the responsibility of ACPS employees and our  
53 students in partnership with our families and community.

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55 • A focus on the whole child will guide our work with students.

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59 Adopted: September 13, 2012

60 Affirmed: June 11, 2015

61 Amended: May 19, 2016

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63 Cross References: IGBA Programs for Students with Disabilities

64 IGBB Programs for Gifted Students

65 IGBF Limited English Proficient Students

66 IGBGA Online Courses and Virtual School Programs

67 JB Equal Education Opportunities / Non-Discrimination

68 JBA Section 504 Hearing Procedures