

BOARD MEMO

Date: April 21, 2022

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION x

Board Agenda: Yes x

No _____

FROM: Kennetra N. Wood, Executive Director of Equity
Matt Smith, Policy Services Consultant

THROUGH: Julie Crawford, Ed.D, Chief of Student Services and Equity
Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Proposed revisions to the Student Placement Policies

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation

Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

Implementation of Equity Audit of School Board Policies

SUMMARY:

As part of the Board’s continuing Policy Equity Audit, eleven student placement policies and regulations are proposed for creation, revision, or retirement. Red-line changes and additional comments are in the draft policies.

For all policies and regulations:

- Removed gender affirming terms
- Replaced parent with parent/guardian
- Reduced the use of ‘shall’ per VSBA model policy changes
- Added breadcrumbs to other policies
- Rewording and reformatting to improve readability
- Aligned content with VSBA model policies and the Code of Virginia

Policy and regulation specific changes:

- IHB Class Size & IBH-R Regulations Pertaining to Class Size

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- Added Board commitment to small class sizes and equitably meeting the needs of each student.
- Added acknowledgement that physical classroom capacity impacts class size
- Add clarification that accommodations are for active-duty military per the Code of Virginia
- Added that the Superintendent can reduce class size based on student need
- Clarified language about student-teacher ratios per the Code of Virginia

- JCA Transfer by Student Victims of Crime
 - Added definition of Comparable School

- JCB Transfers by Students in Persistently Dangerous Schools
 - Retire policy

- JCJ Classroom Assignments for Twins
 - Update content to reflect the Code of Virginia

- JEB Admission of persons not of school age
 - No changes outside of standard changes

- JEC School Admissions, JEC-R School Admissions Regulations, & JEC-R2 Kindergarten and Grade One Placements
 - Moved content around K and Grade 1 placements to a new regulation R2
 - Added language about 50/50 joint custody
 - Added content from VSBA model policy about support for military families
 - Revised language about actions if a parent cannot provide a birth certificate for the child
 - Added a clause that if ACPS chooses not to admit a student who had been expelled from a different division, that equity was considered in ACPS's decision.
 - Replaces Mortgage Contract with Purchase Settlement Documents
 - Added that the Kinship Care Affidavit must be annually resubmitted per the Code

- JECA – Admission of homeless children
 - Added statement that ACPS does not permit stigmatization for students experiencing homelessness
 - Updated term to ‘students experiencing homelessness’

- JECB – Admission of Nonpublic School Students
 - Added clause the students may participate in JROTC per the Code of Virginia

BACKGROUND:

These policies followed the established Policy Equity Audit Process. As part of these revisions, recommendations from stakeholders, the Policy Equity Audit Team, the Policy Equity Audit School Board Committee #2, and IDRA were considered.

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RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the revisions to the attached student placement policies.

IMPACT:

By auditing policies for equity, the School Board ensures that ACPS's governance is equitable.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. IHB_Class_Size_220421
2. IHB-R_Class_Size_Regulations_220421
3. JCA_Transfer_by_Student_Victims_of_Crime_220421
4. JCB_Transfers_by_Students_in_Persistently_Dangerous_Schools_220421
5. JCJ_Classroom_Assignments_for_Twins_220421
6. JEB_Entrance_Age_Admissions_of_Persons_Not_of_School_Age_220421
7. JEC_School_Admissions_220421
8. JEC-R_School_Admissions_Regulations_220421
9. JEC-R2_Kindergarten_and_Grade_One_Placements_220421
10. JECA_Admission_of_Homeless_Children_220421
11. JECB_Admission_of_Nonpublic_School_Students_220421

REFERENCES: None

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