

## Memorandum

**TO:** ACPS School Board Policy Committee  
**FROM:** Matt Smith, Policy Services Consultant  
**DATE:** August 29, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed Policy Revisions

Staff are proposing revisions to the following policies:

- AF - Comprehensive Plan
- IGAD - Career and Technical Education
- IKFB - Transfer Students and High School Credits
- JECA - Admission of Children Who Are Homeless
- JHCA - Physical Examinations of Students
- JHCB - Student Immunizations
- JHCB-R - ACPS Health Requirements for Registration
- JHCC - Communicable Diseases

These policies have been revised to align with the ACPS Policy Style Guide, aligned with the VSBA model policy and the Code of Virginia, and reviewed by the Equity Audit Team, ACPS staff members, and the Senior Leadership Team

These policies are proposed for information at the September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 Board Meeting.

## Revision Summaries

### AF - Comprehensive Plan

- Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:6 by [HB 319/SB 616](#) (2022) and [HB 1526](#) and SB 1175 (2023).
  - **Virginia Literacy Act; early student literacy; evidence-based literacy instruction; science-based reading research.** Makes several changes relating to early student literacy, including requiring (i) each education preparation program offered by a public institution of higher education or private institution of higher education or alternative certification program that provides training for any individual seeking initial licensure with an endorsement in a certain area, including as a reading specialist, to demonstrate mastery of science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction, as such terms are defined in the bill; (ii) the literacy assessment required of individuals seeking initial teacher licensure with endorsements in certain areas to include a rigorous test of science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction; (iii) each local school board to establish a divisionwide literacy plan; (iv) each local school board to employ one reading specialist for each 550 students in kindergarten through grade three; and (v) each local school board to provide a program of literacy instruction whereby, among other things, (a) the program provides reading intervention services to students in kindergarten through grade

three who demonstrate deficiencies based on their individual performance on the Standards of Learning reading assessment or an early literacy screener provided or approved by the Department of Education; (b) a reading specialist, in collaboration with the teacher of any student who receives such reading intervention services, develops, oversees implementation of, and monitors student progress on a student reading plan; and (c) each student who receives such reading intervention services is assessed utilizing either the early literacy screener provided or approved by the Department or the grade-level reading Standards of Learning assessment again at the end of that school year. The provisions of the bill become effective beginning with the 2024–2025 school year. This bill is identical to [HB 319](#).

- **Student literacy measures; scope; students in grades four through eight.** Expands several provisions of the Virginia Literacy Act, enacted during the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly, effective with the 2024–2025 school year, and currently applicable to students in kindergarten through grade three, to students in grades four through eight, including (i) requiring each local school board to provide a program of literacy instruction to such students that is aligned with science-based reading research and provides evidenced-based literacy instruction; (ii) requiring each local school board to provide reading intervention services to such students who demonstrate substantial deficiencies based on their individual performance on the Standards of Learning reading assessment or a literacy screener provided or approved by the Department of Education; (iii) permitting the reading plan required for certain students in grades six through eight to include a literacy course, in addition to the course required by the Standards of Learning in English, that provides the specific evidence-based literacy instruction identified in such plan; (iv) requiring the Department to develop a list of core literacy curricula, supplemental instruction practices and programs, and intervention programs that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with science-based reading research for such students; (v) requiring each local school board to employ one reading specialist for each 550 students in kindergarten through grade eight; (vi) requiring the Board of Education to provide guidance on and each local school board to provide high-quality professional development and training in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction for certain middle school personnel; and (vii) requiring each divisionwide comprehensive plan to include a divisionwide literacy plan for such students.

#### **IGAD - Career and Technical Education**

- 5-year review
- Standard Changes
- VSBA model policy alignment
- Added a Board Belief statement
- Policy updated to reflect 2019 amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-227.1 by [HB 1729](#)
  - **School counselors; nomenclature; staff time.** Changes the name of guidance counselors to school counselors and requires each school counselor employed by a school board in a public elementary or secondary school to spend at least 80 percent of his staff time during normal school hours in the direct counseling of individual students or groups of students.
- Policy updated to reflect 2019 amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:1 by [HB 2123](#).
  - **School boards; public institutions of higher education; College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships.** Permits each local school board to enter into

College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships (Partnerships), currently referred to as agreements, with comprehensive community colleges or other public institutions of higher education or educational institutions that offer a career and technical education curriculum. The bill requires any such Partnership to (i) specify the options for students to take courses as part of the career and technical education curriculum that lead to course credit or an industry-recognized credential, certification, or license concurrent with a high school diploma; (ii) specify the credit, credentials, certifications, or licenses available for such courses; and (iii) specify available options for students to participate in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs at comprehensive community colleges concurrent with the pursuit of a high school diploma and receive college credit and high school credit for successful completion of any such program. Current law allows local school boards to enter into agreements with such institutions but does not specify course credit as being part of the agreements. The bill provides that participation by a student in any course pursuant to the Partnerships does not deem such student eligible for a grant pursuant to the New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Program.

- Policy updated to reflect 2020 amendment of Va. Code §§ 22.1-253.13:1 by [HB1276](#)
  - **School boards; career and technical education; academic and career plans; contents.** Requires each school board to include, as part of each student's academic and career plan in the career and technical education curricula, a list of (i) the top 100 professions in the Commonwealth by median pay and the education, training, and skills required for each such profession and (ii) the top 10 degree programs at institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth by median pay of program graduates. The bill requires the Department of Education to annually compile such lists and provide them to each local school board.

#### **IKFB - Transfer Students and High School Credits**

- Requested new policy
- Places into governance the current practice of evaluating and awarding HS credits based on prior school records.
- Includes that grades from the prior school are included in the student's ACPS records.

#### **JECA - Admission of Children Experiencing Homelessness**

- Standard changes
- Policy updated to reflect amendment of 42 U.S.C. § 11302.
  - Expanded the definition of "student experiencing homelessness" to include individuals who are fleeing violence, including sexual violence.

#### **JHCA - Physical Examinations of Students**

- Standard Changes
- Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-270 by [HB 1450/SB 798](#)
  - **Individuals with disabilities; terminology.** Replaces various instances of the terms "handicap," "handicapped," and similar variations throughout the Code of Virginia with alternative terms, as appropriate in the statutory context, such as "disability" and "impairment." The bill contains technical amendments. As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the Virginia Disability Commission. This bill is identical to [SB 798](#).

## **JHCB - Student Immunizations**

### **JHCB-R - ACPS Health Requirements for Registration**

- Standard Changes
- Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code §§ 22.1-271.2 and 54.1-2957.02 by [SB 975](#).
  - **Certified nurse midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and nurse practitioners; designation as advanced practice registered nurses.** Changes references to certain practitioners in the Code to advanced practice registered nurse in order to align the Code with the professional designations established by the *Consensus Model for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses Regulation* established by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

## **JHCC - Communicable Diseases**

- Standard Changes
- VSBA Model policy alignment
- Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code §§ 22.1-271.2 and 54.1-2957.02 by [SB 975](#).
  - **Certified nurse midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and nurse practitioners; designation as advanced practice registered nurses.** Changes references to certain practitioners in the Code to advanced practice registered nurse in order to align the Code with the professional designations established by the *Consensus Model for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses Regulation* established by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.