

BOARD MEMO

Date: December 15, 2022

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

FROM: Matt Smith, Policy Services Consultant

THROUGH: Melanie Kay-Wyatt Ed.D., Acting Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: Proposed Revisions to Policies IIA and IIAB

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 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of the 2025 Strategic Plan

SUMMARY:

The Code of Virginia requires that ACPS adopt the revisions to policy IIA – Instructional Material and policy IIAB – Supplementary Materials Selection and Adoption by January 1, 2023. The policies are being presented for information on December 15, 2022 and the next board meeting will not be held until after the deadline. Staff are recommending the board adopt these policies on December 15, 2022 to meet the state deadline.

Standard Changes:

- Remove gender-affirming terms
- Replace parent with parent/guardian
- Reduce the use of 'shall' per VSBA model policy changes
- Add breadcrumbs to other policies
- Reword and reform to improve readability
- Align content with VSBA model policies and the Code of Virginia
- Use abbreviations consistently

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REVISION SUMMARIES:

IIA - Instructional Materials

- Added a board belief statement including the need for instructional materials to be culturally and linguistically responsive
- Revised to align with the VDOE Model Policy required under the amendment of Va. Code by adding § 22.1-16.8 by [SB 656](#)
 - **Department of Education; local school boards; policies on sexually explicit content in instructional material.** Requires the Department of Education to develop no later than July 31, 2022, model policies and each local school board to adopt no later than January 1, 2023, policies for ensuring parental notification of any instructional material that includes sexually explicit content and include information, guidance, procedures, and standards relating to (i) ensuring parental notification; (ii) directly identifying the specific instructional material and sexually explicit subjects; and (iii) permitting the parent of any student to review instructional material that includes sexually explicit content and provide, as an alternative, nonexplicit instructional material and related academic activities to any student whose parent so requests. The bill provides that the local school board policies shall be consistent with but may be more comprehensive than the model policies developed by the Department. The bill states that the provisions of the bill shall not be construed as requiring or providing for the censoring of books in public elementary and secondary schools.
- [VDOE Model Policies Concerning Instructional Materials with Sexually Explicit Content](#)

IIAB - Supplementary Materials Selection and Adoption

- 5-year review
- Added cultural and linguistic responsiveness to the criteria of selection of supplementary materials
- Revised to align with the VDOE Model Policy required under the amendment of Va. Code by adding § 22.1-16.8 by [SB 656](#)
 - **Department of Education; local school boards; policies on sexually explicit content in instructional material.** Requires the Department of Education to develop no later than July 31, 2022, model policies and each local school board to adopt no later than January 1, 2023, policies for ensuring parental notification of any instructional material that includes sexually explicit content and include information, guidance, procedures, and standards relating to (i) ensuring parental notification; (ii) directly identifying the specific instructional material and sexually explicit subjects; and (iii) permitting the parent of any student to review instructional material that includes sexually explicit content and provide, as an alternative, nonexplicit instructional material and related academic activities to any student whose parent so requests. The bill provides that the local school board policies shall be consistent with but may be more comprehensive than the model policies developed by the Department. The bill

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BACKGROUND:

As part of the standard ACPS policy revision process, these policies have been:

- Reviewed for code changes and alignment with the VSBA model policies
- Reviewed for equity
- Reviewed by staff members whose work is closely related to the policy and/or regulation
- Reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team
- Reviewed by the School Board Policy Subcommittee
- Presented for information at a Board meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

The Interim Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the attached policies.

IMPACT:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- 221215_IIA_Instructional Materials.pdf
- 221215_IIB_Supplementary_Materials_Selection_and_Adoption.pdf

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