

Date: October 25, 2018
For ACTION X
For INFORMATION
Board Agenda: Yes x
No

FROM: Jennifer Abbruzzese, Clerk of the Board & Policy Liaison

THROUGH: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Ramee Gentry, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Policy Revisions: 10/25/18 School Board Meeting

SUMMARY:

Changes to the Code of Virginia impact School Board policies. As part of the Board's continuing policy review, we recommend that it approve the proposed updates driven by statutory amendments, as well as those resulting from the Board's 5-year review cycle. (Hyperlinks to the current policies are included for reference.)

[Policy CC: Administrative Organization Plan](#)

In alignment with the majority of school divisions in Virginia, the Washington Area Boards of Education (WABE) and the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA), this policy is recommended for deletion. The proposed content revisions reflecting Board Member feedback have been moved to Policy CBA: Qualifications and Duties for the Superintendent.

[Policy CBA: Qualifications and Duties for the Superintendent](#)

Last reviewed in June 2018, this policy has been amended to include the proposed revisions to Policy CC, which is recommended for deletion.

[Policy JGD/JGE: Student Suspension/Expulsion](#)

[JGD-R/JGE-R: Student Suspension/Expulsion Regulations](#)

Last amended in 2015, this policy and regulation have been revised to include new provisions driven by best practices and the needs of the division. These provisions align with the Student Code of Conduct and delineate the appeal procedures and timelines for short-term suspension, long-term suspension, and expulsion. In addition, they reflect the amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-279.3:1 by HB 292, amendment of Va. Code §§ 22.1-276.01 and 22.1-277.05 by HB 1600, and amendment of Va. Code §§ 22.1-277 and 22.1-277.2:1 by SB 170, effective July 1, 2018.

To reflect Board Member feedback from the October 11, 2018 Board Meeting, the comprehensive discussion of the infractions, processes and timelines for recommending suspensions, expulsions and their appeals has been retained within the policy itself.

As required by the General Assembly through its statutory amendments described above, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction released *Superintendent's Memo #291-18: Definition of "Aggravating Circumstances"* on October 12, 2018. The Virginia Department of Education

(VDOE) negotiated the new definition with stakeholders such as VSBA, and finalized the language at its recent State Superintendent's Leadership Council Meeting. The new definition sets objective standards for how to conduct discipline hearings while still maintaining a significant degree of local flexibility, and is included in the October 25, 2018 Board Meeting materials.

BACKGROUND:

The Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:7 and Policy BF require the School Board to maintain and follow up-to-date policies, and that all policies shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the attached policy revisions.

IMPACT:

By reviewing policies periodically, the School Board ensures that ACPS operations are aligned to support excellence and high performance.

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposed revisions to:

- Policy CBA
- Policy CC (proposed for deletion)
- Policy JGD/JGE
- Regulation JGD-R/JGE-R
- State Superintendent's Memo #291-18, *Definition of "Aggravating Circumstances"*

CONTACT:

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