

BOARD BRIEF

September 23, 2022

BOARD INFORMATION: __X__

MEETING PREPARATION: _____

FROM: Matt Smith, Policy Services Consultant

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

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

TOPIC: 2022-23 Policy Revisions

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

SY 2022-2023 FOCUS AREA:

Strategic Plan Implementation

Policy Equity Audit

FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Equitable TAG Identification of Black and Hispanic Students

Address Chronic Absenteeism & High School Graduation Rate Among Hispanic Male Students

Social and Emotional Supports for Students

Expand Access and Improve Quality of Out of School Learning

Implementation of Customer Relationship Management System

Development of a Comprehensive ACPS Communication Plan

Expand Cultural Competency Training to ACPS Families

Textbooks

Technology Upgrades

Transportation

Modernizations

Communications Support

Transparency and Engagement for CIP Projects

SUMMARY:

Staff are proposing an updated approach to policy revisions based on four priorities:

1. Equity Audit of School Board Policies
2. Updating policies with code revisions and VSBA model policy changes

BOARD BRIEF

3. Updating policies with requested Board and staff modifications
4. Ensuring all policies are reviewed every 5 years

BACKGROUND:

ACPS has 423 policies and regulations. These documents need to be systematically reviewed and revised according to ACPS requirements and code changes. To ensure that all four priorities are met, the Board will need to adopt at least 100 policies each year.

For the 2022-23 school year, the following process is proposed:

Task	Responsibility
1. Identify policies that require revision based on the four priorities	Policy Services Consultant; Cabinet; School Board
2. Update the policies with code and VSBA model policy changes	Policy Services Consultant
3. Review the policies with an Equity lens	Equity Team; Focus groups for policies identified by the Equity Team
4. Review policies and develop draft revisions	Policy Services Consultant; Identified key staff members
5. Review drafts and provide feedback	Cabinet
6. Review drafts and provide feedback	School Board Policy Subcommittee
7. Adopt Policies and Regulations	School Board; Superintendent

The proposed process is similar to the process used during the 2021-22 school year. The key change is a standing School Board Policy Subcommittee rather than rotating assignments for policy bundles. This change better aligns with the current Board practice of assigning responsibilities for a year as well as the efficiencies created through having a consistent team.

The first step of the process has identified over 200 policies and regulations for revision based on the four priorities. These have a wide range of urgency from high priority code changes (27 policies) and critical policy revisions such as grading (12 focus areas with approximately 50 policies and regulations), to low priority updates such as minor updates to references in the VSBA model policies (37 policies) or the need to affirm the existing policy (15 policies). The balance of the 200 are due for the 5-year revision and are being audited for the nature of the changes, if any.

The high priority items will be spread throughout the school year with the low priority items filling in gaps with the goal of presenting a regular flow of policy revisions to the Board for consideration.

BOARD BRIEF

RECOMMENDATION: The Interim Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the proposed process.

IMPACT:

The updated process will ensure that ACPS's policies are routinely reviewed for Equity, code changes, staff and Board priorities, and VSBA model policy changes with a minimum threshold of being reviewed at least every 5 years.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

CONTACT:

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