

BOARD MEMO

Date: May 5, 2022

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

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: 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.

The draft revisions were provided for information on April 21, 2022. Based on feedback received the following changes have been made to the April 21, 2022 drafts:

- IHB Class Size – Reworded the opening paragraph to improve readability
- IHB-R Class Size - Added a clause when the Superintendent might exceed class size
- JEC School Admissions – Revised the joint custody clause per council recommendation to specify that the student must spend the majority of school nights in Alexandria to be admitted.

The following list summarizes all changes, including those since the information presentation.

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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
 - 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
 - Reorganized the opening paragraph to improve readability
 - Added a clause when the Superintendent might exceed class size
- 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 joint custody, the student must spend the majority of nights in Alexandria to be eligible for services
 - 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

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- 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.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the revised student placement policies.

IMPACT:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. IHB_Class_Size_220505
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_220505
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:

1. [Brief Equity Policy Audit April 21, 2022](#)

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