

BOARD MEMO

Date: June 16, 2022

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION x

Board Agenda: Yes x

No _____

FROM: 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: Proposed revisions to 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 and recent changes regarding facemasks, 8 policies and regulations are proposed for revision. Red-line changes and additional comments are in the draft policies.

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:

- JC/JCD Student Placement and JC/JCD – R Student Placement Regulations

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- Focused the designated programs options on the dual-language programs. Removed the K-8 and Modified School Year programs and designated programs options.
 - Students can opt-Out of Grades 6-8 in the K-8 Programs
 - Added a provision that students will return to their attendance zone school if there is space. This occurs twice a year: at winter break and for the start of the upcoming school year.
 - Establishes 'Capacity-reassignment clusters', groups of approximately 4 elementary schools which are proximate to each other. If a school doesn't have capacity for a student, they will be reassigned to a school in the cluster rather than the closest school with space (which may be across the county).
 - Clarified that programmatic transfers out will go to the nearest school to the program rather than the nearest school to the student's residence.
 - Clarified that sibling preference occurs only while the sibling receiving the transfer remains in the school. When the student receiving the transfer moves to a different building the sibling must return to their attendance zone or capacity reassigned school. The dual-language program is an exception, as the program is unique.
 - Relocated board commitments from the Regulation to the Policy
 - Added Board Belief statements around the Strategic Plan and transportation times
 - Standardize language around Student Attendance Zones
 - Relocated specific processes around capacity reassignments from the Policy to the Regulation
 - Added a section on communications around encouraging enrollment
- GBE Staff Health, JHCF Student Wellness, GBE-R Use of Protective Face Coverings, JHCF-R Wellness Guidelines for ACPS, and GBE-R2 Staff COVID Procedures
 - Removed requirements around protective face coverings
 - Retired GBE-R Use of Protective Face Coverings Regulation
 - Relocated other COVID procedures content from the Policy to a new regulation GBE-R2 Staff COVID Procedures
 - KK School Visitors
 - Expanded the scope to include volunteers
 - Removed many COVID-19 restrictions such as face coverings
 - Added valid forms of identification
 - Expanded civility expectations to include electronic interactions

BACKGROUND:

Revisions to policy JC 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.

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RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the policies. Staff recommends that the Superintendent approves the recommendations.

IMPACT:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 220616_GBE_Staff_Health.clean.docx
2. 220616_GBE_Staff_Health.trackchanges.docx
3. 220616_GBE-R_JHCC-R_Use_of_Protective_Face_Coverings.trackchanges.docx
4. 220616_GBE-R2_Staff_COVID_Procedures.clean.docx
5. 220616_GBE-R2_Staff_COVID_Procedures.trackchanges.docx
6. 220616_JC_JCD_Student_Placement.clean.docx
7. 220616_JC_JCD_Student_Placement.trackchanges.docx
8. 220616_JC_JCD-R_ACPS_Student_Placement_Regulations.clean.docx
9. 220616_JC_JCD-R_ACPS_Student_Placement_Regulations.trackchanges.docx
10. 220616_JHCF_Student_Wellness.clean.docx
11. 220616_JHCF_Student_Wellness.trackchanges.docx
12. 220616_JHCF-R_Wellness_Guidelines_for_ACPS.clean.docx
13. 220616_JHCF-R_Wellness_Guidelines_for_ACPS.trackchanges.docx
14. 220616_KK_School_Visitors.trackchanges.docx
15. 220616_KK_School_Visitors.clean.docx

REFERENCES:

1. Brief Equity Policy Audit April 21, 2022

CONTACT:

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