

BOARD MEMO

Date: September 21, 2023
For ACTION _____
For INFORMATION X

FROM: Matt Smith, Policy Services Consultant
THROUGH: Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
TO: The Honorable Michelle Rief, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board
TOPIC: Proposed 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 2023-2024 FOCUS AREA:

N/A

FY 2024 BUDGET PRIORITY:

- Full Implementation of Students with Disabilities Action Plan
- Reduce Class Sizes
- K-4 Literacy
- Target Chronic Absenteeism
- Restorative Practices Supports
- Increase Support for Social and Emotional Learning

SUMMARY:

Staff are proposing the revision of several policies and regulations. Summaries of the revision, including links to code changes where appropriate, are presented in the Details section. Red-line changes and comments are included in the draft policies. These policies have been reviewed for code alignment and VSBA model policy alignment, audited for equity, edited by a team of staff members, and reviewed by the SLT and the Board Policy Subcommittee.

DETAILS:

The following summarizes the proposed revisions, details are in the track-changes of the draft policies.

GBE - Staff Health

GBE-R2 - Staff COVID Procedures

- Code change (2023)

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- Revised COVID language to reflect current practices
- Retired the Staff COVID Procedures regulation
- Updated to replace 'nurse practitioner' with 'advanced practice registered nurse' amendment of Va. Code § 54.1-2957.02 by [SB 975](#).
 - **Certified nurse midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and nurse practitioners; designation as advanced practice registered nurses.** Changes references to certain practitioners in the Code to advanced practice registered nurse in order to align the Code with the professional designations established by the *Consensus Model for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses Regulation* established by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

IGAD - Career and Technical Education

- 5-year review
- Standard Changes
- VSBA model policy alignment
- Added a Board Belief statement
- Policy updated to reflect 2019 amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-227.1 by [HB 1729](#)
 - **School counselors; nomenclature; staff time.** Changes the name of guidance counselors to school counselors and requires each school counselor employed by a school board in a public elementary or secondary school to spend at least 80 percent of his staff time during normal school hours in the direct counseling of individual students or groups of students.
- Policy updated to reflect 2019 amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:1 by [HB 2123](#).
 - **School boards; public institutions of higher education; College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships.** Permits each local school board to enter into College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships (Partnerships), currently referred to as agreements, with comprehensive community colleges or other public institutions of higher education or educational institutions that offer a career and technical education curriculum. The bill requires any such Partnership to (i) specify the options for students to take courses as part of the career and technical education curriculum that lead to course credit or an industry-recognized credential, certification, or license concurrent with a high school diploma; (ii) specify the credit, credentials, certifications, or licenses available for such courses; and (iii) specify available options for students to participate in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs at comprehensive community colleges concurrent with the pursuit of a high school diploma and receive college credit and high school credit for successful completion of any such program. Current law allows local school boards to enter into agreements with such institutions but does not specify course credit as being part of the agreements. The bill provides that participation by a student in any course pursuant to the Partnerships does not deem such student eligible for a grant pursuant to the New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Program.

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- Policy updated to reflect 2020 amendment of Va. Code §§ 22.1-253.13:1 by [HB1276](#)
 - **School boards; career and technical education; academic and career plans; contents.** Requires each school board to include, as part of each student's academic and career plan in the career and technical education curricula, a list of (i) the top 100 professions in the Commonwealth by median pay and the education, training, and skills required for each such profession and (ii) the top 10 degree programs at institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth by median pay of program graduates. The bill requires the Department of Education to annually compile such lists and provide them to each local school board.

JECA - Admission of Children Experiencing Homelessness

- Standard changes
- Relocated the definitions to the beginning of the policy as part of a new policy standard
- Policy updated to reflect amendment of 42 U.S.C. § 11302.
 - Expanded the definition of “student experiencing homelessness” to include individuals who are fleeing violence, including sexual violence.

JHCA - Physical Examinations of Students

- Standard Changes
- Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-270 by [HB 1450](#)/SB 798
 - **Individuals with disabilities; terminology.** Replaces various instances of the terms "handicap," "handicapped," and similar variations throughout the Code of Virginia with alternative terms, as appropriate in the statutory context, such as "disability" and "impairment." The bill contains technical amendments. As introduced, this bill was a recommendation of the Virginia Disability Commission. This bill is identical to [SB 798](#).

JHCB - Student Immunizations

JHCB-R - ACPS Health Requirements for Registration

- Standard Changes
- Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code §§ 22.1-271.2 and 54.1-2957.02 by [SB 975](#).
 - **Certified nurse midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and nurse practitioners; designation as advanced practice registered nurses.** Changes references to certain practitioners in the Code to advanced practice registered nurse in order to align the Code with the professional designations established by the *Consensus Model for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses Regulation* established by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

JHCC - Communicable Diseases

- Standard Changes

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- VSBA Model policy alignment
- Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code §§ 22.1-271.2 and 54.1-2957.02 by [SB 975](#).
 - **Certified nurse midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and nurse practitioners; designation as advanced practice registered nurses.** Changes references to certain practitioners in the Code to advanced practice registered nurse in order to align the Code with the professional designations established by the *Consensus Model for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses Regulation* established by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

BACKGROUND:

The proposed revisions are part of the Board’s ongoing work to provide ACPS with high-quality governance. ACPS has over 400 policies and regulations and has established the target of reviewing at least 100 policies and regulations each school year. Candidate policies for revision are drawn from code changes, changes in the VSBA model policies, the code requirement that policies are reviewed every 5 years, and policies and regulations that have been identified by the Board and/or staff for review.

Drafts of proposed revisions are available for public review as part of the Policy Subcommittee, Board Information, and Board Action processes.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information about the proposed policy revisions.

IMPACT:

By auditing policies for equity, code compliance, and appropriate guidance the School Board ensures that ACPS has high-quality governance.

ATTACHMENTS: (if there are none, write “None”)

1. Presentation: 230912_Presentation_Policy Revisions_v1
2. 230921_GBE - Staff Health.pdf
3. 230921_GBE-R2 Staff COVID Procedures.pdf
4. 230921_IGAD - Career and Technical Education.pdf
5. 230921_JECA - Admission of Children Experiencing Homelessness.pdf
6. 230921_JHCA - Physical Examinations of Students.pdf
7. 230921_JHCB - Student Immunizations.pdf
8. 230921_JHCB-R - ACPS Health Requirements for Registration.pdf
9. 230921_JHCC - Communicable Diseases.pdf

REFERENCES:

1. [August 30, 2023 SB Policy Subcommittee Meeting](#)

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