

BOARD MEMO

Date: July 28, 2022

For ACTION x

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 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

SUMMARY:

As part of the School Board's continuing Policy Equity Audit and recent changes regarding facemasks, eight policies and regulations are proposed for revision. Red-line changes and additional comments are in the draft policies. These policies were presented for information on June 16, 2022 and are proposed for info/action on July 28, 2022

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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Changes since the June 16, 2022 presentation

- Option for students reassigned to their attendance zone school at winter break to request a deferral for the remainder of the school year
- Clarified the transportation is provided according to Policy EEA – Student Transportation Services
- Clarified wording to improve readability
- Created Regulation JC-R2 ACPS Student Placement Regulations Implementation Schedule.
 - Approved programmatic transfers received before Aug 1, 2022 will be honored under the existing policy and regulations.
 - Capacity reassigned students return to their attendance zone school starting this winter, they can ask to remain for the 2022-23 school year.
 - Students are given exemptions through the 2023-24 school year.
 - Changes phased in starting with the 2024-25 school year in conjunction with the revised attendance zones.

Changes presented on June 16, 2022

- 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 that 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 city).
- 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 School Board commitments from the regulation to the policy
- Added School Board belief statements around the Strategic Plan and transportation times
- Standardized 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

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- 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
 - Changes since the June 16, 2022 presentation**
 - Added provision to clarify that policy applies to all ACPS facilities, not just schools
 - Reworded provision for families to make it clear that families are welcome in schools.
 - Changes presented on June 16, 2022**
 - 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.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

IMPACT:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 220728_GBE_Staff_Health.clean.docx
2. 220728_GBE-R2_Staff_COVID_Procedures.clean.docx
3. 220728_JC_JCD_Student_Placement.clean.docx
4. 220728_JC_JCD-R_ACPS_Student_Placement_Regulations.clean.docx
5. 220728_JC_JCD-R2_ACPS_Student_Placement_Regulations_Implementation_Schedule.clean.docx
6. 220728_JHCF_Student_Wellness.clean.docx
7. 220728_JHCF-R_Wellness_Guidelines_for_ACPS.clean.docx
8. 220728_KK_School_Visitors.clean.docx

REFERENCES:

1. Brief Equity Policy Audit April 21, 2022

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