

Date: October 27, 2016
For ACTION X
For INFORMATION
Board Agenda: Yes
No

FROM: Terri Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Jennifer Abbruzzese, Clerk of the Board & Policy Liaison

THROUGH: Alvin L. Crawley, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Karen Graf, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Comprehensive Policy Review: 10/27/16 School Board Meeting

Changes to the Code of Virginia took effect July 1, 2016 that impact School Board policies. As part of the Board's continuing policy review, we recommend that it approve the resulting policy revisions discussed at the September 26, 2016 Work Session and the October 13, 2016 Board Meeting. (Hyperlinks to the current policies are included for reference.)

[Policy IA – Instructional Goals and Objectives](#) (Last reviewed in 2015, this policy has been updated to reflect the recent the amendment of Va. Code §22.1-253.13:1 by HB 36 and HB 831. This revision has added the requirement for school divisions' K-12 program of instruction to include:

1. Computer coding in its emphasis on computer science and computational thinking; and
2. Information and concepts contained in the civics portion of the U.S. Naturalization Test in each government course.

ACPS' existing program of instruction satisfies this requirement through the following courses:

1. Use of Computer Coding:

High School

AP Computer Science (2 sections at TCW)
AP Computer Science Principles (3sections at TCW)
Computer Solutions
Digital Input Technologies
Engineering Explorations
Engineering Analysis and Applications II

Middle School

Computer Solutions
Digital Input Technologies

Emphasis on Computer Science/Computational Thinking/Use of Computers and Related Technology:

High School:

Accounting I
Advanced Accounting II
Computer Information Systems I
Advanced Computer Information Systems II
Economics and Personal Finance
Graphic Design and Multimedia I
Advanced Graphic Design and Multimedia II
Technical Drawing and Design I
Advanced Architectural Drawing and Design II
Advanced Engineering Drawing and Design II
Electronic Systems
Electronic Systems II
Aerospace Engineering
Engineering Explorations I
Engineering Analysis and Applications II
Dual Enrollment Statics and Strengths of Materials
Sustainability and Renewable Technologies
Automotive Technology I
Dual Enrollment Automotive Technology II
Dual Enrollment Automotive Technology III
Commercial Photography I
Commercial Photography II
Computer and Cyber Security Solutions
Computer Networking Hardware Operations I and II (CISCO Academy)
Television and Media Production I
Dual Enrollment Television and Media Production II
Dual Enrollment Television and Media Production III

Middle School:

Make It Your Business
Computer Solutions
Digital Input Technologies
Family and Consumer Sciences
Introduction to Technology
Inventions and Innovations
Technological Systems

Elementary School

Use of Chrome Books by all students in grades 4-12

Use of Google Apps for Education

Discovery Education

Wii Video

Blackboard

Use of various online platforms including BrainPOP, Raz-Kids, Kidspiration, etc.

2. U.S. Naturalization Test Concepts:

High School

Virginia and U.S. Government

Honors Virginia and U.S. Government-We the People

AP United States Government and Politics

[Policy IAA – Notification of Learning Objectives](#) (Last reviewed in 2015, this policy has been updated to reflect the amendment of Va. Code §22.1-253.13:4 by HB 895/SB 336. In its 2016 session, the Virginia General Assembly began removing the terms “*standard unit of credit*” and “*verified unit of credit*” from most subsections of §22.1-253.13:4. These changes reflect the legislature’s continued push to effect the larger “high school redesign.” It has tasked the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) with launching the redesign in September 2017, which will establish new graduation requirements for freshmen beginning in September 2018.)

[Policy IGAH – Family Life Education \(FLE\)](#) (Last reviewed in 2015, this policy has been updated to reflect the amendment of Va. Code §22.1-207.1:1 by HB 659. This requires the FLE curriculum to incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of dating violence, domestic abuse, sexual harassment, and sexual violence.

ACPS students are exposed to this material through Family Life Education study during their physical education class in both 7th and 8th grade, and in 9th grade through their Human Growth and Development course. The Department of Curriculum & Instruction is also currently developing a unit on this material to be presented in the 9th and 10th grade physical education courses.)

[Policy IGAI – Character Education](#) (Last reviewed in 2015, IGAI’s policy and legal references have been updated. In addition, minor textual changes have been made to accurately reflect the Board of Education’s mandated character education criteria.)

[Policy IGBG – Homebound, Correspondence, and Alternative Means of Instruction](#) (Last reviewed in 2015, this policy has been updated to reflect the amendment of Va. Code §22.1-253.13:4 by HB 895/SB 336 and to update its cross references. As a result of the Virginia General Assembly’s push for the “high school redesign” and its removal of most references to standard and verified units of credit in the Code of Virginia, Policy IGBG has been revised to identify the cohort of students to whom the current standards for correspondence courses and instruction through alternative technological means will remain in effect.

[Policy IHB – Class Size](#) (Last reviewed in May 2016, this policy has been updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code §22.1-253.13:2(c) by HB 1377. The statutory revision requires that after September 30 each school year, anytime the number of students in a class exceeds the class size limit established by the Virginia Standards of Quality (SOQ), the school division will notify the parents/guardians of the students in that class within ten days. [Regulation IHB-R](#) contains no proposed changes but is included for reference.)

[Policy IKFA – Locally Awarded Verified Credits](#) (Last reviewed in 2015, this policy has been updated to reflect the amendment of Va. Code §22.1-253.13:4 by HB 895/SB 336. As a result of the Virginia General Assembly’s push for the “high school redesign” and its removal of most references to standard and verified units of credit in the Code of Virginia, Policy IGBG has been revised to identify the cohort of students to whom the current standards for locally awarded verified credits will remain in effect. Last reviewed in 2005, [Regulation IKFA-R](#) is included for reference. It has been updated to align with the composition and procedures followed by the Locally Verified Credit Committee, which was approved by the School Board on February 26, 2016.)

[Policy IKH – Retaking SOL Assessments](#) (Last reviewed in 2015, IKH’s policy and legal references have been updated to reflect the amendment of 8 VAC 20-131-110.)

BACKGROUND:

The Code of Virginia § [22.1-253.13:7](#) requires that each local school board shall maintain and follow up-to-date policies, and that all policies shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed. In addition, the Alexandria City School Board’s Policy BF provides that policies will be reviewed at least every three years and revised as needed.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the attached I policies.

IMPACT:

By reviewing policies periodically, the School Board ensures that ACPS operations are aligned to support excellence and high performance.

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposed revisions to various I policies

CONTACT:

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