

BOARD MEMO

Date: December 1, 2022

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

FROM: Matt Smith, Policy Services Consultant

THROUGH: Melanie Kay-Wyatt Ed.D., Acting 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 the 2025 Strategic Plan

SUMMARY:

As part of the Board’s continuing Equity Audit of School Board Policies, changes to the Code of Virginia, the requirement that policies are reviewed every 5 years, and policies and regulations that have been identified for revisions, staff are proposing the revision of 9 policies and regulations. Summaries of the revision, including links to code changes where appropriate, are below. All policies and regulations receive the standard changes listed below. Red-line changes and additional comments are in the draft policies.

Standard Changes:

- Remove gender-affirming terms
- Replace parent with parent/guardian
- Reduce the use of ‘shall’ per VSBA model policy changes
- Add breadcrumbs to other policies
- Reword and reform to improve readability
- Align content with VSBA model policies and the Code of Virginia
- Use abbreviations consistently

REVISION SUMMARIES:

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BBFA - Conflict of Interests and Disclosure of Economic Interests

- Definition of gift updated to reflect the amendment of Va. Code § 2.2-3101 by [HB 216/SB 57](#).
 - **State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act; definition of gift;** certain tickets and registration or admission fees. Exempts from the definition of gift tickets and registration or admission fees to an event that are provided by an agency to its own officers or employees for the purposes of performing official duties related to the officer's or employee's public service.

BCF-R2 Electronic Participation in Advisory Committees to the School Board Meeting Regulations

- Advisory Committees are required to adopt bylaws around electronic meetings prior to meeting electronically. By creating a regulation for all SB Advisory Committees we can ensure consistency and compliance with the code.
- New regulation established to reflect amendment of Va. Code §§2.2-3701, 2.2-3707, 2.2-3708.2, and 2.2-3708.3 by [HB 444](#)
 - **Virginia Freedom of Information Act; meetings conducted through electronic communication means.** Amends existing provisions concerning electronic meetings by keeping the provisions for electronic meetings held in response to declared states of emergency, repealing the provisions that are specific to regional and state public bodies, and allowing certain public bodies to conduct all-virtual public meetings where all of the members who participate do so remotely and that the public may access through electronic communications means. The bill excepts local governing bodies, local school boards, planning commissions, architectural review boards, zoning appeals boards, and any board with the authority to deny, revoke, or suspend a professional or occupational license from the provisions that allow public bodies to conduct all-virtual public meetings. Definitions, procedural requirements, and limitations for all-virtual public meetings are set forth in the bill, along with technical amendments. The bill has a delayed effective date of September 1, 2022.

BDD - Electronic Participation in Meetings From Remote Locations

- Added a Board belief statement
- Legal References and Cross References updated.
- Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code §§ 2.2-3707 and 2.2-3708.2 and enactment of Va. Code § 2.2-3708.3 by [HB 444](#) which has a delayed effective date of September 1, 2022.
 - **Virginia Freedom of Information Act; meetings conducted through electronic communication means.** Amends existing provisions concerning electronic meetings by keeping the provisions for electronic meetings held in response to declared states of emergency, repealing the provisions that are specific to regional and state public bodies, and allowing certain public bodies to conduct all-virtual public meetings where all of the members who participate do so remotely and that the public may access through electronic communications

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means. The bill excepts local governing bodies, local school boards, planning commissions, architectural review boards, zoning appeals boards, and any board with the authority to deny, revoke, or suspend a professional or occupational license from the provisions that allow public bodies to conduct all-virtual public meetings. Definitions, procedural requirements, and limitations for all-virtual public meetings are set forth in the bill, along with technical amendments. The bill has a delayed effective date of September 1, 2022.

IGAE/IGAF - Health/Physical Education

- Added Board belief statement
- Adjusted minutes to align with the SOQs and added examples of how ACPS achieves the number of minutes in the SOQs
- Alignment with the VSBA model policy
- Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:1 by [HB 1215](#).
 - **Physical education; personal safety training.** Requires any physical education class offered to students in grades seven and eight to include at least one hour of personal safety training per school year in each such grade level that is developed and delivered in partnership with the local law-enforcement agency and consists of situational safety awareness training and social media education.

IGAG - Teaching about Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

- Alignment with the VSBA model policy
- Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-206 by [HB 1108](#).
 - **Public schools; instruction concerning gambling.** Requires instruction concerning gambling and the addictive potential thereof to be provided by the public schools as prescribed by the Board of Education. The bill requires the Board of Education to report to the Chairmen of House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health a description of such instruction.

IGAH - Family Life Education (FLE)

IGAH - R Family Life Education (FLE) Regulations

- Relocated process content from the policy to the regulation
- Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-207.1:1 by [HB 1023](#).
 - **High school family life education curricula;** optional instruction on human trafficking. Permits any family life education curriculum offered by a local school division in high school to incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention, recognition, and awareness of human trafficking of children.

IGAJ - Driver Education

- Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-205 by [SB 78](#).
 - **Board of Education; driver education programs; parent/student driver education.** Requires the Board of Education to include an additional minimum 90-minute parent/student driver education component as part of the classroom

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portion of its driver education program for all public school divisions and provides that participation in such component shall be required in Planning District 8 (Northern Virginia) and shall be encouraged but shall not be required outside of Planning District 8. Under current law, participation in such parent/student driver education component is required in Planning District 8 and optional outside of Planning District 8. The bill also requires such parent/student driver education component to emphasize the dangers of distracted driving.

JJAF - Student-Athlete Sudden Cardiac Arrest

- New policy reflecting enactment of Va. Code § 22.1-271.8 by [SB 463](#).
 - **Sudden cardiac arrest prevention in student-athletes.** Directs the Board of Education to develop, biennially update, and distribute to each local school division guidelines on policies to inform and educate coaches, student-athletes, and student-athletes' parents or guardians about the nature and risk of sudden cardiac arrest, procedures for removal from and return to play, and the risks of not reporting symptoms. The bill also requires local school divisions to develop and biennially update policies and procedures regarding the identification and handling of symptoms that may lead to sudden cardiac arrest in student-athletes.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the standard ACPS policy revision process, these policies have been:

- Reviewed for code changes and alignment with the VSBA model policies
- Reviewed for Equity
- Reviewed by staff members whose work is closely related to the policy and/or regulation
- Reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team
- Reviewed by the School Board Policy Subcommittee

RECOMMENDATION:

The Interim Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the attached policy revisions.

IMPACT:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 221201_BBFA_Conflict_of_Interests_and_Disclosure_of_Economic_Interests.pdf
2. 221201_BCF-R2_Regulations_of_Electronic_Participation_in_Advisory_Committees_to_the_School_Board.pdf
3. 221201_BDD_Electronic_Participation_in_Meetings_From_Remote_Locations.pdf"
4. 221201_IGAE_IGAF_Health_Physical_Education.pdf

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5. 221201_IGAG_Teaching_About_Drugs,_Alcohol,_and_Tobacco.pdf
6. 221201_IGAH_Family_Life_Education.pdf
7. 221201_IGAH-R_Family_Life_Education_Regulations..pdf
8. 221201_IGAJ_Driver_Education.pdf
9. 221201_JJAF_Student-Athlete_Sudden_Cardiac_Arrest.pdf

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