

Date: April 12, 2018
For ACTION
For INFORMATION
Board Agenda: Yes
No

FROM: Jennifer Abbruzzese, Clerk of the Board & Policy Liaison

THROUGH: Lois F. Berlin, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools
Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Mignon R. Anthony, Chief Operating Officer
Charles Stone, Director of Transportation

TO: The Honorable Ramee Gentry, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Policy Revisions

SUMMARY:

Statutory/Regulatory Policy Revisions:

State and federal statutory and regulatory changes impact School Board policies. As part of the Board's continuing policy review, we recommend the following revisions to Policy IKF and Regulation IKF-R.

[Policy IKF- Standards of Learning Assessments, Verified Units of Credit and Diploma Classifications](#)

[IKF-R- Standards of Learning Assessments, Verified Units of Credit and Diploma Classification Regulations](#)

Last reviewed in 2016, this policy and regulation have been updated to reflect the amendment of Virginia Board of Education (BOE) regulations, and to use the current terminology for SOL testing, the "Virginia Assessment Program." In addition, duplicate text found in both the policy and the regulation was stricken from the policy, and a reference to the newly proposed credit-by-exam pathway to obtaining credit was added. Current diploma requirements and the alternative diploma programs offered by ACPS have also been updated.

Best Practices/School Division-Initiated Policy Revisions:

The following proposed policy revisions are driven by best practices and the changing needs of the school division and community. (Hyperlinks to the current policies are included for reference.)

[DRAFT Policy IKFD- Credit-by-Exam for World Languages](#)

[DRAFT IKFD-R- Credit-by-Exam for World Languages Regulations](#)

This new Board policy and regulation are being proposed to implement amendments to Va. Code §22.1-253.13:4 and the Board of Education Guidelines for Graduation Requirements: Local Alternative Paths to Standard Units of Credit. Both provide options for local school boards to award standard units of credit to students who do not receive 140 clock hours of instruction through a variety of pathways. In the newly proposed policy and regulation, staff recommends

that the School Board initiate this first phase of revised graduation requirements that will align with the Board of Education's *Profile of a Virginia Graduate*. Anticipated changes in state diploma standards are included in proposed revisions to the Standards of Accreditation, and will provide students with more flexible pathways to obtaining units of credit.

By approving credit-by-exam for world languages, ACPS would join a growing number of Virginia school divisions (including surrounding local jurisdictions) that already provide this option for students. Through this program, students who have the ability to comprehend and communicate in languages other than English, and who demonstrate achievement via Division-approved, national or international assessments, would earn standard units of credit for world language requirements (for the Advanced Studies diploma), or for elective requirements (for the Standard diploma).

[Regulation BBBB-R: Student Representatives to the School Board-Regulations and Application](#)

Last reviewed in 2015, this regulation was updated by the Superintendent on April 6, 2018. The revised regulation reflects the current Student Representatives' proposal, on behalf of the Superintendent's Student Leadership Committee (SSLC), to improve and expand the Student Representative selection process. ([Policy BBBB: Student Representatives to the School Board](#) is included for review. Although no changes are proposed for this policy, staff requests that the Board affirm it, as it has not been reviewed since 2015.)

Summary of Recent Changes to Regulation BBBB-R:

- One rising junior and one rising senior at T.C. Williams will be selected to be the Student Representatives to the School Board each year.
- Instead of five (5) applications being reviewed and selected by the Superintendent's Student Leadership Committee (SSLC) for interviews by the Board Chair and Vice Chair, a broader selection committee will be formed to forward three (3) applications for each of the two (2) Student Representative positions. This broader committee, the Student Representative Selection Committee (SRSC), will better reflect the diversity and broad range of experiences of ACPS students. The committee's membership may include:
 - Any SSLC member and its middle school liaisons;
 - Any T.C. Williams club president;
 - Any T.C. Williams class president;
 - The T.C. Williams Student Government Association (SGA) President; and
 - The current senior Student Representative to the School Board (who will serve as the SRSC Chair).
- The SRSC will actively recruit from among the T.C. Williams student body.
- In lieu of the Board Chair and Vice Chair alone interviewing candidates, other School Board Members may be designated to participate in the selection process as well.
- While Student Representatives will still serve for one academic year, they may now also reapply to serve a second term.
- Student Representative applications will now be submitted online to streamline the process. The application has also been revised to better reflect each student's background and reasons for applying to be a Student Representative.

- Student applicants will be required to attend at least one School Board Meeting before submitting their application to demonstrate their commitment and understanding of the role.

Policy EEBA – ACPS-Owned Vehicles

Regulation EEBA-R – Use of ACPS Vehicles Regulations

Last reviewed in 2016, this policy and its regulation have been updated to clarify the following:

- They apply only to vehicles not requiring commercial driver’s licenses (CDL). School buses are addressed under Policies GDQ (School Bus Drivers) and EEAC (School Bus Safety Program);
- Only ACPS staff may operate ACPS-owned vehicles;
- The categories of vehicle use and approval processes for each type of use are outlined;
- All requests to operate an ACPS vehicle must be accompanied by a copy of the employee’s driver’s license and a copy of the driver’s DMV compliance summary. This aligns with the School Board’s recent approval of Policy GDP/IICAB (Use of Private Vehicles for Transporting Students), which contained the same requirement to provide a copy of the employee’s driver’s license and driving record.

Policy EEAB – School Bus Scheduling and Routing

Last reviewed in 2015, this policy has been revised to reflect that school bus routes are reviewed periodically for hazards and overall efficiency, not merely to maximize fuel conservation. In addition, it has been updated to reflect that annual bus stop safety updates were not previously presented in conjunction with the Enrollment Report.

Policy EEA – Student Transportation Services

Last reviewed in 2015, this policy has been updated to revise student walk-zone boundaries, which have been reviewed as part of the redistricting implementation process. In addition, it clarifies that ACPS provides transportation to any student eligible for qualifying services or accommodations, and that the school division does not provide transportation for administrative transfers outside of a student’s attendance zone.

DRAFT Regulation EEA-R/EEAB-R – Student Transportation Services Regulations

This new draft regulation is proposed to provide guidance on the revisions to policies EEA and EEAB.

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 review the proposed policy revisions.

IMPACT:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposed revisions to:

- Policy IKF and Regulation IKF-R
- Draft Policy IKFD and Draft Regulation IKFD-R
- Policy BBBB and Regulation BBBB-R
- Policy EEBA and Regulation EEBA-R
- Policies EEA and EEAB, and Regulation EEA-R/EEAB-R

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