

BOARD MEMO

Date: March 21, 2024
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.

These revisions are proposed for adoption at the April 11, 2024, School Board Meeting.

DETAILS:

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

BOARD MEMO

AA - School Division Legal Status

- 5-year review
- Is aligned with the VSBA model policy, no changes

BBBB - Student Representatives to the School Board

BBBB-R - Student Representatives to the School Board - Regulations and Application

BBBB-R2 - Middle School Student Student Representatives Regulations and Application

- Requested Review
- Standard changes
- Added the International Academy student representative
- Clarified attendance requirements
- Removed the application
- Replaced the MS representatives with a MS listening model using the MS SCA
- Retired the MS regulation

CA – Administration Goals

- 5-year review
- Standard changes
- Title revised to better reflect policy content
- Struck duplicative language concerning the coordination of communication within the school system and community

JHG/GAE - Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting

JHG-R/GAE-R - Regulations for Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting

JHG-R/GAE-R - Interagency Reporting Agreement

- 5 year review
- Standard Changes
- Clarified that the policy and regulation focus on any child abuse and neglect reporting. As currently worded it might be inferred that this was focused on child abuse and neglect by ACPS staff. Staff abuse would be covered by Policy GBBA.
- Added a provision that substantial revisions to the Interagency Reporting Agreement will be reported to the Virginia Board of Education.
- The current regulation is the Interagency Reporting Agreement and does not provide a clear process for ACPS staff to follow.
 - The Interagency Reporting Agreement will become a stand-alone agreement between the City and ACPS (not a regulation).
 - Created a new regulation to provide clear child abuse and neglect reporting processes for ACPS staff to follow.

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

BOARD MEMO

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:

1. 240321_AA - School Division Legal Status
2. 240321_BBBB - Student Representatives to the School Board
3. 240321_BBBB-R - Student Representatives to the School Board
4. 240321_BBBB-R2 - Middle School Student Representatives
5. 240321_CA - Superintendent Duties
6. 240321_GAE_JHG - Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
7. 240321_GAE-R_JHG-R - Regulations for Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
8. 240321_GAE-R - Interagency Reporting Agreement (also JHG-R)

REFERENCES:

1. December 7, 2023 SB Policy Subcommittee Meeting
2. February 1, 2024 SB Policy Subcommittee Meeting
3. February 15, 2024 SB Policy Subcommittee Meeting

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