

BOARD MEMO

Date: August 25, 2022
For ACTION x
For INFORMATION x
Board Agenda: Yes x
No

FROM: Matt Smith, Policy Services Consultant

THROUGH: Wendy Gonzalez, Ed.D., Chief, Teaching, Learning and Leadership
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 ongoing work to revise the ACPS grading system to ensure equity for all, staff are proposing changes to policy IKC – Grading and its associated regulation. The grading policy work will continue during the 2022-23 school with additional recommended revisions being provided in the spring.

Policy and regulation changes:

- Updated Board belief statement
- Temporary COVID provisions have been removed
- Removal of class rank
- Emphasis that grades reflect mastery of course standards and not student behaviors
- Provision that grades should reflect work completed in class
- Provision that a missed assignment is absence of data on student knowledge and skills on a topic while a zero means the student has no knowledge or skills on a topic.
- Improved alignment between IKC – Grading and other policies
 - IFA – Assessment and Evaluation
 - Use of Formative and Summative Assessments
 - IKB – Course Assignments

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- Use of assignments in calculating grades
- Requirement that schools create systematic supports for students who miss assignments
- Standardized weighting of formative (40%) and summative (60%) assessments when calculating grades

BACKGROUND:

Key focuses of these revisions are using policy to improve student engagement and to increase consistency of grading practices across teachers and schools. Grades allow ACPS to report to families progress on the “A” of SEAL, a key remaining question is how we systematically document and report on the SE elements of SEAL.

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. 220825_IKC_Grading.bundle.pdf

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