

BOARD MEMO

Date: January 4, 2024
For ACTION
For INFORMATION

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.

The proposed revisions were presented for Information on December 14, 2023.

DETAILS:

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

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DJ - Small Purchasing

- Meaningful discrepancies between ACPS policy and the VSBA model policy discovered as part of the policy audit.
- Added special exceptions for construction-related purchases

DJA - Purchasing Authority

- Meaningful discrepancies between ACPS policy and the VSBA model policy discovered as part of the policy audit.
- Added a requirement to establish internal controls

KBE - Internet Privacy

KBE-R - Internet Privacy Policy Statement

- 5-year review
- Standard changes
- Split the privacy statement into a stand-alone regulation
- Rewrote the privacy statement to make it more comprehensive and aligned with current systems

KBH - Website Accessibility

KBH-R - Website Accessibility Regulations

- 5-year review
- Standard changes
- Updated WAG standard to 2.1

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 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 approve 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.

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. 240104_DJ - Small Purchasing.pdf
2. 240104_DJA - Purchasing Authority.pdf
3. 240104_KBE - Internet Privacy.pdf
4. 240104_KBE-R - Internet Privacy Policy Statement.pdf
5. 240104_KBH - Website Accessibility.pdf
6. 240104_KBH-R - Website Accessibility Regulations.pdf

REFERENCES:

1. November 1, 2023 SB Policy Subcommittee Meeting
2. November 9, 2023 SB Policy Subcommittee Meeting
3. December 14, 2023 School Board Meeting

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