

BOARD MEMO

Date: June 1, 2023

For ACTION x

For INFORMATION _

Board Agenda: Yes x

No

FROM: Matt Smith, Policy Services Consultant

THROUGH: Melanie Kay-Wyatt 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 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 four 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.

These proposed revisions were presented for information on May 18, 2023. One policy presented on May 18 is being presented for information again to accommodate recent code changes.

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

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- Use abbreviations consistently
- Add line numbers

REVISION SUMMARIES:

EFEA - Vending Machines

- 5-year review
- No VSBA model policy
- Standard Changes
- Added breadcrumbs to other policies and regulations that provide governance

IFB - Approval Process for Research Studies

- 5-Year Review
- No VSBA model policy
- Standard changes
- Relocated the Board Belief statement to the beginning
- Minor reorganization to improve readability
- Added a new section for a Research Data Confidentiality Agreement which includes elements such as data security and data destruction
- Added a clause that if the researcher is affiliated with an organization which as an Internal Review Board (IRB), the IRB must approve the research
- Added the a definition of FERPA

IGAK - Alternatives to Animal Dissection

- 5 year review
- VSBA model policy alignment
- Updated alternatives to reflect current technologies

IJD - College and Career Planning

- Code change review
- Alignment with the VSBA Model Policy
- Added breadcrumbs to the Program of Studies

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

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RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the proposed revisions to the policies

IMPACT:

By auditing policies for equity, code compliance, and appropriate governance the School Board ensures that ACPS has high-quality policies.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 230601_EEFA – Vending Machines.pdf
- 230601_IFB - Approval Process for Research Studies.pdf
- 230601_IGAK – Alternatives to Animal Dissection.pdf
- 230601_IJD – College and Career Planning.pdf

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