

Date: December 14, 2021
For ACTION
For INFORMATION
Board Agenda: Yes
No

FROM: Equity Policy Audit School Board Committee

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Equity Policy Audit Draft Revisions: Student Discipline and Conduct

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment

Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

SY 2021-2022 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 1: Social Emotional and Academic Learning Recovery

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

Implementation of Equity Audit of School Board Policies

MTSS Implementation with Restorative Practices and PBIS

Professional Learning and Cultural Competency Training for all Staff and Partners

SUMMARY:

As part of the Board's Equity Policy Audit, the following policies and regulations related to student discipline and conduct are proposed for revision.

Light Blue Fill = ≥ 5 Years Since Policy Last Reviewed

| Policy/ Reg. | Title | Statute/ Reg./VSBA Revised | ACPS Last Revised | Revision |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| JFC | Student Conduct | May 2021 | June 2015 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vision of community ● Prioritized commitment to social-emotional learning (SEL), restorative practices, behavior management techniques ● Approaches for communication of behavioral interventions, instructional support and sanctions ● Expanded/clarified definitions ● Updated terms and gender-neutral pronouns ● Collaboration among staff (e.g., school principal and social worker) ● Data collection and reporting re: administrative responses to Code of Conduct violations |
| JFC-R | Standards of Student Conduct | N/A | Oct 2021 | |
| JGD/JGE | Student Suspension/Expulsion | May 2021 | Oct 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Articulated goals for student behavior ● Focus on restorative practices, prevention, support and interventions; fuller explanation of the alternatives to suspension and expulsion including MTSS, SEAL, PBIS, peer mediation and counseling. ● Gender-neutral pronouns ● Grounds for suspension/expulsion updated to reflect current practice. ● Notification to parents/guardians and students in their preferred language re: processes (including appeal process); procedural rights (including legal counsel and availability of pro bono legal resources). ● Continuation of student’s education program during long-term suspension ● Process for re-admittance from long-term suspension and long- term alternative placement ● Disaggregated data reporting and tracking re: |
| JGD-R/JGE-R | Student Suspension/Expulsion Regulations | N/A | Oct 2018 | |

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|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | <p>overrepresentation/disproportionality for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “disruptive conduct/behavior” as grounds for suspension/expulsion - offenses and interventions or disciplinary responses taken - Suspension/expulsion data; notification of expulsions provided to Board |
|--|--|--|--|--|

BACKGROUND:

The Equity Policy Audit School Board Committee was created by the Board on October 7, 2021 to perform an in-depth policy review at monthly meetings. The committee works alongside the ACPS/IDRA equity policy audit team to incorporate its recommendations with those from staff and community focus groups. Committee recommendations are presented to the full Board for review and approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Equity Policy Audit School Board Committee recommends the School Board review the draft revisions to the student discipline and conduct policies.

IMPACT:

The Equity Policy Audit School Board Committee incorporates guidance, support and feedback from the Board into the equity policy audit process.

ATTACHMENTS:

Policy and regulatory revisions listed in chart above.

REFERENCES:

- [June 17, 2021 Board Presentation: Equity Policy Audit Update](#)
- [April 9, 2021 Board Brief: Update- Equity Audit of School Board Policies](#)
- [October 7, 2021 Formation of Equity Policy Audit School Board Committee](#)
- [December 2, 2021 Board Presentation: Equity Audit Policy Revision Overview-Student Discipline and Conduct](#)

CONTACT:

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