

Date: November 24, 2014
For ACTION _____
For INFORMATION x
Board Agenda: Yes x
 No ___

FROM: J. Michael Korff, Ph.D., Coordinator of Strategic Planning & Policy

THROUGH: Tammy Ignacio, Chief of Staff
Alvin L. Crawley, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Karen Graf, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: 12/4/14 School Board Meeting - Proposed Honor Code for Secondary Schools

The topic of an Honor Code was initially raised by the faculty at T.C. Williams High School in response to a perceived need to focus attention on cheating and plagiarism. Since the issue is of importance throughout the school division, especially at the middle schools where students will first begin to receive the training that will be applied in their high school careers, we have decided to expand the purview of the proposed Honor Code to include all secondary schools.

Although the proposed code is based on the original T.C. Williams draft, it has been broadened to focus on the concept of honor in general and on the shared responsibility of students, faculty members, and school leadership. This version of the proposed code has been discussed with members of the faculty at the middle schools and at T.C. Williams. It includes an appeals mechanism that was not included in the version that you may have seen in preparation for work sessions.

BACKGROUND:

1. [Policy JFC - Student Conduct](#) and [Regulation JFC-R - Standards of Student Conduct](#) apply to this discussion. The Regulation states: *“Cheating: Students shall not cheat, plagiarize or knowingly make false statements with respect to any assigned school work or tests.”* It provides for a variety of corrective action in the event of a violation of the regulation.
2. The [ACPS Student Guidelines](#) provide:
 - a. Alexandria City Public School students are expected to perform honestly through the production of their own work. They should also demonstrate respect for the belongings and rights of others.
 - b. Students shall not cheat, plagiarize, or knowingly make false statements with respect to any assigned schoolwork or tests, nor provide a student the opportunity to do so.
3. The proposed Honor Code builds on these documents.
4. The Superintendent recommends that the Board consider adopting the Honor Code as an official policy of the Alexandria City Public Schools.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Honor Code.
2. PowerPoint Presentation.

CONTACT:

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