

BOARD MEMO

Date: March 2, 2023

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

FROM: Matt Smith, Policy Services Consultant

THROUGH: Melanie Kay-Wyatt Ed.D., Acting 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 five 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.

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
- Use abbreviations consistently
- Add line numbers

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REVISION SUMMARIES:

EEAD - Special Use of School Buses

- Added breadcrumbs to other policies
- Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-182 by [SB 774](#).
 - **School buses; commercial use.** Permits the school board of any school division to enter into agreements with any third-party logistics company to allow for the use of the school buses of such school division by such third-party logistics company but provides that such third-party logistics company shall not use the school buses to provide transportation of passengers for compensation or for residential delivery of products for compensation.

IAA - Notification of Learning Objectives

- 5-year review
- VSBA model policy alignment

IC/ID - School Year/School Day

- Standard Changes
- Legal References updated
- References to half-day kindergarten removed based on amendment to Va. Code § 22.1-79.1 by [SB 238](#) (2020).
 - **Public schools; kindergarten instructional time.** Increases from 540 hours to 990 hours the minimum instructional hours in a school year for students in kindergarten, beginning July 1, 2022. The bill directs the Board of Education to adopt regulations by July 1, 2022, establishing standards for accreditation that include a requirement that the standard school day for students in kindergarten average at least 5.5 instructional hours in order to qualify for full accreditation.
- Requirement for in-person instruction added to reflect enactment of Va. Code § 22.1-2.1 by HB 1272 and [SB 739](#).
 - **Public elementary and secondary schools and public school-based early childhood care and education programs; student instruction; masks; emergency.** Requires, except in the case of the 10 unscheduled remote learning days otherwise permitted by law or in certain cases of student discipline, each school board to offer in-person instruction, as defined in the bill, to each student enrolled in the local school division in a public elementary or secondary school for at least the minimum number of required annual instructional hours and to each student enrolled in the local school division in a public school-based early childhood care and education program for the entirety of the instructional time provided pursuant to such program. The bill permits, notwithstanding any other provision of law or any regulation, rule, or policy implemented by a school board, school division, school official, or other state or local authority, the parent of any child enrolled in a public elementary or secondary school, or in any school-based early childhood care and education program, to elect for such child

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to not wear a mask while on school property. The bill provides that no parent making such an election shall be required to provide a reason or any certification of the child's health or education status and no student shall suffer any adverse disciplinary or academic consequences as a result of this parental election. The bill requires each local school division to comply with the foregoing provisions relating to masks no later than March 1, 2022. The bill clarifies that none of the foregoing provisions shall be construed to affect the authority granted to the Governor to achieve the purposes of relevant emergency services and disaster law with regard to a communicable disease of public health threat. The bill contains an emergency clause.

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

RECOMMENDATION:

The Interim Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the policies and regulations.

IMPACT:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- 230302_EEAD_Special_Use_of_School_Buses.pdf
- 230302_IAA - Notification of Learning Objectives..pdf
- 230302_IC_ID - School Year School Day.pdf

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