

Date: September 15, 2016

For ACTION X

For INFORMATION x

Board Agenda: Yes x

No

FROM: Clarence Stukes, Chief Operating Officer

THROUGH: Alvin L. Crawley, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: Comprehensive Policy Review: 9/15/16 School Board Meeting

As part of the Board's continuing policy review, we recommend that the Board consider Policy EBCA at its Board Meeting.

(A hyperlink to the current policy is included for reference.)

Policy Recommended for Approval:

[Policy EBCA – Emergency Preparedness Drills](#) (Last revised in June 2015, Policy EBCA describes mandatory safety drills and emergency preparedness for all schools. It has been updated to reflect statutory changes that became effective July 1, 2016. To be in compliance with the Code of Virginia and the fire code, ACPS schools have been instructed to follow the new guidelines beginning on the first day of school. This revision brings Policy EBCA into alignment with the new requirements.)

Each school must have:

- 2 fire drills during first 20 school days (previously 1 drill/week; 2 fire drills in the first 20 days will be replaced with the newly required 2 lock-down drills)
- Thereafter, 1 fire drill/month
- **NEW** 2 lock-down drills during first 20 school days (previously 2 drills/year)
- **NEW** Thereafter, 2 more lock-down drills/year (previously 2 total drills/year, now 4 are required)
- **NEW** 1 school bus emergency drill during first 90 school days
- 1 tornado drill/year
- 1 earthquake drill/year
- Placards describing nearest exits posted in each room
- Evacuation plan for students with physical disabilities

BACKGROUND:

The Code of Virginia § [22.1-253.13:7](#) provides that each local school board shall maintain and follow up-to-date policies, and that all school board policies be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed. In addition, the Alexandria City School Board’s Policy [BF-Board Policy Manual](#) provides that policies will be reviewed at least every three years and revised as needed.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the Board approve Policy EBCA.

IMPACT:

By reviewing policies periodically, the School Board ensures that ACPS operations are aligned to support excellence and high performance.

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposed amendments to Policy EBCA

CONTACT:

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