

Date: December 6, 2018
For ACTION _____
For INFORMATION X
Board Agenda: Yes x
No _____

FROM: Jennifer Abbruzzese, Clerk of the Board & Policy Liaison

THROUGH: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Ramee Gentry, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Policy Revisions: 12/6/18 School Board Meeting

SUMMARY:

Changes to the Code of Virginia impact School Board policies. As part of the Board’s continuing policy review, we recommend that it approve the proposed updates driven by statutory amendments and school division best practices, as well as those resulting from the Board’s 5-year review cycle. (Hyperlinks to the current policies are included for reference.)

[Policy BBFA: Conflict of Interests and Disclosure of Economic Interests](#)

Last reviewed in 2017, this policy has been updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 2.2-3119 by HB 212/SB 124, allowing the hiring of School Board family members in limited circumstances.

[Policy CLA: Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse](#)

Last revised in 2007, this policy has been updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-279.3:1 by HB 292, which, among other provisions, adds “abduction” to the list of incidents required to be reported to the school principal and Superintendent.

[Policy DJ: Small Purchasing](#)

Last reviewed in 2016, this policy has been revised to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 2.2-4303 by HB 97, which raises the value of allowable single or term contracts for professional services without undertaking competitive sealed bids from \$60,000 to \$80,000.

[Policy JFCF: Drugs in Schools](#)

Last revised in 2014, this policy has been renamed, “Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) in Schools,” and reflects an extensive review of both this policy and [Policy JFCI: Substance Abuse - Student Assistance Program](#), as well as the development of joint Regulation JFCF-R/JFCI-R. Policy JFCF and JFCI are recommended to be reclassified as joint Policy JFCF/JFCI. These revisions are driven by best practices and the needs of the division, and reflect the work of ACPS’ K-12 Substance Abuse Prevention & Intervention Services Coordinator. [Regulation JFCF-R/JFCI-R](#) is included for reference.

[Policy JFCD: Weapons in School](#)

Last reviewed in September, this policy has been amended to relocate a discussion on the general prohibition of bringing weapons onto school division property from Policy JGD/JGE: Student Suspension/Expulsion to Policy JFCD, as well as to clarify the relevant statutory exemptions. As Policy JGD/JGE relates to students and already discusses weapon possession as grounds for suspension/expulsion, the transferred content, which also relates to staff, law

enforcement and other individuals, is better aligned to this policy.

[Policy JO: Student Records](#)

Last revised in 2017, this policy has been updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-287.1 by HB 1 and § 2.2-3705.4 by SB 512. The statutory amendment provides that school divisions may only disclose a student's address, telephone number or email address pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) or the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA), with the student's or parent's/guardian's affirmative consent in writing.

[Policy KBA: Requests for Information](#)

Last revised in 2016, this policy and regulation have been updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code 2.2-3704 by HB 1539 (2017), which contained numerous technical amendments to VFOIA provisions. These adjustments were recommended by the Freedom of Information Advisory Council pursuant to the House Joint Resolution (HJR) 96 FOIA study (2014-2016), which directed the Council to study all exemptions contained in the VFOIA to determine their continued applicability or appropriateness. [Regulation KBA-R: Requests for Information Regulations](#) has been updated to reflect these changes, and is included for reference.

BACKGROUND:

The Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:7 and Policy BF require the School Board to maintain and follow up-to-date policies, and that all policies shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the attached policy revisions.

IMPACT:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposed revisions to:

- Policy BBFA
- Policy CLA
- Policy DJ
- Policy JFCF
- Policy JFCI (proposed for deletion; to be combined with Policy JFCF)
- DRAFT Regulation JFCF-R/JFCI-R
- Policy JFCD
- Policy JO
- Policy KBA
- Regulation KBA-R

CONTACT:

Jennifer Abbruzzese, 703-619-8314