

BOARD BRIEF

Date: June 25, 2021

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Julia A. Crawford, Ed.D., Chief of Student Services & Equity

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: School Board Policy JEB: Entrance Age/Admission of Persons Not of School Age

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 1: Reopening of School

Focus Area 2: Policy Equity Audit

Focus Area 5: Academic Disparities

SUMMARY:

Each year ACPS receives a number of requests for enrollment of students who have not reached their fifth birthday on or before September 30. After discussion and receiving guidance on the policy, the requests for early enrollment have not been granted.

A number of reasons form the basis for ACPS maintaining the entrance age of five for school enrollment. Several of the considerations are as follows:

- The range of developmental levels between a 4-year-old and 6-year-old students, particularly with social emotional functioning
- Existing school capacity issues at kindergarten without enrolling 4 year olds
- Equity concerns related to early admission requests
- Utilizing the School Board Policy IKEB: Acceleration Policy, which allows parents and guardians to request first grade placement in lieu of kindergarten

ACPS staff will engage in a review process of Policy JEB this summer. As a part of this process, staff will review current research and our policies and practices to understand the history, purpose and implications of this policy. The policy recommendations from the Equity Policy Audit Team will also be considered. We will also meet with stakeholders including community

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partners and our early learning and gifted education teams. Drafted policy language will be brought forward to the School Board in August 2021.

BACKGROUND:

The ACPS School Board Policy JEB: Entrance Age/Admission of Persons Not of School Age was last amended in June, 2015. Since the amendment of the policy, ACPS has received a number of requests each year for enrollment of students who have not reached their fifth birthday on or before September 30.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information provided in this brief.

ATTACHMENTS:

Policy JEB

CONTACT:

Dr. Julie A. Crawford, Julie.crawford@acps.k12.va.us