

**BOARD MEMO**

Date: November 30, 2023  
For ACTION  X   
For INFORMATION    

**FROM:** Matt Smith, Policy Services Consultant  
**THROUGH:** Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
**TO:** The Honorable Michelle Rief, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board  
**TOPIC:** Proposed Policy Revisions

**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

**SY 2023-2024 FOCUS AREA:**

N/A

**FY 2024 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

- Full Implementation of Students with Disabilities Action Plan
- Reduce Class Sizes
- K-4 Literacy
- Target Chronic Absenteeism
- Restorative Practices Supports
- Increase Support for Social and Emotional Learning

**SUMMARY:**

Staff are proposing the revision of several policies and regulations. Summaries of the revision, including links to code changes where appropriate, are presented in the Details section. Red-line changes and comments are included in the draft policies. These policies have been reviewed for code alignment and VSBA model policy alignment, audited for equity, edited by a team of staff members, and reviewed by the SLT and the Board Policy Subcommittee.

These proposed revisions were presented to the Board on November 2, 2023.

**DETAILS:**

The following summarizes the proposed revisions, details are in the track-changes of the draft policies.

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### BBFA - Conflict of Interests and Disclosure of Economic Interests

- Policy provisions regarding required COIA training updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 2.2-3132 by [HB 2122](#)/SB 1460.
  - **State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act; Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council; training for members of appointed school boards.** Adds members of appointed school boards to the list of persons for whom the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council is required to provide certain training sessions. The bill also changes from January 15 to February 1 the annual date for certain employees to file a disclosure statement with the Council. This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council. This bill is identical to [SB 1460](#).
- Policy provisions regarding gifts from certain foreign dignitaries updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 2.2-3103.1 by [HB 1911](#)/SB 1002.
  - **State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act; certain gifts prohibited; foreign countries of concern.** Prohibits officers and employees of state and local governments, including legislators or members of their immediate family who may accept such a gift on behalf of the Commonwealth, from receiving a gift with a value exceeding \$100 for which the fair market value or a gift of greater or equal value has not been provided or exchanged from foreign countries of concern, defined in the bill. This bill is identical to [SB 1002](#).

### IL - Testing Programs

- VSBA model policy alignment
- Standard changes
- Minor wording adjustments to improve readability
- Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:3 by HB 2225/[SB 1253](#).
  - **Certain student assessment results; availability.** Requires each school board to provide teachers, parents, principals, and other school leaders with their students' results on any Standards of Learning assessment or Virginia Alternate Assessment Program assessment as soon as practicable after the assessment is administered. This bill is identical to [HB 2225](#).

### IMG - Animals in the Instructional Program

#### IMG-R - Regulations for Animals in the Instructional Program

- New policy
- Regulation renamed from JHC-R Animals in Schools and revised
- Added permission for baby chicks to be used under the supervision of TLL or a TLL approved Partner organization
- Reorganization to improve readability
- Removed size requirements for turtles
- Updated section on dog health requirements
- Added a requirement that parents must provide specific permission for a student to help with animal care

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- Added a section to recommend using invertebrates for observations when possible

### **LEB - Advanced Alternative Courses for Credit**

#### **LEB-R - Advance Alternative Courses for Credit Regulations**

- Added a requirement that the course aligns with VDOE approved courses
- Policy updated to reflect amendment of 8 VAC 20-131-140.
  - Students participating in courses offered by an institution of higher education are permitted to exceed a full course load in order to participate in courses that lead to a degree, certificate, or credential at such institution.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The proposed revisions are part of the Board's ongoing work to provide ACPS with high-quality governance. ACPS has over 400 policies and regulations and has established the target of reviewing at least 100 policies and regulations each school year. Candidate policies for revision are drawn from code changes, changes in the VSBA model policies, the code requirement that policies are reviewed every 5 years, and policies and regulations that have been identified by the Board and/or staff for review.

Drafts of proposed revisions are available for public review as part of the Policy Subcommittee, Board Information, and Board Action processes.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the proposed policy revisions.

### **IMPACT:**

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

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 231130\_BBFA - Conflict of Interests and Disclosure of Economic Interests.pdf
2. 231130\_IL - Testing Programs .pdf
3. 231130\_IMG - Use of Animals in the Instructional Program.pdf
4. 231130\_IMG-R - Regulations for the Use of Animals in the Instructional Program.pdf
5. 231130\_LEB - Advanced Alternative Courses for Credit.pdf
6. 231130\_LEB-R - Advanced Alternative Courses for Credit Regulations.pdf

### **REFERENCES:**

1. September 14, 2023 SB Policy Subcommittee Meeting
2. October 12, 2023 SB Policy Subcommittee Meeting
3. November 2, 2023 School Board Meeting

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