

Date: December 8, 2021
 For ACTION _____
 For INFORMATION X
 Board Agenda: Yes X
 No _____

FROM: Equity Policy Audit School Board Committee

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: Equity Policy Audit Draft Revisions: Student Discipline and Conduct

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment
 Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

SY 2021-2022 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 1: Social Emotional and Academic Learning Recovery

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan
 Implementation of Equity Audit of School Board Policies
 MTSS Implementation with Restorative Practices and PBIS
 Professional Learning and Cultural Competency Training for all Staff and Partners

SUMMARY:

As part of the Board’s Equity Policy Audit, the following policies and regulations related to student discipline and conduct are proposed for revision.

Light Blue Fill = ≥ 5 Years Since Policy Last Reviewed

Policy/ Reg.	Title	Statute/ Reg./VSBA Revised	ACPS Last Revised	Revision
JFCA	Teacher Removal of Students from Class	May 2021	Jan 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MTSS/restorative practices utilized instead of removal when possible. Every instance of removal documented through incident reports.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distinguish between disruptive behavior and emergency situations. ● Distinguish between change in location within the building and longer-term removal. ● Communications to parents/guardians in preferred language. ● Provisions added re: reporting and quarterly/annual review of removal data.
JFCB	Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity	Feb 2013	June 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expansion of policy beyond athletics. ● “Sportsmanship” defined. ● Extended to students, opponents, officials, administrators, coaches & spectators. ● Aligns with new VHSL rules disqualifying participant who uses such speech from competition until educational/restorative interventions are completed. ● Addresses process for resolving alleged incidents between school divisions. ● Mandatory preseason meetings with players, parents/guardians and coaches addressing expectations cultural awareness and equity.
JFCB-R	<i>Prohibition of the Use of Hate Speech, Ethnically or Racially Insensitive Expressions in Extracurricular Activities</i>	N/A	NEW	

JFCE	Gang Activity or Association	Feb 2021	Dec 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expanded definitions, including updated definitions of “gang” and “gang activity” to avoid over identification of students ● Consultation with community groups focused on gang prevention activities ● Prevention/intervention strategies and responses ● Professional development and MTSS framework to facilitate identification of at-risk students ● Annual review/coordination between division and school leaders and law enforcement on latest gang operations, methods and activity
JFCF/JFCI	Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) in Schools	JFCF: May 2021 JFCI: Feb 2020	Dec 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Move beyond punitive tone of zero tolerance to incorporation of PBIS & affirming approach. ● Stronger connection between policy (sanctions) and regulation (interventions). ● Clarity re: determinations for intervention/counseling vs. suspension/expulsion. ● Data tracking and reporting provisions added. ● Administrator training re: referrals and sanctions included.
JFCF-R/ JFCI-R	Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Abuse: Regulations	N/A	Dec 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clarity re: determinations for intervention/counseling vs. suspension/expulsion. ● Data tracking and reporting provisions added. ● Administrator training re: referrals and sanctions included.

JFCH/ GBEC	Tobacco-Free School for Staff and Students	May 2019	Dec 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Policy GBECA/JFCHA and Policy KGC incorporated. ● Wellness approach instead of punitive approach. ● Definitions added.
JFCH-R/ GBEC-R	<i>Tobacco and Nicotine Vapor Products</i>	N/A	NEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enforcement provisions included re: students, employees and visitors. ● Incorporation of MTSS. ● Discussion of resources to help staff/students overcome tobacco/nicotine addiction.
JFG	Search and Seizure	May 2019	Mar 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Definitions added for clarity. ● Discussion of strip searches proposed for deletion; ACPS does not perform strip searches and School Board has authority to prohibit them. ● Language clarified re: pat downs. ● Terminology shifted from “sex” to “gender.” ● Discussion of searches of lockers, desks, etc. to be added to Student Code of Conduct for awareness. ● Data collection & reporting requirements added. ● APD MOU referenced.
JGDA	Disciplining Students with Disabilities	May 2021	Sep 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Availability and use of MTSS tools; interventions; Parent Resource Center

<p>JGDB</p>	<p>Discipline of Students with Disabilities for Infliction of Serious Bodily Injury</p>	<p>Feb 2006</p>	<p>June 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notification to parents/guardians of processes involved; student rights/procedural safeguards related to manifestation hearings and disciplinary processes ● Services provided during removal to alternative education program ● Data reporting requirement ● Data tracking: disaggregated data re: the number of students with disabilities receiving exclusionary discipline and/or a manifestation determination
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BACKGROUND:

The Equity Policy Audit School Board Committee was created by the Board on October 7, 2021 to perform an in-depth policy review at monthly meetings. The committee works alongside the ACPS/IDRA equity policy audit team to incorporate its recommendations with those from staff and community focus groups. Committee recommendations are presented to the full Board for review and approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Equity Policy Audit School Board Committee recommends the School Board review the draft revisions to the student discipline and conduct policies.

IMPACT:

The Equity Policy Audit School Board Committee incorporates guidance, support and feedback from the Board into the equity policy audit process.

ATTACHMENTS:

Policy and regulatory revisions listed in chart above.

REFERENCES:

- [June 17, 2021 Board Presentation: Equity Policy Audit Update](#)
- [April 9, 2021 Board Brief: Update- Equity Audit of School Board Policies](#)
- [October 7, 2021 Formation of Equity Policy Audit School Board Committee](#)
- [December 2, 2021 Board Presentation: Equity Audit Policy Revision Overview-Student Discipline and Conduct](#)

CONTACT:

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