

Date: September 27, 2018

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

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: 9/27/18 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 consider the proposed updates driven by statutory amendments, as well as those resulting from the Board's 5-year review cycle. (Hyperlinks to the current policies are included for reference.)

[Policy CC: Administrative Organization Plan](#)

Last amended in 2015, this policy update was proposed in May 2018 as part of the Board's review cycle. The proposed changes reflect Board Member feedback on the requirement for Board approval of all staff organization charts. The majority of school boards in Virginia, including almost all Washington Area Boards of Education (WABE), do not require Board approval of such charts at the department level. The most common practice is to approve a division-level organization chart (for those that have one) through the annual budget adoption process.

[Policy JGD/JGE: Student Suspension/Expulsion](#)

Last reviewed in 2015, this policy has been revised to transfer detailed content regarding the infractions, processes and timelines for recommending suspensions, expulsions and their appeals to Regulation JGD-R/JGE-R. In addition, it reflects amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-279.3:1 by HB 292, amendment of Va. Code §§ 22.1-276.01 and 22.1-277.05 by HB 1600, and amendment of Va. Code §§ 22.1-277 and 22.1-277.2:1 by SB 170, effective July 1, 2018.

[JGD-R/JGE-R: Student Suspension/Expulsion Regulations](#)

Last reviewed in 2015, this regulation has been amended to incorporate the content transferred from Policy JGD/JGE; reflect the amendment of Va. Code §§ 22.1-279.3:1, 22.1-276.01, 22.1-277.05, 22.1-277 and 22.1-277.2:1, effective July 1, 2018; and include new provisions driven by best practices and the needs of the division, such as delineating the appeal procedures and timelines for short-term suspension, long-term suspension, and expulsion.

[Policy JFCD: Weapons in School](#)

Last reviewed in 2014, this policy has been amended to relocate a discussion on the general prohibition of bringing weapons onto school division property from Policy JGD/JGE to Policy

JFCD. As Policy JGD/JGE relates to students and already discusses weapon possession as grounds for suspension/expulsion, the content transferred to this policy primarily addresses concealed weapons statutory provisions relating to staff, law enforcement and other adults. As such, it is better aligned to Policy JFCD.

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 CC
- Policy JGD/JGE
- Regulation JGD-R/JGE-R
- Policy JFCD

CONTACT:

Jennifer Abbruzzese, 703-619-8314