

Date: June 22, 2017
For ACTION ____
For INFORMATION ____
Board Agenda: Yes ____
No ____

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

THROUGH: Alvin L. Crawley, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Julie A. Crawford, Ed.D., Chief Student Services Officer
Michael Herbstman, Chief Financial Officer
Elizabeth Hoover, Ph.D., Chief Technology Officer
Joseph Makolandra, Chief Human Resources Officer
Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer
Clarence Stukes, Chief Operating Officer

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

TOPIC: Policy Revisions: 6/22/17 School Board Meeting

SUMMARY: **Best Practices/School Division-Initiated Policy Revisions:**

The Superintendent proposes the following policy revisions driven by best practices and the changing needs of the school division and community.

***BLUE TEXT REFLECTS FEEDBACK RECEIVED SINCE THE 6/8/17 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING.**

Policy DAA: Investment Policy Statement- Supplemental Retirement Plan

Last reviewed in 2016, please see separate memo regarding proposed revision of this policy, attached.

Policy IKEB: Acceleration & * NEW Regulation IKEB-R: Acceleration Regulations

Although reviewed in 2015, this policy has undergone a year-long review and development process. The resulting expanded policy has generated a new regulation based on best practices and the latest research on grade-based acceleration, single-subject acceleration and underage entrance to first grade. [Regulation IKEB-R has been amended to reflect the ability to achieve early graduation through self-motivated, expedited advancement at the T.C. Satellite Campus.](#)

Statutory/Regulatory Policy Revisions:

Changes to the Code of Virginia took effect July 1, 2016 and January 1, 2017 that impact School Board policies. More recently, action by the Virginia General Assembly during its 2017 session, as well as Virginia Board of Education and U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations, mandate Board policy revisions effective July 1, 2017. As part of the Board's continuing policy review, we recommend that it examine the resulting statutory and regulatory policy revisions below. (Hyperlinks to the current policies are included for reference.)

***BLUE TEXT REFLECTS FEEDBACK RECEIVED SINCE THE 6/8/17 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING.**

Policy EBB: Threat Assessment Teams & * NEW Regulation EBB-R: Threat Assessment Team Regulations

Last reviewed in 2015, this policy has been updated to reflect the amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-79.4 by HB 1013, expanding on the roles of Division-wide and school-level threat assessment teams, or “safety teams.” This in turn became the impetus for development of an accompanying regulation to more thoroughly discuss the procedures followed by the teams in assessing, intervening in and resolving threats.

Policy EFB: Free and Reduced Price Food Services

Last reviewed in 2016, Policy EFB has been updated to correspond to the revision of Policy JHCH discussed below. [Policy EFB has been revised to reflect that the school division’s policy regarding unpaid meal charges is discussed in detail in Policy JHCH.](#)

Policy IGAJ: Driver Education

Last revised in 2015, this policy has been updated to reflect the amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-205 by HB 2290. Driver education instruction is required to include, as of July 1, 2017, classroom training on law enforcement interactions during traffic stops.

Policy JHCH: School Meals and Snacks & * NEW Regulation JHCH-R: Regulations for School Meals and Snacks

Last reviewed in 2016, Policy JHCH has been revised to reflect the *Virginia Board of Education Resolution to Implement Amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-207.4, Nutritional Guidelines for Competitive Foods: School-Fundraisers*; and the *U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Guidance for Implementation of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010*. These guidance documents require school divisions to have the following policy provisions in place by July 1, 2017:

- A local meal charge policy for unpaid student meals
- A local policy on the accounting and collection of delinquent meal payments

In addition, amendment of Va. Code §22.1-207.4 by HB 2114 created regulatory exemptions to the nutritional guidelines for “competitive foods” (fundraisers including food sales). It requires school divisions to address the specified number of exempt, school-sponsored fundraisers that may be held during school hours, not to exceed 30 per year per school.

Because Policy JHCH has undergone such extensive revision, Regulation JHCH-R has been created to discuss its provisions in detail.

Policy JHH: Suicide Prevention & * NEW Regulation JHH-R: Suicide Prevention/Intervention Guidelines

Last revised in 2015, Policy JHH’s policy and legal references have been updated. In addition, the ACPS Suicide Prevention/Intervention Guidelines are now categorized and attached as Regulation JHH-R for reference.

Policy JJAC: Student-Athlete Concussions during Extracurricular Activities

Last revised in 2015, this policy has been updated to reflect the amendment of Va. Code §22.1-271.5 by HB 954. This broadens the policy’s “Return to Learn” protocol to not only address concussions and brain injuries suffered by student-athletes, but by any student. In addition, it

expands the prohibition on student-athletes returning to play the same day not only for removal for, or evaluation or suspicion of having sustained a concussion, but for any suspected brain injury. Finally, the newly revised (February 2017) Regulation JJAC-R: Guidelines for Concussion Management in Alexandria City Public Schools, is attached for reference. [Policy JJAC's title has been revised to reflect that it applies not merely to concussions, but brain injuries generally.](#) In addition, [pg. 2 has been amended to incorporate text clarifying that a concussion is a type of brain injury.](#)

Policy JO: Student Records

Last revised in 2015, Policy JO has been revised to reflect the amendment of Va. Code §22.1-254.1 by SB 780. In addition, its section regarding Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Learning has been updated to reflect the amendment of 20 U.S.C. § 7908 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Further, the section regarding Disclosure of Education Records has been updated to properly reflect the legal references.

*** NEW** Policy JOA: Student Transcripts

This is a new VSBA model policy and newly proposed ACPS policy designed to reflect the adoption of 8 VAC 20-160-30. This section of the Virginia Administrative Code describes format options for student transcripts as well as the information they are required to contain. [Although the Board inquired whether Policy JOA could be revised to automatically remove an "F" earned for a high school credit-bearing course taken in middle school, a policy revision is not recommended at this time.](#) Since 1997, the Virginia Administrative Code (8 VAC 20-131-90 C) has allowed parents/guardians to request that a grade earned in middle school for a high school credit-bearing course be removed from a student's transcript. [But it requires affirmative parental action \(after notice by the school division\) to do so.](#) As this particular section expressly describes the process for grade removal and was promulgated pursuant to two Va. Code provisions regarding accreditation of schools, (§§ 22.1-19 and 22.1-253.13:3), legal counsel advises that ACPS could arguably be operating outside of the accreditation standards if it were to initiate any blanket removal of grades.

*** NEW** Policy JRCA: School Service Providers' Use of Student Personal Information

This is a new VSBA model policy and newly proposed ACPS policy designed to reflect the amendment of Va. Code §22.1-289.01 by SB 951. It extends various protections for student information that is collected and maintained, used, or shared on certain websites, mobile applications, or online services used by school affiliated entities. Such "school affiliated entities" are defined as any private entity that provides support to a local school division or a public elementary or secondary school in Virginia, including alumni associations, booster clubs, PTAs, PTSAs, PTOs, public education foundations, public education funds, and scholarship organizations.

Policy LBD: Home Instruction

Last reviewed in 2015, this policy has been revised to reflect the amendment of Va. Code §22.1-254.1 by HB 2355/SB1414. School divisions are now required to notify students receiving home instruction of the availability of and registration deadlines for PreACT testing (in addition to existing notifications regarding the availability of AP and PSAT testing).

BACKGROUND:

The Code of Virginia § [22.1-253.13:7](#) requires that each local school board shall maintain and follow up-to-date policies, and that all policies shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed. In addition, the Alexandria City School Board's Policy BF provides that

policies will be reviewed at least every three years and revised as needed.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the attached policies.

IMPACT:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposed revisions to various policies

CONTACT:

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