

1 **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND EDUCATIONAL EQUITY**
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3 Alexandria City Public Schools pledges to educate students in an atmosphere of excellence
4 and educational equity that prepares them for citizenship and ensures they are challenged
5 to stretch their talents and aspirations. Upon graduation, students may aspire to pursue
6 college, a career, or independent living. Although educational equity does not mean that
7 all students will have the same experiences or the same results, it does mean that the
8 education provided by ACPS will respond to each student’s individual challenges,
9 interests, and abilities, and that each student will be provided with the tools needed to
10 excel.

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12 The School Board will provide leadership and resources that support constructive and life-
13 affirming educational outcomes for our students. Through an individualized approach to
14 monitoring students’ interests and progress, ACPS will build on the strengths and gifts of
15 each student.

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17 ACPS believes each student will reach high levels of achievement when supported by a
18 challenging curriculum, effective instruction, engaging relationships, and an environment
19 that promotes his or her well-being academically, emotionally, physically, and socially.
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21 ACPS commits to policies, regulations, and practices that incorporate and are consistent
22 with the following principles:

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24 • Developmentally responsive educational practices and inclusive learning
25 environments empower students to perform at high levels. ACPS will maintain and
26 employees will use differentiated teaching strategies, assessment and other tools
27 that support students in their learning.
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29 • Educational outcomes are not presumed by income, race, disability, gender, first
30 language, or family background.
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32 • Access to educational programs, services, and opportunities does not depend on
33 eligibility criteria other than those prescribed by ACPS policies, or local, state, or
34 federal law. ACPS employees are expected to be aware of such applicable ACPS
35 policies and local, state, and federal laws.
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37 • Home, school, and community all play a vital role in student success.
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39 • Providing a challenging educational program to every student with an emphasis on
40 acceleration of learning opportunities is the responsibility of each administrator,
41 teacher, and staff member.
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43 • By working together, administrators, teachers, and staff members model
44 collaborative behavior to improve the quality of learning for all students. Each

45 employee is responsible and accountable for the learning and achievement of all
46 students and will help build a culture that reinforces this responsibility.

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48 • Employees advocate for the success of each student through program
49 recommendations and robust communication with students and their families
50 regarding opportunities for learning.

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52 • Positive educational outcomes are the responsibility of ACPS employees and our
53 students in partnership with our families and community.

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55 • A focus on the whole child will guide our work with students.

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59 Adopted: September 13, 2012

60 Affirmed: June 11, 2015

61 Amended: May 19, 2016

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63 Cross References: IGBA Programs for Students with Disabilities

64 IGBB Programs for Gifted Students

65 IGBF Limited English Proficient Students

66 IGBGA Online Courses and Virtual School Programs

67 JB Equal Education Opportunities / Non-Discrimination

68 JBA Section 504 Hearing Procedures