Policy Revision and Adoption

I-7.2.3.30 Communication, I-11.1 Family and Community Engagement, I-11.6.1 Locally Awarded Verified Credit, J-5.3.31 Options and Transfers, J-8.7 Safety of Students and Child Abuse and Neglect-Child Protective Services, J-15.31 Reporting Students Enrolled in Programs, and K-2.3.30 Media Relations

January 22, 2026

Steven Marku

Director of Policy and

Legislative Affairs

I-7.2.3.30 Communication

Timeline	
Drafting	August 2025
SB Policy Subcommittee	August 2025
Public Comment	September 15-October 15, 2025
School Board Information	December 18, 2025
School Board Action	January 22, 2026

Policy Changes:

- Renumber and retitle to K-30 Language Access Services.
- Clarify the introductory language.
- Remove definition of Cued Language Transliteration and out-of-date reference to its provision to parents/guardians.
- Note that a family who feels they have not received adequate services can contact the Office of Student Registration and Language Services to resolve the issue.
- Clarify that APS only translates essential documents that are produced by APS.
- Clarify that interpretation will be provided in major languages automatically and in other languages by request.

Policy Changes:

- Remove monitoring language and other unnecessary language.
- Redefine “Major Languages” to include only those spoken by at least 5% of families in APS or at least 15% of families in the applicable school.
- Minor technical changes.

PIP-1 (In Development):

- Renumber to K-30 PIP-1.
- Define essential documents.
- Lay out procedures for requesting interpreters.
- Update out of date language.
- Minor technical changes.
- Possible other changes to be considered.

Public Comment:

- One parent strongly disagreed with the revisions. They suggested that the definition of major languages is too limited and that APS should expand translation by using AI to automatically translate documents. APS must provide translation and interpretation services to those who need it by using competent staff or resources. These services must be provided to all who need it, not just those who speak a language defined as a major language.
- This parent also asked how the policy will be operationalized and measured. The PIP will describe how it will be operationalized.

I-11.1 Family and Community Engagement

Timeline	
Drafting	July 2025
SB Policy Subcommittee	August 2025
Public Comment	September 15-October 15, 2025
School Board Information	December 18, 2025
School Board Action	January 22, 2026

Policy Changes:

- Renumber to I-7.2.3.
- Rewrite the opening paragraph.
- Replace the opening section with a new section on APS's commitment to family and community engagement.
- Update the standards for engagement to be more clear.
- Remove section on Responsibilities.
- Add sections on Conditions for Success and Measures of Success.
- Minor technical changes.

PIP-1 Changes (Pending):

- Renumber to I-7.2.3.PIP-1.
- Add new introduction explaining that the PIP covers implementation of the standards in the policy.
- Reformat the goals into a table format.
- Make updates to the procedures associated with each goal to reflect the feedback of the stakeholder committee and provide better clarity to families and community members.
- Minor technical changes.

New PIP-2 (In Development):

- Clearly lay out the responsibilities each part of APS has with regard to family and community engagement.

Public Comment:

- 2 parents agreed, 1 staff member agreed, and 1 parent disagreed.
- The parent who disagreed did not feel that they have had meaningful opportunities to engage and expressed concern about resources that had been used for engagement being diluted and allocated for other things. They also questioned how this policy would be measured and how parents would see these evaluations. The policy revisions are not intended to dilute or reduce resources for engagement, those decisions are made through the budget process. Engagement is supposed to be integrated across all areas. This will be given more detail in PIP-2.
- 1 parent who agreed wanted interpretation and translation services for PTAs. This is covered by Language Access policy; PTAs cannot request interpretation, but schools can do so on their behalf at their discretion, and the request will be considered.

Public Comment:

- The other parent loved the policy and hopes that APS will live up to it.
- The staff member expressed some concern about privacy and data; these are handled under our privacy policies. They also suggested a number of very specific items to incorporate; these will be considered as part of PIP-2.

I-11.6.1 Locally Awarded Verified Credit

Timeline	
Drafting	August 2025
SB Policy Subcommittee	September 2025
Public Comment	October 10-November 9, 2025
School Board Information	December 18, 2025
School Board Action	January 22, 2026

Policy Changes:

- Note the history/social science exception in PIP-1.
- Clarify that credit accommodations that are not subject to the limit are determined by the IEP team or 504 committee.
- Add the code definition of Locally Awarded Verified Credit.
- Minor technical changes.

PIP-1 Changes (In Development):

- Remove duplicative policy language.
- Allow students to activate the process before the end of their 11th grade year, but strongly recommend that they wait until then, and consult with a school counselor before doing so.
- Update out-of-date information regarding the review panel and review process.
- Add VDOE-provided language regarding the exception for history/social science.
- Minor technical changes.

PIP-2 Special Circumstance Locally Awarded Verified Credit Process Related to 2020 School Closure Changes (Sept 2025):

- Delete language that no longer applies to current APS students.
- Change present tense to past tense.
- Delete the details of the review panel and review process, which have completed and are not reoccurring.
- Minor technical changes.

PIP-3 Special Circumstance Locally Awarded Verified Credit Process Related to 2021 School Closure Changes (Sept 2025):

- Delete language that no longer applies to current APS students.
- Change present tense to past tense.
- Delete the details of the review and appeal panels and review and appeal processes, which have completed and are not reoccurring.
- Minor technical changes.

Public Comment:

- 1 parent/staff member strongly agreed.

J-5.3.31 Options and Transfers

Timeline	
Drafting	February 2025
SB Policy Subcommittee	March 2025
Public Comment	October 10-November 9, 2025
School Board Information	December 18, 2025
School Board Action	January 22, 2026

Policy Changes:

- Remove unnecessary language.
- Clarify that students may only apply to transfer to neighborhood schools that are accepting transfers.
- Update language in sections on option schools/programs and neighborhood transfers for clarity.
- Clarify how the sibling preference applies.
- Reorder sentences in various parts of the policy.
- Minor technical changes.

PIP-1 Changes:

- Switch the priority order to put military placements above VDI enrollees, in accordance with state law.
- Clarify the procedure for students in Primary Montessori moving to MPSA.
- Remove unnecessary and duplicative language.
- Clarify that option programs other than HB Woodlawn and Pre-K only fill seats until Winter Break.
- Minor technical changes.

PIP-2 Preschool Changes:

- Update the criteria for admission to better reflect current practice.
- Add description of the Preschool Laboratory Program.
- Update the lottery priorities.
- Remove the text of the Waitlists section and crosswalk to PIP-1.
- Minor technical changes.

Public Comment:

- 1 parent agreed and 1 parent/staff member/community member/advisory committee strongly disagreed.
- The parent who agreed did not like the use of the term “neighborhood schools” because they felt that their child’s school was too far away and not in their neighborhood. This is the standard term that APS uses across many policies and PIPs. Questions about school assignments and locations are handled through the boundary process.
- The person who strongly disagreed believed that the revisions would change option schools to be weakened or reduced or somehow eliminated. The context of the concern was unclear and no specific policy text was cited as the reason for the concern. It is not the intention of APS to in any way weaken option schools, and we do not believe that these changes do so.

Public Comment:

- Another community member wrote in with concerns about the language being eliminated from the policy. The language about even distribution should not stay because distribution across schools is not even. That question is dealt with through boundaries, not through options and transfers. The language about culturally appropriate programs should not stay because it does not belong in an options and transfers policy. A-30 Equity covers this more specifically. The language about differentiated admission processes should not stay because it applies in some cases, but not others. The PIP lays out the different criteria in detail.

J-8.7 Safety of Students and Child Abuse and Neglect-Child Protective Services

Timeline	
Drafting	August 2025
SB Policy Subcommittee	September 2025
Public Comment	October 10-November 9, 2025
School Board Information	December 18, 2025
School Board Action	January 22, 2026

J-8.7 Safety of Students and Child Abuse and Neglect-Child Protective Services

Policy Changes:

- Require reporting to happen no later than 24 hours.
- Require notification of the school principal and completion of APS documentation after the report has been made to CPS.
- Prohibit retaliation against a mandated reporter contacting CPS in good faith.
- Better clarify the process and responsibilities for CPS interviews offsite.
- Minor technical changes.

J-15.31 Reporting Students Enrolled in Programs

Timeline	
Drafting	July 2025
SB Policy Subcommittee	August 2025
Public Comment	September 15-October 15, 2025
School Board Information	December 18, 2025
School Board Action	January 22, 2026

Policy Changes:

- Add introductory sentence.
- Remove details on VDOE reporting to simply note that APS follows VDOE requirements.
- Reorder the sections and headings.
- Add that assessment and membership reports will also be broken down by program when the programs are high school general education programs that lead to a diploma or certificate.
- Note that monthly enrollment reports will be posted on the APS website.
- Remove monitoring language.
- Minor technical changes.

Public Comment:

- 1 parent disagreed with the revisions. They disagreed with the removal of the monitoring language. It was discovered that some of the language was not boilerplate, and the text was adjusted to keep that portion. The parent also asked for an implementation, evaluation, and budgeting plan for every policy. It would not be practical to include that with each revision, but implementation is covered in PIPs when necessary and budgeting is covered through the annual budget. Policies are evaluated when reviewed.

K-2.3.30 Media Relations

Timeline	
Drafting	August 2025
SB Policy Subcommittee	September 2025
Public Comment	October 10-November 9, 2025
School Board Information	December 18, 2025
School Board Action	January 22, 2026

Policy Changes:

- Clarify that the Superintendent and Board Chair do occasionally speak for APS.
- Add language allowing media to cover public meetings of public bodies without prior approval.
- Minor technical changes.

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