

## **VSBA POLICY UPDATE-May 2020**

**2nd Reading - August 25, 2020**

### **WHAT THE UPDATE CONTAINS . . .**

The most recent revisions to the VSBA Policy Manual have been posted on the VSBA website (vsba.org.) The revisions are provided in both final and strike-through format. The strike-through format shows each change made to the policies (the changes are designated by underlining new language and striking through deleted language). The Policy Update will remain on the website for approximately one year. After that the policies will be incorporated into the VSBA Policy Manual available on the website. The revisions are based on changes in law and regulations. In addition, a few policies are revised for editorial reasons or to correct technical errors. All of the revisions have been reviewed for legality.

This document is also posted with the updated policies.

### **HOW TO USE THE UPDATE . . .**

A brief explanation is given for each revision later in this document. Each revision should be examined and then the School Board should decide whether to adopt the revised policies. Some policies require local input before adoption. Be sure to add information where indicated.

The VSBA copyright and the date the policies are revised appear on all VSBA policies. If VSBA policies are changed in any way, the copyright reference should be deleted from the policy. VSBA policies adopted verbatim should retain the VSBA copyright symbol.

Please contact the Policy Services Department at VSBA if you have any questions, (434) 295-8722.

## Explanation of Revisions – May 2020 Policy Update

<b>Policy Code</b>	<b>Revision</b>
<b>AC</b>	<b>Nondiscrimination</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 2.2-3900 and enactment of Va. Code § 22.1-295.2 by SB 898.
<b>BBA</b>	<b>School Board Powers and Duties</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-79 by HB 351. Legal References and Cross References updated.
<b>BBFA</b>	<b>Conflict of Interests and Disclosure of Economic Interests</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 2.2-3115 by HB 1011.
<b>BDD</b>	<b>Electronic Participation in Meetings from Remote Locations</b> Policy updated to reflect Acts 2020, c. 1283, § 4-0.01. Legal References updated.
<b>CBA</b>	<b>Qualifications and Duties for the Superintendent</b> Policy updated to reflect Va. Code § 22.1-70.3 as amended by HB 351/SB 324. Legal References and Cross Reference updated.
<b>CLA</b>	<b>Reporting Act of Violence and Substance Abuse</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-279.3:1 by HB 257/SB 729.
<b>DJ</b>	<b>Small Purchasing</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 2.2-4303 by HB 452/SB 650.
<b>DJF</b>	<b>Purchasing Procedures</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-296.1 by HB 392.
<b>EB</b>	<b>School Crisis, Emergency Management and Medical Emergency Response Plan</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-279.8 by HB 501. Cross References updated.

<b>EBCB</b>	<p><b>Safety Drills</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-137.2 by HB 270 and HB 402.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Note: policy contains a NEW requirement that the superintendent develop procedures.</i></p>
<b>EFB</b>	<p><b>Food Services</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-79.7 by HB 697 and HB 703 and enactment of Va. Code § 22.1-207.3:1 by HB 698. Cross Reference updated.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Note: policy contains a NEW requirement that the superintendent develop procedures.</i></p>
<b>GB</b>	<p><b>Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination</b> Policy updated to reflect enactment of Va. Code § 22.1-295.2 by HB 1049 and SB 868. Legal References updated.</p>
<b>GBA/JFHA</b>	<p><b>Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation</b> Policy updated to reflect enactment of Va. Code § 22.1-295.2 by HB 1049 and SB 868 and amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-306 by SB 868. Legal References and Cross References updated.</p>
<b>GBEB</b>	<p><b>Staff Weapons in School</b> Policy updated to reflect enactment of Va. Code § 22.1-280.2:4 by HB 1080. Legal References updated.</p>
<b>GBMA</b>	<p><b>Support Staff Grievances</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-311 by SB 377.</p>
<b>GCDA</b>	<p><b>Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-296.1 by HB 392.</p>
<b>GCG</b>	<p><b>Professional Staff Probationary Term and Continuing Contract</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-303 by HB 365/SB 98.</p>
<b>GCL</b>	<p><b>Professional Staff Development</b> Policy updated to reflect enactment of Va. Code § 22.1-298.6 by HB 74/SB 619. Legal References updated.</p>

<b>GCN</b>	<b>Evaluation of Professional Staff</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-303 by HB 365/SB 98.
<b>GCPD</b>	<b>Professional Staff Discipline</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-307 by HB 570/SB 167. Cross References updated.
<b>IA</b>	<b>Instructional Goals and Objectives</b> Policy updated to reflect enactment of Va. Code § 22.1-215.2 by HB 410. Cross References updated.
<b>IEB</b>	<b>National Motto</b> Policy and Legal References updated.
<b>IGAH</b> (Optional policy)	<b>Family Life Education (FLE)</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-207.1 by HB 1336.
<b>IJD</b>	<b>College and Career Readiness</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:1 by HB 1276.
<b>JB</b>	<b>Equal Employment Opportunities/Nondiscrimination</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-212.6:1 by HB 1049.
<b>JEC</b>	<b>School Admission</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-3.4 by HB 368/SB 275.
<b>JEC-R</b>	<b>School Admission</b> Policy and Cross References updated.
<b>JED</b>	<b>Student Absences/Excuses/Dismissals</b> Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-258 by HB 1081. Legal References and Cross References updated.
<b>JEG</b>	<b>Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance</b> Policy updated.
<b>JFCA</b>	<b>Teacher Removal of Students from Class</b> Policy updated.

<b>JFCD</b>	<p><b>Weapons in School</b>  Policy updated to reflect enactment of Va. Code § 22.1-280.2:4 by HB 1080.  Legal References updated.</p>
<b>JFHA/GBA</b>	<p><b>Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation</b>  Policy updated to reflect enactment of Va. Code § 22.1-295.2 by HB1049 and SB 868 and amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-306 by SB 868.  Legal References and Cross References updated.</p>
<b>JGD/JGE</b> (Options 1 & 2)	<p><b>Student Suspension/Expulsion</b>  Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-279.3:1 by HB 257 and amendment of Va. Code §§ 22.1-277.04 and 22.1-277.05 by HB 415.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Note: Policy provides that the superintendent is responsible for creating procedures.</i></p>
<b>JO</b>	<p><b>Student Records</b>  Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 64.2-2003 by SB 214. Legal References updated.</p>
<b>KBA</b>	<p><b>Requests for Public Records</b>  Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 2.2-3704.4 by HB 138.</p>
<b>KNAJ</b>	<p><b>Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities</b>  Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-279.3:1 by HB 257 and Va. Code § 22.1-280.2:3 by HB 292/SB 221.  Legal References updated.</p>
<b>KQ</b>	<p><b>Commercial, Promotional and Corporate Sponsorships and Partnerships</b>  Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-296.1 by HB 392.</p>
<b>LC</b>	<p><b>Charter Schools</b>  Policy updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-212.6:1 by HB 1049.</p>
<b>LC-E</b>	<p><b>[School Division] Charter School Application Addendum</b>  Sample Application updated to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-212.6:1 by HB 1049.</p>

## NONDISCRIMINATION

The Colonial Heights School Board is committed to non-discrimination with regard to sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, disability, status as a veteran, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law. This commitment prevails in all of its policies and practices concerning staff, students, educational programs and services, and individuals and entities with whom the Board does business.

Adopted: August 22, 1995  
Amended: March 28, 2000  
Amended: March 23, 2004  
Amended: September 24, 2013  
Amended: April 24, 2018  
Amended: August 25, 2020

Legal Refs.: 20 U.S.C. §§1681-1688  
29 U.S.C. § 794.  
42 U.S.C. §§2000d-2000d-7, 2000e-2000e-17, 2000ff-1.  
34 C.F.R 106.9.

Constitution of Virginia, article I, section 11.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§2.2-3900, 2.2-3901, , 2.2-3902, 22.1-295.2.

Cross Refs.:

GB	Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination
GBA/JFHA	Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation
JB	Equal Educational Opportunities/Nondiscrimination

## SCHOOL BOARD POWERS AND DUTIES

### The School Board:

1. Adopts policy to provide for the day-to-day supervision of schools;
2. Sees that the school laws are properly explained, enforced and observed;
3. Secures, by visitation or otherwise, as full information as possible about the conduct of the public schools in the school division and takes care that they are conducted according to law and with the utmost efficiency;
4. Cares for, manages and controls the property of the school division and provides for the erecting, furnishing, equipping, and non-instructional operating of necessary school buildings and appurtenances and the maintenance thereof by purchase, lease, or other contracts;
5. Provides for the consolidation of schools or redistricting of school boundaries or adopts pupil assignment plans whenever such procedure will contribute to the efficiency of the school division;
6. Insofar as not inconsistent with state statutes and regulations of the Board of Education, operates and maintains the public schools in the school division and determines the length of the school term, the studies to be pursued, the methods of teaching and the government to be employed in the schools;
7. Performs such other duties as shall be prescribed by the Board of Education or as are imposed by law.
8. Obtains public comment through a public hearing not less than ten days after reasonable notice to the public in a newspaper of general circulation in the school division prior to providing (i) for the consolidation of schools; (ii) the transfer from the public school system of the administration of all instructional services for any public school classroom or all non-instructional services in the school division pursuant to a contract with any private entity or organization; or (iii) in school divisions having 15,000 pupils or more in average daily membership, for redistricting of school boundaries or adopting any pupil assignment plan affecting the assignment of fifteen percent or more of the pupils in average daily membership in the affected school. Such public hearing may be held at the same time and place as the meeting of the School Board at which the proposed action is taken if the public hearing is held before the action is taken.
9. Surveys, at least annually, the school division to identify critical shortages of teachers and administrative personnel by subject matter, and school bus drivers and reports such critical shortages to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and to the Virginia Retirement System or requests the superintendent to conduct such

survey and submit such report to the school board, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Virginia Retirement System; and

- 10. Ensures that the public schools within the school division are registered with the Department of State Police to receive electronic notice of the registration or re-registration of any sex offender within the school division pursuant to Va. Code § 9.1-914.

Adopted: September 24, 1996  
Amended: May 27, 1997  
Amended: January 26, 1999  
Amended: June 22, 2004  
Amended: July 25, 2006  
Amended: July 24, 2007  
Amended: April 22, 2014  
Amended: August 25, 2020

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70.3, 22.1-78, 22.1-79.

Cross Refs.: AF Comprehensive Plan  
CBA Qualifications and Duties for the Superintendent  
KN Sex Offender Registry Notification



## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS AND DISCLOSURE OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS

### A. Purpose

The Colonial Heights School Board seeks, through the adoption of this policy, to ensure that the judgment of its members, officers and employees will be guided by a policy that defines and prohibits inappropriate conflicts and requires disclosure of economic interests, as defined by the General Assembly in the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act (the Act).

### B. Areas of Regulation

The Act establishes six principal areas of regulation applicable to Board members, officers, and employees of the Colonial Heights School Division. They are:

1. Special anti-nepotism rules relating to School Board members and superintendents of schools.
2. General rules governing public conduct by School Board members regarding acceptance of gifts and favors.
3. Prohibited conduct regarding contracts.
4. Required conduct regarding transactions.
5. Disclosures required from School Board members
6. Training requirements for elected School Board members

### C. Definitions

"Advisory agency" means any board, commission, committee or post which does not exercise any sovereign power or duty, but is appointed by a governmental agency or officer or is created by law for the purpose of making studies or recommendations, or advising or consulting with a governmental agency.

"Affiliated business entity relationship" means a relationship, other than a parent-subsidiary relationship, that exists when

- (i) one business entity has a controlling ownership interest in the other business entity;
- (ii) a controlling owner in one entity is also a controlling owner in the other entity; or
- (iii) there is shared management or control between the business entities.

Factors that may be considered in determining the existence of an affiliated business entity relationship include that the same person or substantially the same person owns or manages the two entities; there are common or commingled funds or assets; the business entities share the use of the same offices or employees; or otherwise share activities, resources or

personnel on a regular basis; or there is otherwise a close working relationship between the entities.

"Business" means any individual or entity carrying on a business or profession, whether or not for profit.

"Contract" means any agreement to which a governmental agency is a party, or any agreement on behalf of a governmental agency which involves the payment of money appropriated by the General Assembly or political subdivision, whether or not such agreement is executed in the name of the Commonwealth, or some political subdivision of it.

"Council" means the Virginia Conflict of interest and Ethics Advisory Council established in Va. Code §30-355.

"Employee" means all persons employed by a governmental or advisory agency.

"Financial institution" means any bank, trust company, savings institution, industrial loan association, consumer finance company, credit union, broker-dealer as defined in subsection A of Va. Code § 13.1-501, or investment company or advisor registered under the federal Investment Advisors Act or Investment Company Act of 1940.

"Gift" means any gratuity, favor, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other item having monetary value. It includes services as well as gifts of transportation, local travel, lodgings, and meals, whether provided in-kind, by purchase of a ticket, payment in advance or reimbursement after the expense has been incurred. "Gift" does not include any offer of a ticket, coupon, or other admission or pass unless the ticket, coupon, admission, or pass is used; honorary degrees; any athletic, merit, or need-based scholarship or any other financial aid awarded by a public or private school, institution of higher education, or other educational program pursuant to such school, institution or program's financial aid standards and procedures applicable to the general public; a campaign contribution properly received and reported pursuant to Va. Code § 24.2-945 et seq.; any gift related to the private profession, occupation, or volunteer service of the School Board member or employee or of a member of the School Board member's or employee's immediate family; food or beverages consumed while attending an event at which the School Board member or employee is performing official duties related to his public service; food and beverages received at or registration or attendance fees waived for any event at which the School Board member or employee is a featured speaker, presenter or lecturer; unsolicited awards of appreciation or recognition in the form of a plaque, trophy, wall memento or similar item that is given in recognition of public, civic, charitable or professional service; a devise or inheritance; travel disclosed pursuant to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (Va. Code § 24.2-945 et seq.); travel paid for or provided by the government of the United States, any of its territories or any state or any political subdivision of such state; travel related to an official meeting of, or any meal provided for attendance at such meeting by the Commonwealth, its political subdivisions, or any board, commission, authority, or other entity, or any charitable organization established pursuant to § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code affiliated with such entity, to which such person has been appointed or elected or is a member by virtue of his office or employment; gifts with a value of less than \$20; attendance at a reception or similar function where food, such as hors d'oeuvres, and beverages that can be conveniently consumed by a person while standing or walking are offered; or gifts from relatives or personal friends. For the purpose of this definition, "relative" means the donator's spouse, child, uncle,

aunt, niece, nephew, or first cousin; a person to whom the donator is engaged to be married; the donee's or donee's spouse's parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, step-parent, step-grandparent, step-grandchild, step-brother or step-sister, or the donator's brother's or sister's spouse or the donee's son-in-law or daughter-in-law. For the purpose of this definition, "personal friend" does not include any person that the School Board member or employee knows or has reason to know is (a) a lobbyist registered pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-418 et seq.; (b) a lobbyist's principal as defined in Va. Code § 2.2-419; or (c) a person, organization, or business who is a party to or is seeking to become a party to a contract with the School Board. For purposes of this definition, "person, organization or business" includes individuals who are officers, directors or owners of or who have a controlling ownership interest in such organization or business.

"Governmental agency" means each component part of the legislative, executive or judicial branches of state and local government, including each office, department, authority, post, commission, committee, and each institution or board created by law to exercise some regulatory or sovereign power or duty as distinguished from purely advisory powers or duties. Corporations organized or controlled by the Virginia Retirement System are "governmental agencies" for purposes of this policy.

"Immediate family" means (i) a spouse and (ii) any other person who resides in the same household as the School Board member or employee and who is a dependent of the School Board member or employee.

"Officer" means any person appointed or elected to any governmental or advisory agency including local school boards, whether or not he receives compensation or other emolument of office.

"Parent-subsidiary relationship" means a relationship that exists when one corporation directly or indirectly owns shares possessing more than 50 percent of the voting power of another corporation.

"Personal interest" means a financial benefit or liability accruing to a School Board member or employee or to a member of the immediate family of the School Board member or employee. Such interest shall exist by reason of:

- (i) ownership in a business if the ownership interest exceeds three percent of the total equity of the business;
- (ii) annual income that exceeds, or may reasonably be anticipated to exceed, \$5,000 from ownership in real or personal property or a business;
- (iii) salary, other compensation, fringe benefits, or benefits from the use of property, or any combination thereof, paid or provided by a business or governmental agency that exceeds, or may reasonably be anticipated to exceed \$5,000 annually;
- (iv) ownership of real or personal property if the interest exceeds \$5,000 in value and excluding ownership in a business, income or salary, other compensation, fringe benefits or benefits from the use of property;
- (v) personal liability incurred or assumed on behalf of a business if the liability exceeds three percent of the asset value of the business; or
- (vi) an option for ownership of a business or real or personal property if the ownership interest will consist of the (i) or (iv) above.

"Personal interest in a contract" means a personal interest which an officer or employee has in a contract with a governmental agency, whether due to his being a party to the contract or due to a personal interest in a business which is a party to the contract.

"Personal interest in a transaction" means a personal interest of an officer or employee in any matter considered by his agency. Such personal interest exists when an officer or employee or a member of his immediate family has a personal interest in property or a business, or governmental agency, or represents or provides services to any individual or business and such property, business, or represented or served individual or business is

- (i) the subject of the transaction or
- (ii) may realize a reasonably foreseeable direct or indirect benefit or detriment as a result of the action of the agency considering the transaction.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, such personal interest in a transaction shall not be deemed to exist where an elected member of a local governing body serves without remuneration as a member of the board of trustees of a not-for-profit entity and such elected member or member of his immediate family has no personal interest related to the not-for-profit entity or (b) an officer, employee or elected member of a local governing body is appointed by the local governing body to serve on a governmental agency or an officer, employee, or elected member of a separate local governmental agency formed by a local governing body is appointed to serve on a governmental agency, and the personal interest in the transaction of the governmental agency is a result of the salary, other compensation, fringe benefits, or benefits provided by the local governing body or the separate governmental agency to the officer, employee, elected member, or member of his immediate family.

"Transaction" means any matter considered by any governmental or advisory agency, whether in a committee, subcommittee, or other entity of that agency or before the agency itself, on which official action is taken or contemplated.

#### D. Special Anti-Nepotism Rules Relating to School Board members and Superintendents

1. The School Board may not employ or pay, and the superintendent may not recommend for employment, the father, mother, brother, sister, spouse, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, or brother-in-law, of the superintendent or of a School Board except as authorized below. This prohibition does not apply to the employment, promotion, or transfer within the school division, of any person within a relationship described above when such person:
  - has been employed pursuant to a written contract with the School Board or employed as a substitute teacher or teacher's aide by the School Board prior to the taking of office of the superintendent or any member of the Board; or
  - has been employed pursuant to a written contract with the School Board or employed as a substitute teacher or teacher's aide by the School Board prior to the inception of such relationship; or
  - was employed by the School Board at any time prior to June 10, 1994, and had been employed at any time as a teacher or other employee of any Virginia

school board prior to the taking of office of any member of the School Board or superintendent.

A person employed as a substitute teacher may not be employed to any greater extent than he was employed by the School Board in the last full school year prior to the taking of office of such Board member or superintendent or to the inception of such relationship.

2. Notwithstanding the rules stated in Subsection D.1. above, the School Board may employ or pay, and the superintendent may recommend for employment any family member of a School Board member provided that
  - the member certifies that he had no involvement with the hiring decision; and
  - the superintendent certifies to the remaining members of the School Board in writing that the recommendation is based upon merit and fitness and the competitive rating of the qualifications of the individual and that no member of the Board had any involvement with the hiring decision.
3. Notwithstanding the rules stated above, the School Board may employ or pay any family member of the superintendent provided that
  - the superintendent certifies that he had no involvement with the hiring decision; and
  - the assistant superintendent certifies to the members of the School Board in writing that the recommendation is based upon merit and fitness and the competitive rating of the qualifications of the individual and that the superintendent had no involvement with the hiring decision.
4. No family member (as listed in section D.1., above) of any employee may be employed by the School Board if the family member is to be employed in a direct supervisory and/or administrative relationship either supervisory or subordinate to the employee. The employment and assignment of family members in the same organizational unit is discouraged.

E. General Rules Governing Public Conduct by School Board members and Employees Regarding Gifts and Favors

1. Prohibited Conduct

No member or employee of the board, shall:

- Solicit or accept money, or anything else of value, for services performed; within the scope of his or her official duties other than his or her regular; compensation, expenses or other remuneration;
- Offer or accept money, or anything else of value, for or in consideration of obtaining employment, appointment, or promotion of any person in the school division;

- Offer or accept any money or anything else of value for or in consideration of the use of his public position to obtain a contract for any person or business with the school division;
- Use for his or her own economic benefit, or anyone else's, confidential information gained by reason of his or her office, and which is not available to the public;
- Accept any money, loan, gift, favor, service or business or professional opportunity that reasonably tends to influence him or her in the performance of his or her official duties;
- Accept any business or professional opportunity when he or she knows that there is a reasonable likelihood that the opportunity is being afforded him or her to influence his or her conduct in the performance of official duties;
- Accept a gift from a person who has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance of the School Board member's or employee's official duties under circumstances where the timing and nature of the gift would cause a reasonable person to question the Board member's or employee's impartiality in the matter affecting the donor;
- Accept gifts from sources on a basis so frequent as to raise an appearance of the use of his or her public office or employment for private gain; or
- Use his or her public position to retaliate or threaten to retaliate against any person for expressing views on matters of public concern or for exercising any right that is otherwise protected by law, provided, however that this prohibition shall not restrict the authority of any public employer to govern conduct or its employees, and to take disciplinary action, in accordance with applicable law.

## 2. Prohibited Gifts

For purposes of this subsection:

"Person, organization or business" includes individuals who are officers, directors or owners of or who have a controlling ownership interest in such organization or business.

"Widely attended event" means an event at which at least 25 persons have been invited to attend or there is a reasonable expectation that at least 25 persons will attend the event and the event is open to individuals who are members of a public, civic, charitable or professional organization, (ii) who are from a particular industry or profession or (iii) who represent persons interested in a particular issue.

School Board members and employees required to file a Statement of Economic Interests as prescribed in Va. Code § 2.2-3117 and members of their immediate families shall not solicit, accept or receive any single gift with a value in excess of \$100 or any combination of gifts with an aggregate value in excess of \$100 within any calendar year for the School Board member or employee or a member of the School Board or employee's immediate family from any person that the School Board member or employee or a member of the School Board's or employee's immediate family knows or has reason to know is (i) a lobbyist registered pursuant to Va, Code § 2.2-418 et seq.; (ii) a lobbyist's principal as defined in Va, Code § 2.2-419; or (iii) a person, organization or

business who is or is seeking to become a party to a contract with the School Board. Gifts with a value of less than \$20 are not subject to aggregation for purposes of this prohibition.

Notwithstanding the above, School Board members and employees required to file a Statement of Economic Interests and members of their immediate families may accept or receive

- a gift of food and beverages, entertainment or the cost of admission with a value in excess of \$100 when such gift is accepted or received while in attendance at a widely attended event and is associated with the event. Such gifts shall be reported on the Statement of Economic Interests;
- a gift from a foreign dignitary with a value exceeding \$100 for which the fair market value or a gift of greater or equal value has not been provided or exchanged. Such gift shall be accepted on behalf of the Commonwealth or a locality and archived in accordance with guidelines established by the Library of Virginia. Such gift shall be disclosed as having been accepted on behalf of the Commonwealth or a locality, but the value of such gift shall not be required to be disclosed;
- certain gifts with a value in excess of \$100 from a lobbyist, lobbyist's principal or a person, organization or business who is or is seeking to become a party to a contract with the School Board if such gift was provided to such School Board member or employee or a member of the immediate family of the School Board member or employee on the basis of a personal friendship. A lobbyist, lobbyist's principal or a person, organization or business who is or is seeking to become a party to a contract with the School Board may be a personal friend of such School Board member or employee or the immediate family of the School Board member or employee. In determining whether a lobbyist, lobbyist's principal or a person, organization or business who is or is seeking to become a party to a contract with the School Board is a personal friend, the following factors shall be considered: (i) the circumstances under which the gift was offered; (ii) the history of the relationship between the person and the donor, including the nature and length of the friendship and any previous exchange of gifts between them; (iii) to the extent known to the person, whether the donor personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift; and (iv) whether the donor has given the same or similar gifts to other persons required to file the disclosure form prescribed in Va. Code §§ 2.2-3117 or 30-111; and
- gifts of travel, including travel-related transportation, lodging, hospitality, food or beverages, or other thing of value, with a value in excess of \$100 that is paid for or provided by a lobbyist, lobbyist's principal or a person, organization or business who is or is seeking to become a party to a contract with the School Board when the School Board member or employee has submitted a request for approval of such travel to the Council and has received the approval of the Council pursuant to Va. Code § 30-356.1. Such gifts shall be reported on the Statement of Economic Interests.

The \$100 limitation imposed in accordance with this section shall be adjusted by the Council every five years, as of January 1 of that year, in an amount equal to the

annual increases for that five-year period in the United States Average Consumer Price Index for all items, all urban consumers (CPI-U), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor, rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

No person shall be in violation of this policy if (i) the gift is not used by such person and the gift or its equivalent in money is returned to the donor or delivered to a charitable organization within a reasonable period of time upon the discovery of the value of the gift and is not claimed as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes or (ii) consideration is given by the donee to the donor for the value of the gift within a reasonable period of time upon the discovery of the value of the gift provided that such consideration reduces the value of the gift to \$100 or less.

### 3. Awards to Employees for Exceptional Service

Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit or apply to the acceptance by a teacher or other employee of Colonial Heights School Board of an award or payment in honor of meritorious or exceptional services performed by the teacher or employee and made by an organization exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### F. Prohibited Conduct Regarding Contracts

1. No School Board member or employee shall have a personal interest in (i) any contract with the School Board or (ii) any contract with any government agency which is subject to the ultimate control of the Board;
2. Exceptions - The above prohibition shall not be applicable to:
  - a Board member's personal interest in a contract of employment provided the employment first began prior to the member becoming a member of the School Board;
  - an employee's own contract of employment
  - contracts for the sale by a governmental agency of services or goods at uniform prices available to the general public;
  - a contract awarded to a member of the School Board as a result of competitive sealed bidding where the School Board has established a need for the same or substantially similar goods through purchases prior to the election or appointment of the member to serve on the School Board.; however, the member shall have no involvement in the preparation of the specifications for such contract, and the remaining members of the School Board, by written resolution, shall state that it is in the public interest for the member to bid on such contract;
  - the sale, lease or exchange of real property between a School Board member or employee and the School Board, provided the Board member or employee



does not participate in any way as a Board member or employee in such sale, lease or exchange, and this fact is set forth as a matter of public record by the School Board or superintendent;

- the publication of official notices;
- an officer or employee whose sole personal interest in a contract with the governmental agency is by reason of income from the contracting firm or governmental agency in excess of \$5,000 per year, provided the officer or employee or a member of his immediate family does not participate and has no authority to participate in the procurement or letting of such contract on behalf of the contracting firm and the officer or employee either does not have authority to participate in the procurement or letting of the contract on behalf of his governmental agency or he disqualifies himself as a matter of public record and does not participate on behalf of his governmental agency in negotiating the contract or in approving the contract;
- contracts between an officer's or employee's governmental agency and a public service corporation, financial institution, or company furnishing public utilities in which the officer or employee has a personal interest provided the officer or employee disqualifies himself as a matter of public record and does not participate on behalf of his governmental agency in negotiating or approving the contract;
- contracts for the purchase of goods or services when the contract does not exceed \$500;
- grants or other payment under any program wherein uniform rates for, or the amounts paid to, all qualified applicants are established solely by the administering governmental agency;
- an officer or employee whose sole personal interest in a contract with his own governmental agency is by reason of his marriage to his spouse who is employed by the same agency, if the spouse was employed by such agency for five or more years prior to marrying such officer or employee;
- employment contracts and other contracts entered into prior to August 1, 1987, provided such contracts were in compliance with the Virginia Conflict of Interests Act (or the Comprehensive Conflict of Interests Act) at the time of their formation and thereafter. Those contracts shall continue to be governed by the provisions of the appropriate prior Act. The employment by the same governmental agency of an officer or employee and spouse or any other relative residing in the same household shall not be deemed to create a material financial interest except when one of the persons is employed in a direct supervisory and/or administrative position with respect to the spouse or other relative residing in his household and the annual salary of the subordinate is \$35,000 or more.

## G. Prohibited Conduct Regarding Transactions

1. Each School Board member and school board employee who has a personal interest in a transaction:

- a. Shall disqualify himself from participating in the transaction if
  - (i) the transaction has application solely to property or a business or governmental agency in which he has a personal interest or a business that has a parent-subsiidiary or affiliated business entity relationship with the business in which he has a personal interest; or
  - (ii) he is unable to participate pursuant to subdivision G.1.b, G.1.c., or G.1.d. of this policy.

Any disqualification under this subsection shall be recorded in the School Board's public records. The School Board member or employee shall disclose his personal interests as required by Va. Code § 2.2-3115E and shall not vote or in any manner act on behalf of the School Board in the transaction. The member or employee shall not

- (i) attend any portion of a closed meeting authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act when the matter in which he has a personal interest is discussed; or
  - (ii) discuss the matter in which he has a personal interest with other governmental officers or employees at any time.
- b. May participate in the transaction if he is a member of a business, profession, occupation, or group of three or more persons, the members of which are affected by the transaction, and he complies with the declaration requirements of Va. Code § 2.2-3115 H;
- c. May participate in the transaction when a party to the transaction is a client of his firm if he does not personally represent or provide services to such client and he complies with the declaration requirements of Va. Code § 2.2-3115 I; or
- d. May participate in the transaction if it affects the public generally, even though his personal interest, as a member of the public, may also be affected by that transaction.

2. Disqualification under this section shall not prevent any employee having a personal interest in a transaction in which his employer is involved from representing himself or a member of his immediate family in such transaction provided he does not receive compensation for such representation and provided he complies with the disqualification and relevant disclosure requirements of this policy.

3. If disqualifications under subsection 1.a. of this section leave less than the number required by law to act, the remaining member or members of the board shall

constitute a quorum for the conduct of business and have authority to act for the board by majority vote, unless a unanimous vote of all members is required by law, in which case authority to act shall require a unanimous vote of remaining members.

4. The provisions of this section shall not prevent a Board member or employee from participating in a transaction merely because such a Board member or employee is a defendant in a civil legal proceeding concerning such transaction.

#### H. Disclosure Requirements for School Board members

1. School Board members file, as a condition of assuming office, a disclosure statement of their personal interests and other information as is required on the form prescribed by the Council provided to VA. Code § 2.2-3117 and thereafter file such statement annually on or before February 1. The disclosure forms are filed and maintained as public records for five years in the office of the clerk of the School Board.
2. School Board members and employees required to file the Statement of Economic Interests who fail to file such form within the time period prescribed shall be assessed a civil penalty of \$250. The clerk of the School Board shall notify the attorney for the Commonwealth for the locality of any School Board member's or employee's failure to file the required form and the attorney for the Commonwealth shall assess and collect the civil penalty. The clerk shall notify the attorney for the Commonwealth within 30 days of the deadline for filing.
3. Any Board member or employee who is disqualified from participating in a transaction under Section G.1.a. of this policy, or otherwise elects to disqualify himself, shall forthwith make disclosure of the existence of his interest, including the full name and address of the business and the address or parcel number for the real estate if the interest involves a business or real estate and such disclosure shall be reflected in the school board's public records in the division superintendent's office for a period of five (5) years.
4. Any Board member or employee who is required to disclose his interest under Section G.1.b. of this policy shall declare his interest by stating:
  - the transaction involved;
  - the nature of the Board member's or employee's personal interest affected by the transaction;
  - that he is a member of a business, profession, occupation, or group the members of which are affected by the transaction; and
  - that he is able to participate in the transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

The Board member or employee shall either make his declaration orally to be recorded in written minutes of the board or file a signed written declaration with the clerk of the board, who shall, in either case, retain and make available for public inspection such declaration for a period of five years from the date of

recording or receipt. If reasonable time is not available to comply with the provisions of this subsection prior to participation in the transaction, the Board member or employee shall prepare and file the required declaration by the end of the next business day. The Board member or employee shall also orally disclose the existence of the interest during each School Board meeting at which the transaction is discussed and such disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

5. A Board member or employee who is required to declare his interest pursuant to subdivision G.1.c. of this policy shall declare his interest by stating
  - (i) the transaction involved;
  - (ii) that a party to the transaction is a client of his firm;
  - (iii) that he does not personally represent or provide services to the client; and
  - (iv) that he is able to participate in the transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

The Board member or employee shall either make his declaration orally to be recorded in written minutes of the board or file a signed written declaration with the clerk of the board who shall, in either case, retain and make available for public inspection such declaration for a period of five years from the date of recording or receipt. If reasonable time is not available to comply with the provisions of this subsection prior to participation in the transaction, the board member or employee shall prepare and file the required declaration by the end of the next business day.

#### I. Release of Disclosure Forms

A clerk of the School Board who releases any disclosure form shall redact from the form any residential address, personal telephone number, email address, or signature contained on such form.

#### J. Deadlines and Coverage Periods for Disclosure Forms

A School Board member or employee required to file an annual disclosure on or before February 1 shall disclose his personal interests and other information as required on the form prescribed by the Council for the preceding calendar year complete through December 31.

A School Board member or employee required to file a disclosure as a condition to assuming office or employment shall file such disclosure on or before the day such office or position of employment is assumed and disclose his personal interests and other information as required on the form prescribed by the Council for the preceding 12-month period complete through the last day of the month immediately preceding the month in which the office or position of employment is assumed; however, any School Board member or employee who assumes office or a position of employment in January shall be required to only file an annual disclosure on or before February 1 for the preceding calendar year complete through December 31.

When the deadline for filing any disclosure falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the deadline for filing shall be the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

**K. Training Requirements for Elected School Board Members**

Each elected school Board member completes the training session provided by the Council within two months after assuming office and thereafter at least once during each consecutive period of two calendar years while holding office.

The clerk of the School Board maintains records indicating school Board members subject to the training requirement and the dates of their completion of training sessions. Such records are maintained as public records for five years in the clerk’s office.

**L. Advisory Opinions**

School Board members or employees subject to the Act may seek written opinions regarding the Act from the local Commonwealth’s attorney; the local city attorney; or the Council. Good faith reliance on any such written opinion of the Commonwealth Attorney or a formal opinion or written informal advice of the Council made in response to a written request for such opinion or advice regardless of whether such opinion or advice is later withdrawn, provided that the alleged violation occurred prior to the withdrawal of the opinion or advice, bars prosecution for a knowing violation of the Act provided the opinion was made after a full disclosure of the facts. If the School Board member or employee relies on the opinion of the attorney for the Commonwealth in a prosecution for a knowing violation of the Act, the written opinion of the attorney for the Commonwealth shall be a public record and shall be released upon request. An opinion of the City of the Colonial Heights attorney may be introduced at trial as evidence that the School Board member or employee did not knowingly violate the Act.

Adopted: September 24, 1996

Amended: May 27, 1997; August 28, 2001; March 26, 2002; May 27, 2003; July 25, 2006; July 24, 2007; August 26, 2008; July 27, 2010; June 28, 2011; July 24, 2012; September 24, 2013; November 18, 2014; May 26, 2015, July 28, 2015; April 26, 2016; July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016, April 25, 2017; July 25, 2017; August 28, 2018; August 27, 2019; August 25, 2020.

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.2-3101, 2.2-3102, 2.2-3103, 2.2-3103.2, 2.2-3104.1, 2.2-3108, 2.2-3109, 2.2-3110, 2.2-3112, 2.2-3115, 2.2-3118.2; 2.2-3119, 2.2-3121, 2.2-3124, 2.2-3132 and 30-356.

Cross Ref.:	CBCA	Disclosure Statement Required of Superintendent
	GAH	School Employee Conflict of Interests
	GCCB	Employment of Family Members

## ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS FROM REMOTE LOCATIONS

Except as provided hereafter, or as otherwise permitted by law, the School Board does not conduct any meeting wherein the public business is discussed or transacted through telephonic, video, electronic, or other electronic communication means where the members are not physically assembled. This policy is applied strictly and uniformly, without exception, to the entire membership of the School Board and without regard to the identity of the member requesting remote participation or the matters that will be considered or voted on at the meeting.

For purposes of this policy, “electronic communication” means the use of technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities to transmit or receive information.

### I. Quorum Physically Assembled

A. The School Board may conduct any meeting wherein the public business is discussed or transacted through electronic communication means if 1) on or before the day of a meeting, a member of the School Board notifies the chair that such member is unable to attend the meeting due to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the member's physical attendance or that such member is unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter and identifies with specificity the nature of the personal matter; and 2) the School Board approves the member's participation by a majority vote of the members present at the primary or central meeting location.

Participation by a School Board member by electronic communication means due to a personal matter is limited each calendar year to two meetings.

B. If participation by a School Board member through electronic communication means is approved pursuant to subsection A above, the School Board records in its minutes the remote location from which the member participated; however, the remote location need not be open to the public. If participation is approved due to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition, the School Board also includes in its minutes the fact that the member participated through electronic communication means due to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevented the member's physical attendance. If participation is approved due to a personal matter, the School Board also includes in its minutes the specific nature of the personal matter cited by the member.

If a School Board member's participation from a remote location due to a personal matter is disapproved, such disapproval is recorded in the minutes with specificity.

C. A school board member may participate in a meeting by electronic means pursuant to subsections A and B above only when:

- a quorum of the School Board is physically assembled at one primary or central meeting location; and

- the School Board makes arrangements for the voice of the remote participant to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location.

## II. Quorum Not Physically Assembled

The School Board may meet by electronic communication means without a quorum physically assembled at one location when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with Va. Code § 44-146.17, provided

- the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location, and
- the purpose of the meeting is to address the emergency.

If it holds a meeting pursuant to this section, the School Board

- gives public notice using the best available method given the nature of the emergency contemporaneously with the notice provided members of the School Board; and
- makes arrangements for public access to the meeting.

For any meeting conducted pursuant to this section, the nature of the emergency, the fact that the meeting was held by electronic communication means and the type of electronic communication means by which the meeting was held are stated in the minutes of the meeting.

Adopted: July 24, 2007

Amended: August 26, 2008; September 24, 2013; April 22, 2014; July 21, 2014; November 17, 2015; July 25, 2017, September 25, 2018; August 25, 2020.

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.2-3701, 2.2-3707, 2.2-3708.2, 2.2-3710.

Acts 2020, c. 1283.

Cross Ref.: BDDG Minutes

## QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT

### QUALIFICATIONS

The superintendent meets or exceeds the requirements set by the Board of Education.

The superintendent annually participates in high-quality professional development activities at the local, state, or national levels, on topics including the Standards of Quality, Board of Education regulations, and the Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers, Principals, and Superintendents.

### MAJOR DUTIES

As chief executive officer of the school board, the superintendent

- attends school board meetings,
- implements school board policies and ensures that they are posted on the division's website,
- reports to the school board about the status of programs, personnel and operations of the school division,
- recommends actions to the school board,
- facilitates communication between the school board and school personnel,
- assists the chairman in developing agenda of meetings of the school board, and develops regulations as directed by the school board.

As the educational leader of the school division, the superintendent

- supervises the principals and assistant superintendents,
- oversees planning and evaluation of curriculum and instruction,
- develops for approval by the school board procedures for adopting textbooks and other instructional materials,
- visits schools on a regular basis, and
- maintains a current knowledge of developments in curriculum and instruction.

The superintendent enforces school laws and regulations, including by

- observing directions and regulations prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction or Board of Education,
- reporting information to the Superintendent of Public Instruction as required,
- promptly distributing all reports, forms, laws and regulations received from the Superintendent of Public Instruction,
- enforcing school laws, regulations and decisions of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and of the Board of Education, and
- developing and maintaining procedures, guidelines and regulations to implement school board policy. If board action is required by law or the board has specifically asked that certain types of regulations be given prior board approval, these procedures, regulations



and guidelines are presented to the school board for approval and, when approved, placed in the school board policy manual. The administrative procedures, guidelines and regulations are communicated to the staff and made available for their information.

The superintendent oversees staff personnel management, including by

- organizing recruitment of personnel,
- reassigning personnel in accordance with school board policy,
- administering personnel policies and programs,
- upon request of the School Board, surveying the school division at least annually to identify critical shortages of teachers and administrative personnel by subject matter and school bus drivers and reporting such critical shortages to the School Board, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Virginia Retirement System;
- supervising evaluation of personnel, and
- providing for maintenance of up-to-date job descriptions for all personnel.

The superintendent oversees facility management, including by

- preparing long and short-range plans for facilities and sites,
- providing for the maintenance of school property and safety of personnel and property,
- inspecting, or providing for the inspection of, school property on a regular basis,
- overseeing the utilization of school property,
- monitoring any construction, renovation and demolition of school facilities,
- representing the school division before local or state agencies which control building requirements or provide financing for buildings, and
- closing public school buildings which appear to be unfit for occupancy.

The superintendent oversees financial management by

- preparing the budget for school board approval,
- ensuring that expenditures are within the limits approved by the school board,
- reporting to the school board on the financial condition of the division,
- establishing procedures for procurement of equipment and supplies, and
- ensuring that an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements of school funds is kept.

The superintendent directs community relations activities, including by

- articulating educational programs and needs to the community,
- responding to concerns expressed in the community,
- maintaining contact with the news media,
- participating in community affairs, and
- involving the community in planning and problem solving for the school division.

The superintendent oversees pupil personnel services by

- monitoring pupil personnel services,
- providing for an adequate pupil record system,
- implementing policies and programs relating to behavior and discipline of pupils,
- maintaining programs for the health and safety of pupils, and
- facilitating communication between the school division and community social agencies.

Adopted: August 22, 1995  
Amended: September 24, 1996  
Amended: August 28, 2001  
Amended: June 28, 2011  
Amended: May 26, 2015  
Amended: April 23, 2019  
Amended: August 25, 2020

Legal Ref.: Constitution of Virginia, article VIII, § 5c,

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-58, 22.1-59, 22.1-68, 22.1-69, 22.1-70.3, 22.1-79, 22.1-136, 22.1-253.13:5, 22.1-253, 13:7.

8 VAC 20-23-50.

8 VAC 20-23.630.

8 VAC 20-390-10.

8 VAC 20-390-40.

8 VAC 20-390-50.

8 VAC 20-390-60.

8 VAC 20-390-70.

8 VAC 20-390-80.

Cross Refs.: BBA            School Board Powers and Duties

## REPORTING ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

## I. Acts Reported to the Principal

- A. Except as may otherwise be required by federal law, regulation, or jurisprudence, reports are made to the division superintendent and to the principal (or designee) on all incidents involving:
- (i) the assault, or assault and battery, without bodily injury, of any person on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity;
  - (ii) the assault and battery which results in bodily injury, sexual assault, death, shooting, stabbing, cutting, or wounding of any person, abduction of any person as described in Va. Code § 18.2-47 or Va. Code § 18.2-48, or stalking of any person as described in Va. Code § 18.2-60.3, on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity; any conduct involving alcohol, marijuana, a controlled substance, imitation controlled substance or an anabolic steroid on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity, including the theft or attempted theft of student prescription medications;
  - (iii) any threats against school personnel while on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity;
  - (iv) the illegal carrying of a firearm, as defined in Va. Code § 22.1-277.07, onto school property;
  - (v) any illegal conduct involving firebombs, explosive materials or devices, or hoax explosive devices, as defined in Va. Code § 18.2-85, or explosive or incendiary devices, as defined in Va. Code § 18.2-433.1, or chemical bombs as described in Va. Code § 18.2-87.1, on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity;
  - (vi) any threats or false threats to bomb, as described in Va. Code § 18.2-83, made against school personnel or involving school property or school buses;
  - (vii) the arrest of any student for an incident occurring on a school bus, on school property, or at a school sponsored activity, including the charge therefore; and
  - (viii) any illegal possession of weapons, alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products.

The principal of each school collects and maintains information on the above listed acts which occur on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored activity.

- B. The superintendent and the principal or his designee receive reports from local law-enforcement authorities on offenses, wherever committed, by students enrolled at the school if the offense would be a felony if committed by an adult or would be a violation of the Drug Control Act (Va. Code § 54.1-3400 et seq.) and occurred on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity, or would be an adult misdemeanor involving any incidents described in clauses (i) through (viii) of subsection A and whether the student is released to the custody of his parent or, if 18 years of age or more, is released on bond. The superintendent may request that the reports include information regarding terms of release from detention, court dates, and terms of any disposition orders entered by the court. When the division superintendent receives notification that a juvenile has committed an act that would be a crime if committed by an adult pursuant to subsection G of Va. Code § 16.1-260, the superintendent reports such information to the principal of the school in which the juvenile is enrolled.

## II. Reporting Duties of the Principal and Superintendent

The principal or designee reports all incidents required to be reported pursuant to section I of this policy to the superintendent. The superintendent shall annually report all such incidents to the Department of Education for the purpose of recording the frequency of such incidents on forms that are provided by the Department makes such information available to the public.

In submitting reports of such incidents, principals and superintendents accurately indicate any offenses, arrests, or charges as recorded by law-enforcement authorities and required to be reported by such authorities pursuant to subsection I.B. of this policy.

Except as may otherwise be required by federal law, regulation, or jurisprudence, the principal immediately reports to local law-enforcement officials any of the acts listed in clauses (ii) through (vii) of subsection I.A. of this policy that may constitute a felony offense and may report to the local law-enforcement agency any incident described in clause (i) of subsection I.A.

In addition, except as may be prohibited by federal law, regulation, or jurisprudence, the principal also immediately reports any act enumerated in clauses (ii) through (v) of subsection I.A of this policy that may constitute a criminal offense to the parents of any minor student who is the specific object of such act. Further, the principal reports whether the incident has been reported to local law enforcement pursuant to this policy and, if the incident is so reported, that the parents may contact local law enforcement for further information, if they so desire.

The principal or principal's designee notifies the parent of any student involved in an incident required to be reported pursuant to this policy, regardless of whether disciplinary action is taken against such student or the nature of the disciplinary action. Such notice relates to only the relevant student's involvement and does not include information regarding other students.

## III. Prevention and Intervention Activities

Whenever any student commits any reportable incident as set forth in this policy, such student is required to participate in such prevention and intervention activities as deemed appropriate by the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

The School Board develops, in cooperation with the local law-enforcement agencies, juvenile and domestic relations court judges and personnel, parents, and the community at large, programs to prevent violence and crime on school property and at school-sponsored events, which include prevention of hazing. Activities designed to prevent the recurrence of violence and crime, including hazing, may include such interventions as education relating to Virginia's criminal law, school crime lines, peer mediation, conflict resolution, community service requirements, and any program focused on demonstrating the consequences of violence and crime. The School Board may develop and use a network of volunteer services in implementing prevention activities.

## IV. Purpose

The purpose of reporting acts of violence and substance abuse is to develop a program of prevention activities to provide a safe environment conducive to learning.

Adopted: Adopted: August 22, 1995

Amended: September 24, 1996; August 22, 2000; August 28, 2001; June 18, 2002; May 27, 2003; June 14, 2005; July 25, 2006; April 14, 2011; June 28, 2011; May 26, 2015; April 26, 2016; August 28, 2018; August 25, 2020.

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 8.01-47, 22.1-279.3:1, 22.1-279.9.

8 VAC 20-560-10.

### SMALL PURCHASING

Pursuant to written procedures not requiring competitive sealed bids or competitive negotiation, the School Board may enter into single or term contracts for goods and services other than professional services and non-transportation related construction if the aggregate or the sum of all phases is not expected to exceed \$200,000; and transportation-related construction if the aggregate or sum of all phases is not expected to exceed \$25,000. However, such small purchase procedures shall provide for competition wherever practicable. Such small purchase procedures may allow for single or term contracts for professional services without requiring competitive negotiation, provided the aggregate or the sum of all phases is not expected to exceed \$80,000. Where small purchase procedures are adopted for construction, the procedures shall not waive compliance with the Uniform State Building Code.

Adopted: August 22, 1995

Amended: September 24, 1996; May 27, 1997; March 23, 2004; May, 2009; June 28, 2011; July 24, 2012; September 24, 2013; July 28, 2015; July 26, 2016; August 28, 2018; August 25, 2020.

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.2-4303, 22.1-68, 22.1-78.

Cross Ref.: DJF Purchasing Procedures  
DJ-R Small Purchasing

## **PURCHASING PROCEDURES**

All procurements made by the school division are in accordance with the Virginia Public Procurement Act.

### **Certification Regarding Sex Offenses**

As a condition of awarding a contract for the provision of services that require the contractor or employees of the contractor to have direct contact with students on school property during regular school hours or during school-sponsored activities, the school board requires the contractor to provide certification of whether any individual who will provide such services has been convicted of any violent felony set forth in the definition of barrier crime in subsection A of Va. Code § 19.2-392.02; any offense involving the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse or rape of a child, or any crime of moral turpitude.

This requirement does not apply to a contractor or employees of the contractor providing services to the school division in an emergency or exceptional situation, such as when student health or safety is endangered or when repairs are needed on an urgent basis to ensure that school facilities are safe and habitable, when it is reasonably anticipated that the contractor or employees of the contractor will have no direct contact with students.

### **Award of Contracts When Individuals Who Will Provide Services Have Been Convicted of Certain Crimes**

The School Board will not award a contract for the provision of services that require the contractor or employees of the contractor to have direct contact with students on school property during regular school hours or during school-sponsored activities when any individual who provides such services has been convicted of any violent felony set forth in the definition of barrier crime in subsection A of Va. Code § 19.2-392.02 or any offense involving the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse, or rape of a child.

The School Board may award a contract for the provision of services that require the contractor or employees of the contractor to have direct contact with students on school property during regular school hours or during school-sponsored activities when any individual who provides such services has been convicted of any felony or crime of moral turpitude that is not set forth in the definition of barrier crime in subsection A of Va. Code § 19.2-392.02 and does not involve the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse, or rape of a child, provided that in the case of a felony conviction, the Governor has restored the individual's civil rights.

### **Unauthorized Aliens**

The School Board provides in every written contract that the contractor does not, and shall not during the performance of the contract for goods and services in Virginia, knowingly employ an unauthorized alien as defined in the federal Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

### **Discrimination by Contractor Prohibited**

The School Board includes the following provisions in every contract of more than \$10,000:

1. During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:
  - a. The contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, or other basis prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in employment, except where there is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the contractor. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.
  - b. The contractor, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, will state that such contractor is an equal opportunity employer.
  - c. Notices, advertisements and solicitations placed in accordance with federal law, rule or regulation shall be requirements of this section.

2. The contractor will include the provisions of the foregoing paragraphs a, b and c in every subcontract or purchase order of over \$10,000, so that the provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor.

Adopted: August 22, 1995  
Amended: March 26, 2002  
Amended: July 25, 2006  
Amended: July 24, 2007  
Amended: August 26, 2008  
Amended: April 14, 2011  
Amended: November 17, 2015  
Amended: August 25, 2020

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.2-4300 et seq., 2.2-3411, 2.2-4311.1, 22.1-296.1.

Cross Ref.: GCDA : Effect of Criminal Conviction  
IGBGA: Online Courses and Virtual School Programs  
KN: Sex Offender Registry Notification



## SCHOOL CRISIS, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND MEDICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Each school develops a written school crisis, emergency management and medical emergency response plan as defined below. The School Board includes the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief of the emergency medical services agency, the executive director of the regional emergency medical services council, and the emergency management official of the locality, or their designees, in the development of such plans. The School Board, the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief of the emergency medical services agency, the executive director of the regional emergency medical services council, and the emergency management official of the locality, or their designees, annually review each school's plan. The Department of Education and the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety will provide technical assistance to the school division in the development of the plans. In developing these plans, schools may consult the model school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan developed by the Board of Education and the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety.

The School Board designates the Superintendent as emergency manager.

Each school annually conducts school safety audits as defined below. The results of such school safety audits are made public within 90 days of completion. The school board may withhold or limit the release of any security plans, walk-through checklists and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Va. Code § 2.2-3705.2. The completed walk-through checklist will be made available upon request to the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality or that officer's designee. Each school maintains a copy of the school's safety audit, which may exclude such security plans, walk-through checklists and vulnerability assessment components, within the office of the school principal and makes a copy of such report available for review upon written request.

Each school submits a copy of its school safety audit to the superintendent. The superintendent collates and submits all such school safety audits, in the prescribed format and manner of submission, to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety and shall make available upon request to the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality the results of such audits.

The superintendent establishes a school safety audit committee to include, if available, representatives of parents, teachers, local law-enforcement, emergency services agencies, local community services boards, and judicial and public safety personnel. The school safety audit committee reviews the completed school safety audits and submits any plans, as needed, for improving school safety to the superintendent for submission to the School Board.

"School crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan" means the essential procedures, operations, and assignments required to prevent, manage, and respond to a critical event or emergency, including natural disasters involving fire, flood, tornadoes, or other severe weather; loss or disruption of power, water, communications or shelter; bus or other accidents; medical emergencies, including cardiac arrest and other life threatening medical emergencies; student or staff member deaths; explosions; bomb threats; gun, knife or other weapons threats; spills or exposures to hazardous substances; the presence of unauthorized persons or trespassers; the loss, disappearance or kidnapping of a student; hostage situations; violence on school property or at school activities; incidents involving acts of terrorism; and

other incidents posing a serious threat of harm to students, personnel, or facilities. The plan includes a provision that the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund shall be contacted immediately to deploy assistance in the event of an emergency as defined in the emergency response plan when there are victims as defined in § Va. Code § 19.2-11.01, a well as current contact information for both.

“School safety audit” means a written assessment of the safety conditions in each public school to (1) identify and, if necessary, develop solutions for physical safety concerns, including building security issues and (2) identify and evaluate any patterns of student safety concerns occurring on school property or at school-sponsored events. Solutions and responses will include recommendations for structural adjustments, changes in school safety procedures, and revisions to the school board’s standards for student conduct.

Each school has contingency plans for emergencies that include staff certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the Heimlich maneuver, and emergency first aid.

In addition, the school administration ensures that the school has:

1. written procedures to follow in emergencies such as fire, injury, illness, allergic reactions and violent or threatening behavior. The procedures include Policy JHCD Administering Medicine to Students. The plan is outlined in the student handbook and discussed with staff and students during the first week of each school year;
2. space for the proper care of students who become ill; and
3. a written procedure, in accordance with guidelines established by the School Board, for responding to violent, disruptive or illegal activities by students on school property or during a school sponsored activity; and
4. written procedures to follow for the safe evacuation of persons with special physical, medical, or language needs who may need assistance to exit a facility.

Adopted: January 26, 1999; Amended: June 29, 1999; Amended: March 28, 2000; Amended: August 28, 2001; Amended: June 18, 2002; Amended: May 27, 2003; Amended: June 22, 2004; Amended: July 25, 2006; Amended: July 24, 2007; Amended: May 2009; Amended: July 24, 2012; Amended: September 24, 2013; Amended: July 21, 2014; Amended April 24, 2018; Amended August 27, 2019; August 25, 2020.

Legal Refs: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.2-3705.2, 22.1-279.8.  
Acts 2006, c. 164.

8 VAC 20-131-260.

Cross Refs.:	CLA	Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse
	EBAA	Reporting of Hazards
	EBBA	Emergency First Aid, CPR and AED Certified Personnel
	EBCB	Safety Drills
	EEAB	School Bus Scheduling and Routing
	GBEB	Staff Weapons in School
	JFC	Student Conduct

JFCD	Weapons in School
JFCE	Gang Activity or Association
JHCD	Administering Medicines to Students
JHH	Suicide Prevention
JM	Restraint and Seclusion of Students
JO	Student Records
KK	School Visitors

## SAFETY DRILLS

### Fire Drills

Each school holds a fire drill at least twice during the first 20 school days of each session. Each school holds at least two additional fire drills during the remainder of the school session. Evacuation routes for students are posted in each room. No fire drills are conducted during periods of mandatory testing required by the Board of Education.

### Lock-Down Drills

Each school has a lock-down drill at least twice during the first 20 school days of each school session. Each school holds at least one additional lock-down drill after the first 60 days of the school session. Each school provides the parents of enrolled students with at least 24 hours' notice before the school conducts any lock-down drill. Such notice is not required to include the exact date and time of the lock-down drill.

Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students are exempt from mandatory participation in lock-down drills during the first 60 days of the school session. The superintendent develops procedures to implement such exemption. Each pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students participates in each lock-down drill after the first 60 days of each school session.

### School Bus Emergency Drills

Each school having school buses holds a drill in leaving school buses under emergency circumstances at least once during the first ninety calendar days of each school session and more often in necessary.

### Tornado Drills

There is at least one tornado drill every school year in every school.

### Emergency Situations

In addition to the drills mentioned above, the School Board provides training to each student and employee at least once each school year on safety procedures in the event of an emergency situation on school property.

Adopted: August 22, 1995

Amended: July 25, 2006; September 24, 2013; July 26, 2016; April 24, 2018; August 27, 2019; August 25, 2020.

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, §§ 22.1-137, 22.1-137.1, 22.1-137.2, 22.1-137.3, 22.2-184.

Acts 2006, c. 164.

8 VAC 20-131-260.

Cross Refs.: EB School Crisis, Emergency Management and Medical Emergency Response Plan

## FOOD SERVICES

### Generally

Employees of Colonial Heights School Board do not require a student who cannot pay for a meal at school or who owes a school meal debt to throw away or discard a meal after it has been served to the student, do chores or other work to pay for such meals, or wear a wristband or hand stamp.

The Colonial Heights school division provides free and reduced-price breakfasts, lunches, and milk to students according to the terms of the National School Lunch Program, the National School Breakfast Program, and the Special Milk Program.

Competitive foods, as defined herein, comply with state and federal requirements.

The Colonial Heights School Board may solicit and receive any donation or other funds for the purpose of eliminating or offsetting any school meal debt at any time and will use any such funds solely for such purpose.

### Free and Reduced Price Food Services

School officials determine student eligibility based on guidelines established by federal law. Eligible students are provided nutritionally acceptable meals and milk free or at a reduced cost if state and federal resources for school food programs are available. The superintendent or superintendent's designee establishes regulations or procedures as needed to implement this policy.

The criteria for determining a student's eligibility and the procedures for securing free and reduced-price meals and milk is publicly announced at the beginning of each school year and provided to parents of all children in attendance at Colonial Heights public schools.

If the School Board collects information to determine eligibility for participation in the National School Breakfast Program or the National School Lunch Program, it posts prominently on its website a web-based application for student participation in such program and provides a paper-based application.

Employees of Colonial Heights School Board do not physically segregate, overtly identify, or otherwise discriminate against any child eligible for free or reduced price meals.

The superintendent is responsible for establishing procedures by which excess food may be distributed to enrolled students eligible for the School Breakfast Program or National School Lunch Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, saving excess food for later consumption, or donating food. The superintendent's procedures identify which students are eligible to receive excess food.

### Definitions

“Competitive food” means all food and beverages other than meals reimbursed under programs authorized by the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day. Competitive foods meet the nutrient guidelines established by the Board of Education, including the guidelines for calories, fat, sugar and sodium.

"Excess food" means any remaining unexpired, unopened, and unconsumed food intended to be served as part of a reimbursable meal that was unable to be utilized for a current or future meal provision after a school has served breakfast and lunch to students during a school day.

“School campus” means all areas of the property under the jurisdiction of the school that are accessible to students during the school day.

“School day” means the period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.

### School Sponsored Fundraisers

Each school may conduct no more than 30 school-sponsored fundraisers per school year during which food that does not meet the nutrition guidelines for competitive foods may be available for sale to students. Fundraisers are not conducted during school meal service times.

### Unpaid Meal Charges

Students who do not have money on account or in hand to cover the cost of a meal at the time of service may be permitted to charge the meal. Students may charge no more than 3 (three) meals to their accounts.

A student carrying a negative balance of \$14.00 or more is not permitted to charge any additional amounts. A student who is not permitted to charge any additional amounts is permitted to buy a meal if the student has cash on hand. Reasonable efforts are used to avoid calling attention to a student’s inability to pay.

Notice of low or negative balances in a student’s meal account are sent to parents and the school principal. Parents are expected to pay all meal charges in full by the last day of the school year.

If a parent regularly fails to provide meal money or send food to school with the student and the student does not qualify for free or reduced benefits, the food service director will inform the principal, who will determine the next course of action, which may include notifying the department of social services of suspected child neglect and/or taking legal steps to recover the meal charges.

The superintendent or superintendent’s designee ensures that federal child nutrition funds are not used to offset the cost of unpaid meals and that the child nutrition program is reimbursed for bad debt. In order to accomplish those goals, the following procedures are followed:

- At least one written notice is provided prior to the student being denied reimbursable meals for exceeding the division’s charge limit.
- If payment of the negative balance is not received within 45 working days of the maximum charge limit being reached, the debt will be turned over to the superintendent or superintendent’s designee for collection. If the debt is not paid within 90 days of notice being given, it is considered bad debt for the purposes of federal law concerning unpaid meal charges.

## Recordkeeping

The Colonial Heights School Board is responsible for maintaining records that document compliance with this policy. Those records include documentation used to assess the nutritional profile of food items and determine whether a food item is an allowable competitive food, such as recipes, nutrition labels and/or product specifications for the competitive food available for sale to students.

The School Board is also responsible for

- maintaining records documenting compliance with the competitive food nutrition standards for food available for sale in areas that are outside of the control of the school nutrition programs operations,
- ensuring any organization or school activity designated as responsible for food service at the various venues in the school, other than the school nutrition programs, maintains records documenting compliance with the competitive food nutrition standards,
- designating an individual at the division or school level to monitor and ensure compliance with this policy in all areas that are outside the control of the school nutrition programs operation. The designee may not be a school nutrition personnel.

Adopted: August 22, 1995

Amended: June 18, 2002; May 2009; November 18, 2014; April 25, 2017; August 27, 2019; April 28, 2020; August 25, 2020.

Legal Refs.: 42 U.S.C. §§ 1758, 1772 and 1773

7 C.F.R. §§ 210.9, 210.11, 220.20, 245.5, 245.8.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, SP 23-2017 Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance and Q&A, March 23, 2017.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, SP 47-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments, July 8, 2016.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § §§ 22.1-79.7, 22.1-207.2:2, 22.1-207.3, 22.1-207.4, 63.2-1509.

8 VAC 20-740-10.

8 VAC 20-740-30.

Cross Refs: GAE Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting  
JHCF Student Wellness  
KH Public Gifts to the Schools

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY/NONDISCRIMINATION

### I. Policy Statement

The Colonial Heights School Board is an equal opportunity employer, committed to non-discrimination in recruitment, selection, hiring, pay, promotion, retention or other personnel actions affecting employees or candidates for employment. Therefore, discrimination in employment against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, marital status, status as a veteran, genetic information or disability is prohibited. Personnel decisions are based on merit and the ability to perform the essential functions of the job, with or without reasonable accommodation.

The Colonial Heights School Board provides facilities, programs and activities that are accessible, usable and available to qualified persons with disabilities. Further, the Colonial Heights School Board shall not discriminate against qualified persons with disabilities in the provision of health, welfare and other social services.

The statement, "Colonial Heights School Board is an equal opportunity employer" is placed on all employment application forms.

### II. Notice of Policy/Prevention

This policy is: (1) posted in prominent areas of each school division building, (2) included in employee handbooks and (3) provided to any employee or candidate for employment upon request. Training to prevent prohibited discrimination is included in employee in-service training.

### III. Complaint Procedure

#### A. File Report

Any person who believes he has not received equal employment opportunities should report the alleged discrimination to one of the compliance officers designated in this policy. The alleged discrimination should be reported as soon as possible, and the report generally should be made within (15) school days of the occurrence. Any employee who has knowledge of conduct which may constitute prohibited discrimination shall immediately report such conduct to one of the compliance officers designated in this policy.

The reporting party should use the form, Report of Discrimination, GB-F, to make complaints of discrimination. However, oral reports and other written reports will also be accepted. The complaint must be filed with one of the compliance officers designated in this policy. Any complaint that involves the compliance officer shall be reported to the superintendent.



The complaint and the identity of the complainant and the person or persons allegedly responsible for the discrimination will be disclosed only to the extent necessary to fully investigate the complaint and only when such disclosure is required or permitted by law. A complainant who wishes to remain anonymous will be advised that anonymity may limit the school division's ability to fully respond to the complaint.

## B. Investigation

Upon receipt of a report of alleged discrimination, the compliance officer shall immediately authorize or undertake an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by school personnel or a third party designated by the school division. The investigation shall be completed as soon as practicable, which generally should be not later than 14 school days after receipt of the report by the compliance officer. Upon receiving the complaint, the compliance officer will acknowledge receipt of the complaint by giving written notice that the complaint has been received to both the complainant and the Superintendent. If the compliance officer determines that more than 14 school days will be required to investigate the complaint, the complainant and the Superintendent will be notified of the reason for the extended investigation and the date by which the investigation will be concluded.

The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the person(s) alleged to have violated the policy and any others who may have knowledge of the alleged discrimination or the circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation will consider witnesses and evidence from both the complainant and the person(s) responsible for the alleged discrimination. The investigation may also include the inspection of any documents or information deemed relevant by the investigator. The school division shall take necessary steps to protect the complainant and others pending the investigation.

Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a case by case determination based on all of the facts and circumstances revealed by a complete and thorough investigation.

The compliance officer shall issue a written report to the superintendent upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint alleges the superintendent has violated this policy, then the report shall be sent to the school board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations are substantiated, whether this policy was violated and recommendations for corrective action, if any.

All employees shall cooperate with any investigation of alleged discrimination conducted under this policy or by an appropriate state or federal agency.

### C. Action by Superintendent

Within 5 school days of receiving the compliance officer's report, the superintendent or superintendent's designee shall issue a written decision regarding (1) whether this policy was violated and (2) what action if any should be taken.

If the complaint alleges that the superintendent has violated this policy, the School Board's standing Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination Committee shall make the decision and determine what action should be taken. If the School Board does not have such a standing committee, at its next scheduled meeting it shall appoint a committee consisting of three of its members to handle the matter. The committee shall issue a written decision within 14 calendar days of the time the School Board receives the compliance officer's report or the time a committee is appointed, if there is no standing committee.

The written decision shall state (1) whether this policy was violated and (2) what action, if any, should be taken. The written decision must be mailed to or personally delivered to the complainant within five calendar days of the issuance of the decision. If the superintendent, superintendent's designee or committee concludes that prohibited discrimination occurred, the Colonial Heights School Division shall take prompt, appropriate action to address and remedy the violation as well as prevent any recurrence. Such action may include discipline up to and including dismissal.

### D. Appeal

If the superintendent, superintendent's designee or committee determines that no prohibited discrimination occurred, the person who was allegedly subjected to discrimination may appeal this finding to the School Board within 5 school days of receiving the decision. Notice of appeal must be filed with the superintendent, or with a member of the committee which issued the written decision, who shall forward the record to the School Board. The School Board shall make a decision within 30 calendar days of receiving the record. The School Board may ask for oral or written argument from the aggrieved party and the superintendent, superintendent's designee or the committee, whichever issued the written decision, and any other individual the School Board deems relevant. Written notice of the School Board's decision will be given to the complainant.

Employees may choose to pursue their complaints arising under this policy through the relevant employee grievance procedure instead of the complaint procedure in this policy.

### E. Compliance Officer and Alternate Compliance Officer

The **Colonial Heights** School Board has designated **Director of Human Resources, 3451 Conduit Road, Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834, (804)524-3400** as the Compliance Officer responsible for identifying, investigating, preventing and remedying prohibited discrimination. Complaints of discrimination may also be made to

the Alternate Compliance Officer, **Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, 512 Boulevard, Colonial Heights, VA 23834, , (804)524-3400 ext. 18.**

#### The Compliance Officer

- receives reports or complaints of discrimination;
- conducts or oversees the investigation of any alleged discrimination;
- assesses the training needs of the school division in connection with this policy;
- arranges necessary training to achieve compliance with this policy; and
- ensures that any discrimination investigation is conducted by an impartial investigator who is trained in the requirements of equal employment opportunity, and has the authority to protect the alleged victim and others during the investigation.

#### IV. Retaliation

Retaliation against employees who report discrimination or participate in the related proceedings is prohibited. The school division takes appropriate action against any employee who retaliates against another employee or candidate for employment who reports alleged discrimination or participates in related proceedings. The Compliance Officer informs persons who make complaints, who are the subject of complaints, and who participate in investigations of how to report any subsequent problems.

#### V. Right to Alternative Complaint Procedure

Nothing in this policy denies the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse to address concerns relating to prohibited discrimination including initiating civil action, filing a complaint with outside agencies or seeking redress under state or federal law.

#### VI. Prevention and Notice of Policy

Training to prevent discrimination is included in employee orientations and in-service training.

This policy is (1) displayed in prominent areas of each division building in a location accessible to school personnel, and (2) included in employee handbooks. All employees are notified annually of the names and contact information of the Compliance Officers.

#### VII. False Charges

Employees who knowingly make false charges of discrimination are subject to disciplinary action.

Adopted: March 28, 2000

Amended: August 28, 2001; March 22, 2005; June 14, 2005; May 22, 2012; January 22, 2012; July 28, 2015; November 19, 2019; August 25, 2020.

Legal Refs.: 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.  
29 U.S.C. § 701.  
42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq., 2000e-2 et seq., 2000ff-1(a) and 12101 et seq.

Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, §§2.2-3900, 2.2-3901, 2.2-3902, 22.1-295.2, 22.1-306.

Cross Refs:	AC	Nondiscrimination
	AD	Educational Philosophy
	BCE	School Board Committees
	GB-F	Report of Discrimination
	GBA/JFHA	Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation
	GBM	Professional Staff Grievances
	GBMA	Support Staff Grievances
	GCPD	Professional Staff Discipline
	JB	Equal Educational Opportunities/Nondiscrimination
	KKA	Service Animals in Public Schools

## PROHIBITION AGAINST HARASSMENT AND RETALIATION

### I. Policy Statement

The Colonial Heights School Board is committed to maintaining an educational environment and workplace that is free from harassment. In accordance with law, the Board prohibits harassment against students, employees, or others on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, status as a veteran, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law or based on a belief that such characteristic exists, hereinafter referred to as protected group status, at school or any school sponsored activity.

It is a violation of this policy for any student or school personnel to harass a student or school personnel based on protected group status at school or any school sponsored activity. Further, it is a violation of this policy for any school personnel to tolerate harassment based on a student's or employee's protected group status at school or any school sponsored activity, by students, school personnel or third parties participating in, observing or otherwise engaged in school sponsored activities.

For the purpose of this policy, school personnel includes school board members, school employees, agents, volunteers, contractors or other persons subject to the supervision and control of the School Division.

The school division

- promptly investigates all complaints, written or verbal, of harassment based on protected group status at school or any school sponsored activity;
- promptly takes appropriate action to stop any harassment;
- takes appropriate action against any student or school personnel who violates this policy; and
- takes any other action reasonably calculated to end and prevent further harassment of school personnel or students.

### II. Definitions

#### A. Harassment Based on Sex.

Harassment based on sex consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication, which may include use of cell phones or the internet, of a sexual nature when:

- submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining or retaining employment or education; or
  - submission to or rejection of the conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's employment or education;
- or

- that conduct or communication substantially or unreasonably interferes with an individual's employment or education, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive employment or educational environment (i.e. the conduct is sufficiently serious to limit a student's or employee's ability to participate in or benefit from the educational program or work environment).

Examples of conduct which may constitute harassment based on sex if it meets the immediately preceding definition include:

- unwelcome sexual physical contact
- unwelcome ongoing or repeated sexual flirtation or propositions, or remarks
- sexual slurs, leering, epithets, threats, verbal abuse, derogatory comments or sexually degrading descriptions
- graphic comments about an individual's body
- sexual jokes, notes, stories, drawings, gestures or pictures
- spreading sexual rumors
- touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way
- displaying sexual objects, pictures, cartoons or posters
- impeding or blocking movement in a sexually intimidating manner
- sexual violence
- display of written materials, pictures, or electronic images
- unwelcome acts of verbal, nonverbal, written, graphic, or physical conduct based on sex or sex stereotyping

#### B. Harassment Based on Race, National Origin, Disability or Religion

Harassment based on race, national origin, disability or religion consists of physical or verbal conduct, which may include use of cell phones or the internet, relating to an individual's race, national origin, disability or religion when the conduct:

- creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or educational environment; or
- substantially or unreasonably interferes with an individual's work or education; or
- otherwise is sufficiently serious to limit an individual's employment opportunities or to limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the education program.

Examples of conduct which may constitute harassment based on race, national origin, disability or religions if it meets the immediately preceding definition include:

- graffiti containing racially offensive language.
- name calling, jokes or rumors.
- physical acts of aggression against a person or his property because of that person's race, national origin, disability or religion.
- hostile acts which are based on another's race, national origin, religion or disability.
- written or graphic material which is posted or circulated and which intimidates or threatens individuals based on their race, national origin, disability or religion.

#### C. Additional Prohibited Behavior

Behavior that is not unlawful may nevertheless be unacceptable for the educational environment or the workplace. Demeaning or otherwise harmful actions are prohibited, particularly if directed at personal characteristics including socioeconomic level regardless of whether the personal characteristic is protected by law.

### III. Complaint Procedure

#### A. Formal Procedure

##### 1. File Report

Any student or school personnel who believes he or she has been the victim of harassment prohibited by law or by this policy by a student, school personnel or a third party should report the alleged harassment to one of the compliance officers designated in this policy or to any school personnel. The alleged harassment should be reported as soon as possible, and the report generally should be made within fifteen (15) school days of the occurrence. Further, any student who has knowledge of conduct which may constitute prohibited harassment should report such conduct to one of the compliance officers designated in this policy or to any school personnel. Any school personnel who have noticed that a student or other school personnel may have been a victim of prohibited harassment shall immediately report the alleged harassment to one of the compliance officers designated in this policy.

The reporting party should use the form, Report of Harassment, GBA-F/JFHA-F, to make complaints of harassment. However, oral reports and other written reports are also accepted. The complaint should be filed with either the building principal or one of the compliance officers designated in this policy. The principal shall immediately forward any report of alleged prohibited harassment to the compliance officer. Any complaint that involves the compliance officer or principal shall be reported to the superintendent.

The complaint, and identity of the complainant and alleged harasser, will be disclosed only to the extent necessary to fully investigate the complaint and only when such disclosure is required or permitted by law. Additionally, a complainant who wishes to remain anonymous shall be advised that such confidentiality may limit the School Division's ability to fully respond to the complaint.

##### 2. Investigation

Upon receipt of a report of alleged prohibited harassment, the compliance officer shall immediately authorize or undertake an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by school personnel or a third party designated by the school division. The investigation shall be completed as soon as practicable, which generally should be not later than 14 school days after receipt of the report by the compliance officer. Upon receiving the complaint, the compliance officer shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint by giving written notice that the complaint has been received to both the person complaining of harassment and the person accused of harassment. Also upon receiving the complaint, the compliance officer shall determine whether interim measures should be taken pending the outcome of the investigation. Such

interim measures may include, but are not limited to, separating the alleged harasser and the complainant and, in cases involving potential criminal conduct, determining whether law enforcement officials should be notified. If the compliance officer determines that more than 14 school days will be required to investigate the complaint, the complainant and the accused shall be notified of the reason for the extended investigation and of the date by which the investigation will be concluded. If the alleged harassment may also constitute child abuse, then it must be reported to the Department of Social Service in accordance with Policy GAE Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting.

The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the alleged harasser, and any others who may have knowledge of the alleged harassment or the circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation will consider witnesses and evidence from both the alleged harasser and the person allegedly harassed. The investigation may also consist of the inspection of any other documents or information deemed relevant by the investigator. The school division shall take necessary steps to protect the complainant and others pending the completion of the investigation.

In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, the division shall consider, at a minimum: (1) the surrounding circumstances; (2) the nature of the behavior; (3) past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior; (4) the relationship between the parties; (5) how often the conduct occurred; (6) the identity of the alleged perpetrator in relation to the alleged victim (i.e. whether the alleged perpetrator was in a position of power over the alleged victim); (7) the location of the alleged harassment; (8) the ages of the parties and (9) the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a case by case determination based on all of the facts and circumstances revealed after a complete and thorough investigation.

The compliance officer shall issue a written report to the superintendent upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the superintendent, then the report shall be sent to the School Board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations are substantiated, whether this policy was violated and recommendations for corrective action, if any.

All employees shall cooperate with any investigation of alleged harassment conducted under this policy or by an appropriate state or federal agency.

### 3. Action by Superintendent

Within 5 school days of receiving the compliance officer's report, the Superintendent or designee shall issue a decision regarding whether this policy was violated. This decision must be provided in writing to the complainant and the alleged perpetrator. If the Superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that it is more likely than not that prohibited harassment occurred, the Colonial Heights School Division shall take prompt, appropriate action to address and remedy the violation as well as prevent any recurrence. Such action may include discipline up to and including expulsion or discharge. Whether or not the Superintendent or designee



determines that prohibited harassment occurred, the Superintendent or designee may determine that school-wide or division-wide training be conducted or that the complainant receives counseling.

#### 4. Appeal

If the Superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that no prohibited harassment occurred, the employee or student who was allegedly subjected to harassment may appeal this finding to the School Board within 5 school days of receiving the decision. Notice of appeal must be filed with the superintendent who shall forward the record to the School Board. The School Board shall make a decision within 30 calendar days of receiving the record. The School Board may ask for oral or written argument from the aggrieved party, the superintendent and any other individual the School Board deems relevant. Written notice of the School board's decision will be given to both the alleged harasser and the person allegedly harassed.

If the Superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that prohibited harassment occurred and discipline is imposed, the disciplined person may appeal the disciplinary sanction in the same manner as any other such sanction would be appealed.

Employees may choose to pursue their complaints under this policy through the relevant employee grievance procedure instead of the complaint procedure in this policy.

#### 5. Compliance Officer and Alternate Compliance Officer

The Colonial Heights School Board has designated Director of Human Resources, 512 Boulevard, Colonial Heights, Virginia, 23834, 804-524-3400, ext. 18, as the Compliance Officer responsible for identifying, preventing and remedying prohibited harassment. Complaints of harassment may also be made to the Alternate Compliance Officer, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, 512 Boulevard, Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834, (804)524-3400 ext. 20).

The Compliance Officer shall

- receive reports or complaints of harassment;
- conduct or oversee the investigation of any alleged harassment;
- assess the training needs of the school division in connection with this policy;
- arrange necessary training to achieve compliance with this policy; and
- ensure that any harassment investigation is conducted by an impartial investigator who is trained in the requirements of equal employment/education opportunity, and has the authority to protect the alleged victim and others during the investigation.

#### B. Informal Procedure

If the complainant and the person accused of harassment agree, the student's principal or principal's designee may arrange for them to resolve the complaint informally with the help of a counselor, teacher, or administrator.

If the complainant and the person accused of harassment agree to resolve the complaint informally, they shall each be informed that they have the right to abandon the informal procedure at any time in favor of the initiation of the Formal Procedures set forth herein. The principal or principal's designee shall notify the complainant and the person accused of harassment in writing when the complaint has been resolved. The written notice shall state whether prohibited harassment occurred.

#### **IV. Retaliation**

Retaliation against students or school personnel who report harassment or participate in any related proceedings is prohibited. The School Division shall take appropriate action against students or school personnel who retaliate against any student or school personnel who reports alleged harassment or participates in related proceedings. The Compliance Officer will inform persons who make complaints, who are the subject of complaints, and who participate in investigations, of how to report any subsequent problems.

#### **V. Right to Alternative Complaint Procedure**

Nothing in this policy shall deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse to address concerns relating to prohibited harassment including initiating civil action, filing a complaint with outside agencies or seeking redress under state or federal law.

#### **VI. Prevention and Notice of Policy**

Training to prevent harassment prohibited by law or by this policy is included in employee and student orientations as well as employee in-service training.

This policy is (1) displayed in prominent areas of each division building in a location accessible to students, parents and school personnel, (2) included in the student and employee handbooks; and (3) sent to parents of all students within 30 calendar days of the start of school. Further, all students, and their parents/guardians, and employees are notified annually of the names and contact information of the compliance officers.

#### **VII. False Charges**

Students or school personnel who knowingly make false charges of harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action as well as any civil or criminal legal proceedings.

Adopted: May 23, 2000

Amended: August 22, 2000; August 26, 2003; August 4, 2011; January 22, 2012; July 28, 2015; September 24, 2019; August 25, 2020.

Legal Refs: 20 *U.S.C.* §§ 1681-1688.  
 29 *U.S.C.* § 794.  
 42 *U.S.C.* §§ 2000d-2000d-7.  
 42 *U.S.C.* §§ 2000e-2000e-17.

42 U.S.C § 2000ff-1.

34 C.F.R. 106.9

Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, §§ 2.2-3900, 2.2-3901, 2.2.3902, 22.1-295.2.

Cross Refs:	AC	Non-discrimination
	AD	Educational Philosophy
	GAB/IIBEA	Acceptable Computer System Use
	GB	Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination
	GBA-F/JFHA-F	Report of Harassment
	GBM	Professional Staff Grievances
	GBMA	Support Staff Grievances
	JB	Equal Educational Opportunities/Nondiscrimination
	JFC	Student Conduct
	GCPD	Professional Staff Members: Contract Status and Discipline
	GAE	Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
	KKA	Service Animals in Public Schools

## STAFF WEAPONS IN SCHOOL

No one may possess or use any firearm or any weapon, as defined in Policy JFCD Weapons in School, on school property (including school vehicles), on that portion of any property open to the public and then exclusively used for school-sponsored functions or extracurricular activities while such functions or activities are taking place; or on any school bus without authorization of the Superintendent or superintendent's designee. The superintendent or superintendent's designee is permitted to give authority to possess a firearm on school property only to persons expressly authorized by statute to possess a firearm on school property.

Violation of this policy by an employee will result in appropriate personnel action up to and including dismissal. Illegal conduct will be reported to law enforcement officials.

Adopted: January 26, 1999

Amended: August 28, 2001; June 18, 2002; April 22, 2003; June 28, 2011; July 28, 2015; July 25, 2017; August 25, 2020.

Legal Refs: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 18.2-308.1, 22.1-78, 22.1-279.3:1, 22.1-280.2:1, 22.1-280.2:4.

8 VAC 20-560-10.

Cross Refs.: CLA Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse  
JFCD Weapons in School  
KGB Public conduct on School Property

## SUPPORT STAFF GRIEVANCES

The Colonial Heights School Board adopts the following procedure in accordance with §22.1-79(6) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. Nothing in this procedure is intended to create, nor shall it be construed as creating, a property right in employment, nor shall this procedure be interpreted to limit in any way whatsoever the School Board's exclusive final authority over the management and operation of the school division.

The following words and terms have the following meanings when used in this procedure, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Days" means calendar days unless a different meaning is clearly expressed in this procedure. Whenever any period of time fixed by this procedure shall expire on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the period of time for taking action under this procedure shall be extended to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "Working days" means those days that the central office is open for business.

"Dismissal" means the termination of employment of any covered employee with or without cause during the term of such employee's employment. "Employee" or "employees" means all full-time employees of the Colonial Heights school division who have completed the required probationary period except the division superintendent and those employees covered under the provisions of Articles 2 and 3 of Chapter 15 of Title 22.1 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. "Employee" does not mean a part-time or temporary employee.

"Grievance" means a complaint or dispute involving the dismissal or other disciplinary action of an employee. A dismissal, reassignment or other action pursuant to a Reduction in Force (RIF) is not a disciplinary action and is not grievable. Employee evaluations are not disciplinary actions and are not grievable. "Grievance" does not mean a complaint or dispute regarding the suspension of an employee. The procedure for the suspension of employees is set forth in Policy GCPF Suspension of Staff Members.Procedure

1. Written notice of the proposed action, along with a statement of the reasons for the action, shall be given to the employee by the employee's building administrator/department head. Upon receipt of the recommendation, the employee is required to meet with a Human Resources administrator. During this meeting the employee receives a copy of this policy as notice of the employee's grievance rights. The employee may file a written request for a hearing with the superintendent within ten (10) working days of receiving the written notice. The failure to file such a request within the prescribed time will constitute a waiver of the right to a hearing and the proposed action will become final without a hearing or further notice.
2. Upon receiving a timely written request, the superintendent shall select an external hearing officer to hear the grievance. The hearing officer will be selected from a list approved by the School Board. The hearing officer will hold a hearing within fifteen (15)

working days of receipt of the employee's request. Notice of the hearing shall be given orally or in writing to the employee at least five (5) working days before the hearing. The employee and the school division will share the cost of the hearing officer and the cost of recording the hearing equally.

3. The employee and the employee's supervisor may be represented by legal counsel or a lay advocate at the hearing, but not both. The division may also be represented by legal counsel at the hearing. The hearing will be private and the hearing officer will have full discretion over the conduct of the hearing. However, the employee and the division may make opening statements, may present all material and relevant evidence, including the testimony of witnesses, and may cross examine witnesses. Witnesses may be questioned by the hearing officer.
4. The hearing officer shall give the employee a written decision within ten (10) working days after the completion of the hearing. The decision shall be based on the evidence relevant to the issues produced at the hearing in the presence of each party.
5. The employee may appeal the decision to the School Board by providing written notice of appeal to the superintendent within five (5) working days of receiving the decision of the hearing officer. Upon timely appeal, the School Board shall decide the appeal on the written record and render its decision within thirty (30) days of the appeal.

Adopted: August 22, 1995

Amended: September 24, 1996; May 27, 1997; April 30, 1998; July 28, 2009; September 24, 2013; August 23, 2016; August 25, 2020.

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, section 22.1-79(6), 22.1-311, 22.1-313.

Cross Ref.: GBM Professional Staff Grievances  
GDG Support Staff Probation

1)LEFFECT OF CRIMINAL CONVICTION OR FOUNDED COMPLAINT OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

The Board will not hire or continue the employment of any part-time, full-time, temporary, or permanent personnel who are determined to be unsuited for service by reason of criminal conviction or information appearing in the registry of founded complaints of child abuse and neglect maintained by the Department of Social Services.

I. APPLICANTS FOR EMPLOYMENT

A. Criminal Convictions

As a condition of employment for all of its employees, whether full-time or part-time, permanent, or temporary, the Colonial Heights School Board shall ask on its application for employment certification ~~of~~ whether the applicant has been convicted of any violent felony set forth in the definition of barrier crime in subsection A of Va. Code § 19.2-392.02; any offense involving the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse or rape of a child; or any crime of moral turpitude.

The School Board does not employ any individual who has been convicted of any violent felony set forth in the definition of barrier crime in subsection A of Va. Code §19.2-392.02 or any offense involving the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse, or rape of a child.

The School Board may employ any individual who has been convicted of any felony or crime of moral turpitude that is not set forth in the definition of barrier crime in subsection A of § Va. Code § 19.2-392.02 and does not involve the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse, or rape of a child, provided that in the case of a felony conviction, such individual's civil rights have been restored by the Governor.

Notwithstanding the requirements of Subsection A of Va. Code § 22.1-296.1, the School Board may employ an individual who, at the time of the individual's hiring, has been convicted of a felony, provided that such individual (i) was employed in good standing by a school board on or before December 17, 2015; (ii) has been granted a simple pardon for such offense by the Governor or other appropriate authority; and (iii) has had his civil rights restored by the Governor or other appropriate authority. However, the School Board may employ, until July 1, 2020, such an individual who does not satisfy the conditions set forth in clauses (ii) and (iii), provided that such individual has been continuously employed by the School Board from December 17, 2015 through July 1, 2018.

The Colonial Heights School Board shall also require on its application for employment, as a condition of employment requiring direct contact with students, whether full-time or part-time, permanent, or temporary, certification that the applicant has not been the subject of a founded case of child abuse and neglect. Any person making a materially false statement regarding a finding of child abuse and neglect shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor and upon conviction, the fact of said conviction shall be grounds for the Board of Education to revoke such person's license to teach.

As a condition of employment, any applicant who is offered or accepts employment, whether full-time, part-time, permanent or temporary with the Colonial Heights School Board

shall submit to fingerprinting and provide personal descriptive information. The information and fingerprints shall be forwarded through the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the Federal Bureau of Investigations for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information on applicants who are offered or accept employment.

To conserve the costs of conducting criminal history record checks to applicants and school boards, upon the written request of the applicant, Colonial Heights School Board shall inform another school board with which reciprocity has been established and to which the applicant also has applied for employment of the results of the criminal history record information conducted within the previous ninety days that it obtained concerning the applicant. Criminal history record information pertaining to an applicant for employment by a school board shall be exchanged only between school boards in the Commonwealth in which a current agreement of reciprocity for the exchange of such information has been established and is in effect. Reciprocity agreements shall provide for the apportionment of the costs of the fingerprinting or criminal records check between the applicant and Colonial Heights School Board as provided by statute.

If an applicant is denied employment because of information appearing on his/her criminal history record, the School Board shall provide a copy of the information provided by the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the applicant.

**B. Founded Complaints of Child Abuse or Neglect**

The School Board requires, as a condition of employment, that any applicant who is offered or accepts employment requiring direct contact with students, whether full-time or part-time, permanent or temporary, provide written consent and the necessary personal information for the School Board to obtain a search of the registry of founded complaints of child abuse and neglect. The registry is maintained by the Department of Social Services. The School Board shall ensure that all such searches are requested in conformance with the regulations of the Board of Social Services. In addition, where the applicant has resided in another state within the last five years, the School Board requires as a condition of employment that such applicant provide written consent and the necessary personal information for the School Board to obtain information from each relevant state as to whether the applicant was the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse and neglect in such state. The School Board shall take reasonable steps to determine whether the applicant was the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse and neglect in the relevant state. The Department of Social Services shall maintain a database of central child abuse and neglect registries in other states that provide access to out-of-state school boards for use by local school boards. The applicant may be required to pay the cost of any search conducted pursuant to this subsection at the discretion of the School Board. From such funds as may be available for this purpose, however, the School Board may pay for the search.

If the information obtained pursuant to the preceding paragraph indicates that the applicant is the subject of a founded case of child abuse and neglect, such applicant shall be denied employment, or the employment shall be rescinded.



If an applicant is denied employment because of information appearing on his record in the registry, the School Board shall provide a copy of the information obtained from the registry to the applicant. The information provided to the School Board by the Department of Social Services shall be confidential and shall not be disseminated by the School Board.

## II. EMPLOYEE CHARGES AND CONVICTIONS

### A. Criminal Proceedings

An employee who is charged by summons, warrant, indictment, or information with the commission of a felony or a misdemeanor specified in Va. Code § 22.1-315 may be suspended in accordance with Policy GCPF Suspension of Staff Members.

If a current employee is suspended or dismissed because of information appearing on his/her criminal history record, the School Board shall provide a copy of the information provided by the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the employee.

The superintendent shall inform the School Board of any notification of arrest of a school board employee received pursuant to Virginia Code §19.2-83.1. The School Board shall require such employee, whether full-time or part-time, permanent, or temporary, to submit to fingerprinting and to provide personal descriptive information to be forwarded along with the employee's fingerprints through the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information regarding such employee. The contents of the employee's criminal record shall be used only to implement dismissal, suspension or probation in accordance with §§22.1-307 and 22.1-315 of the Code of Virginia.

### B. Founded Complaints of Child Abuse or Neglect

Any employee of Colonial Heights School Board will be dismissed if he or she is or becomes the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse and neglect and after all rights to an appeal provided by Va. Code § 63.2-1526 have been exhausted. The fact of such finding, after all rights to an appeal provided by Va. Code § 63.2-1526 have been exhausted, shall be grounds for the local school division to recommend that the Board of Education revoke such person's license to teach.

## III. COURT ORDERED PROBATION

For purposes of this policy, a court's placing an individual on probation pursuant to Va. Code section 18.2-251 is treated as a conviction and as a finding of guilt.

## IV. COSTS OF FINGERPRINTING, CRIMINAL RECORD AND ABUSE AND NEGLECT CHECKS

The School Board shall pay for the fingerprinting, criminal record check and abuse and neglect check conducted pursuant to this policy.

Adopted: May 27, 1997  
Amended: April 30, 1998  
Amended: August 22, 2000  
Amended: August 28, 2001  
Amended: July 25, 2006  
Amended: August 26, 2008  
Amended: June 23, 2009  
Amended: July 24, 2012  
Amended: August 28, 2018  
Amended: September 25, 2018  
Amended: August 27, 2019  
Amended: August 25, 2020

Legal Ref: Code of Virginia, as amended, §§ 18.2-251, 19.2-83.1, 19.2-389, 22.1-78, 22.1-296.1, 22.1-296.2, 22.1-296.4, 22.1-307, 22.1-315, 63.2-1515.

Acts 2018, c. 833.

Cross Ref.: GCPF Suspension of Staff Members  
GCPD Professional Staff Members: Contract Status and Discipline

## PROFESSIONAL STAFF PROBATION AND CONTINUING CONTRACT

### Teachers

#### Probationary Term

A probationary term of service of three years in Colonial Heights School Division is required before a teacher is issued a continuing contract. A mentor teacher is provided to every first year probationary teacher to assist him or her in achieving excellence in instruction. Probationary teachers with prior successful teaching experience may be exempt from this requirement with approval from the Superintendent. Probationary teachers are evaluated at least annually in accordance with policy GCN Evaluation of Professional Staff. A teacher in his first year of the probationary period is evaluated informally at least once during the first semester of the school year. The Superintendent considers such evaluations as one factor in making recommendations to the School Board regarding the nonrenewal of such teacher's contract

In order to achieve continuing contract status, every teacher must successfully complete training in instructional strategies and techniques for intervention for or remediation of students who fail or are at risk of failing the Standards of Learning assessments. Colonial Heights School Board provides said training at no cost to teachers it employs. If such training is not offered in a timely manner, no teacher will be denied continuing contract status for failure to obtain such training.

Once a continuing contract status has been attained in a school division in this state, another probationary period need not be served unless such probationary period, not to exceed two years, is made a part of the contract of employment. If a teacher separates from service and returns to teaching service in Virginia public schools by the beginning of the third year, the person shall be required to begin a new probationary period, not to exceed two years, if made part of the contract.

If a teacher who has not achieved continuing contract status receives notice of re-employment, he must accept or reject in writing within 15 calendar days of receipt of the notice. Unless a conference with the Superintendent is requested as specified in the Code of Virginia, or in the case of reduction in force, written notice of nonrenewal of the contract must be given by the board on or before June 15 of each year. If the teacher requests a conference with the Superintendent, then written notice of non-renewal by the School Board must be given within thirty days after the Superintendent notifies the teacher of his intention with respect to the recommendation.

#### Continuing Contract

Teachers employed after completing the probationary period are entitled to continuing contracts during good behavior and competent service and prior to the age at which they are eligible or required to retire. Written notice of non-continuation of the contract by either party must be given by June 15 of each year; otherwise the contract continues in effect for the ensuing year.

The School Board may reduce the number of teachers, whether or not such teachers have reached continuing contract status, because of decrease in enrollment or abolition of particular subjects. Furthermore, nothing in the continuing contract shall be construed to authorize the

School Board to contract for any financial obligation beyond the period for which funds have been made available.

As soon after June 15 as the school budget is approved by the appropriating body, the school board furnishes each teacher a statement confirming continuation of employment, setting forth assignment and salary.

Within two weeks of the approval of the school budget by the appropriating body, but no later than June 1, the school board will notify any teacher who may be subject to a reduction in force due to a decrease in the school board's budget as approved by the appropriating body.

#### Principals, Assistant Principals, and Supervisors

A person employed as a principal, assistant principal or supervisor, including a person who has previously achieved continuing contract status as a teacher, shall serve three years in such position in the same school division before acquiring continuing contract status as a principal, assistant principal or supervisor.

Continuing contract status acquired by a principal, assistant principal or supervisor shall not be construed (i) as prohibiting the School Board from reassigning such principal, assistant principal or supervisor to a teaching position if notice of reassignment is given by the School Board by June 15 of any year or (ii) as entitling any such principal, assistant principal or supervisor to the salary paid him as principal, assistant principal or supervisor in the case of any such reassignment to a teaching position. No such salary reduction and reassignment, however, shall be made without first providing such principal, assistant principal or supervisor with written notice of the reason for such reduction and reassignment and an opportunity to present his or her position at an informal meeting with the superintendent, the superintendent's designee or the School Board. Before recommending such reassignment, the superintendent shall consider, among other things, the performance evaluations for such principal, assistant principal or supervisor. The principal, assistant principal or supervisor shall elect whether such meeting shall be with the superintendent, the superintendent's designee or the School Board. The School Board, superintendent or superintendent's designee shall determine what processes are to be followed at the meeting. The decision to reassign and reduce salary shall be at the sole discretion of the School Board.

The intent of this section is to provide an opportunity for a principal, assistant principal or supervisor to discuss the reasons for such salary reduction and reassignment with the superintendent, the superintendent's designee or the School Board, and the provisions of this section are meant to be procedural only. Nothing contained herein shall be taken to require cause for the salary reduction and reassignment of a principal, assistant principal or supervisor.

As used in this policy, "Supervisor" means a person who holds an instructional supervisory position as specified in the regulations of the State Board of Education and who is required to hold a certificate as prescribed by the State Board of Education.

Adopted: August 22, 1995

Amended: September 24, 1996

Amended: May 27, 1997; April 30, 1998; June 29, 1999; August 22, 2000; August 28, 2001; May 27, 2003; August 26, 2008; June 28, 2011; July 24, 2012; September 24, 2013; July 26, 2016; August 28, 2018; August 25, 2020.

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-294, 22.1-303, 22.1-304.

Cross Refs.:	GBM	Staff Complaints and Grievances
	GCB	Professional Staff Contracts
	GCE	Part-Time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment
	GCN	Evaluation of Professional Staff
	GCPA	Reduction in Professional Staff Work Force
	GCPB	Resignation of Professional Staff Members
	GCPD	Professional Staff Members: Contract Status and Discipline
	GCPF	Suspension of Staff Members

## PROFESSIONAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Colonial Heights School Board provides a program of high-quality professional development

- i. in the use and documentation of performance standards and evaluation criteria based on student academic progress and skills for teachers and administrators to clarify roles and performance expectations and to facilitate the successful implementation of instructional programs that promote student achievement at the school and classroom levels;
- ii. as part of the license renewal process, to assist teachers and principals in acquiring the skills needed to work with gifted students, students with disabilities, and students who have been identified as having limited English proficiency and to increase student achievement and expand the knowledge and skills students require to meet the standards for academic performance set by the Board of Education;
- iii. in educational technology for all instructional personnel which is designed to facilitate integration of computer skills and related technology into the curricula;
- iv. for administrative personnel designed increase proficiency in instructional leadership and management, including training in the evaluation and documentation of teacher and administrator performance based on student academic progress and the skills and knowledge of such instructional or administrative personnel; and
- v. designed to educate School Board employees about bullying as defined in Va. Code § 22.1-276.01 and the need to create a bully-free environment.

In addition, the board provides teachers and principals with high-quality professional development programs each year in

- (i) instructional content;
- (ii) the preparation of tests and other assessment measures;
- (iii) methods for assessing the progress of individual students, including Standards of Learning assessment materials or other criterion-referenced tests that match locally developed objectives;
- (iv) instruction and remediation techniques in English, mathematics, science, and history and social science;
- (v) interpreting test data for instructional purposes;
- (vi) technology applications to implement the Standards of Learning; and
- (vii) effective classroom management

All instructional personnel are required to participate each year in professional development programs.

All Teachers, Principals, Guidance Counselors, and Paraprofessionals, employed on a full-time basis, are required to complete a mental health awareness training or similar program.

The Board annually reviews its professional development program for quality, effectiveness, participation by instructional personnel, and relevancy to the instructional needs of teachers and the academic achievement needs of the students in the school division.

Adopted: August 22, 1995

Amended: May 27, 1997

Amended: June 29, 1999

Amended: August 22, 2000

Amended: June 14, 2005

Amended: July 24, 2007

Amended: September 24, 2013

Amended: April 24, 2018

Amended: August 25, 2020

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§22.1-78, 22.1-253.13:5, 22.1-276.01, 22.1-291.4 and 22.1-298.6.

## EVALUATION OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Every employee of the Colonial Heights School Board is evaluated on a regular basis at least as frequently as required by law.

The superintendent assures that cooperatively developed procedure for professional staff evaluations are implemented throughout the division and included in the division's policy manual. The results of the evaluation are in writing, dated and signed by the evaluator and the person being evaluated, with one copy going to the central office personnel file and one copy to the person being evaluated.

The primary purposes of evaluation are:

- to optimize student learning and growth;
- to contribute to the successful achievement of the goals and objectives of the division's educational plan;
- to improve the quality of instruction by ensuring accountability for classroom performance and teacher effectiveness;
- to provide a basis for leadership improvement through productive performance appraisal and professional growth;
- to implement a performance evaluation system that promotes a positive working environment and continuous communication between the employee and the evaluator that promotes continuous professional growth, leadership effectiveness, improvement of overall job performance and improved student outcomes; and
- to promote self-growth, instructional effectiveness, and improvement of overall professional performance.

The procedures are consistent with the performance objectives included in the Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers and the Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Principals. Evaluations include student academic progress as a significant component and an overall summative rating. Teacher evaluations include regular observation and evidence that instruction is aligned with the school's curriculum. Evaluations include identification of areas of individual strengths and weaknesses and recommendations for appropriate professional activities.

Any teacher whose evaluation indicates deficiencies in managing student conduct may be required to attend professional development activities designed to improve classroom management and discipline skills.

Adopted: August 22, 1995  
Amended: May 26, 1998  
Amended: January 26, 1999  
Amended: June 29, 1999  
Amended: August 22, 2000  
Amended: April 14, 2011  
Amended: July 24, 2012  
Amended: September 24, 2013  
Amended: April 24, 2018  
Amended: August 25, 2020



Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, sections §§22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-294, 22.1-295, 22.1-303, 22.1-253.13:5, 22.1-253.13:7. and 22.1-276.2.

Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers (Virginia Board of Education as revised July 23, 2015)  
([http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/performance\\_evaluation/guidelines\\_ups\\_eval\\_criteria\\_teachers.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/performance_evaluation/guidelines_ups_eval_criteria_teachers.pdf)).

Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Principals (Virginia Board of Education as revised July 23, 2015)  
([http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/performance\\_evaluation/guidelines\\_ups\\_eval\\_criteria\\_principals.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/performance_evaluation/guidelines_ups_eval_criteria_principals.pdf)).

Cross Ref.:      CBG              Evaluation of the Superintendent  
                      GCG              Professional Staff Probationary Term and Continuing Contract

## PROFESSIONAL STAFF DISCIPLINE

### A. Probation and Dismissal

Teachers may be dismissed for incompetency, immorality, noncompliance with school laws and regulations, disability in accordance with State and federal law, conviction of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude or other good and just cause.

A teacher shall be dismissed if such teacher is or becomes the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse and neglect, pursuant to Va. Code § 63.2-1505, and after all rights to an appeal provided by Va. Code § 63.2-1526 have been exhausted. The fact of such finding, after all rights to an appeal provided by Va. Code § 63.2-1526 have been exhausted, shall be grounds for the School Board to recommend that the Board of Education revoke such person's license to teach.

In instances when licensed personnel are dismissed or resign due to a conviction of any felony; any offense involving the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse or rape of a child; any offenses involving drugs; or due to having become the subject of a founded case of child abuse or neglect, the School Board shall notify the Board of Education within 10 business days of such dismissal or the acceptance of such resignation.

If a current employee is dismissed because of information appearing on his/her criminal history record, the School Board shall provide a copy of the information obtained from the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the employee.

Administrative regulations shall be developed for the dismissal or placing on probation of continuing contract teachers and probationary teachers during the school year. *Reference policy GBM-BOE (8VAC 20-90-10 et seq.), Part III*

No teacher shall be dismissed or placed on probation solely on the basis of the teachers' refusal to submit to a polygraph examination requested by the School Board.

### B. Suspension

Employees of the Colonial Heights School Board may be suspended as provided in Policy GCPF Suspension of Staff Members.

### C. Failure to Perform Nonemergency Health-Related Services

With the exception of school administrative personnel and employees who have the specific duty to deliver health-related services, no licensed instructional employee, instructional aide, or clerical employee shall be disciplined, placed on probation, or dismissed on the basis of such employee's refusal to (i) perform nonemergency health-related serviced for students or (ii) obtain training in the administration of insulin and

glucagon. However, instructional aides and clerical employee may not refuse to dispense oral medications.

“Health-related services” means those activities which, when performed in a health care facility, must be delivered by or under the supervision of a licensed or certified professional.

D. Effect of Probation Pursuant to Va. Code §18.2-251

For purposes of this policy, a court's placing an individual on probation pursuant to Va. Code § 18.2-251 shall be treated as a conviction and as a finding of guilt.

Adopted: August 22, 1995

Amended: September 24, 1996; May 27, 1997; April 30, 1998; June 29, 1999; August 22, 2000; August 28, 2001; August 26, 2008; July 24, 2012; September 24, 2013; July 25, 2017; August 25, 2020.

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 18.2-251, 22.1-274, 22.1-296.2, 22.1-307, 22.1-313, 22.1-315.

Cross Refs.: GBM Professional Staff Grievances  
GCE Part-Time and Substitute Staff Employment  
GCG Professional Staff Probationary Term and Continuing Contract  
GCDA Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect  
GCPF Suspension of Staff Members  
JHC Student Health Services  
JHCD Administering Medicines to Students

## INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Colonial Heights School Board develops and implements a program of instruction for grades kindergarten through 12 that is aligned to the Standards of Learning established by the Board of Education and that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Board of Education. The program of instruction emphasizes reading, writing, speaking, mathematical concepts and computations, proficiency in the use of computers and related technology, computer science and computational thinking, including computer coding, and scientific concepts and processes; essential skills and concepts of citizenship, including knowledge of Virginia history and world and United States history, economics, government, foreign languages, international cultures, health and physical education, environmental issues and geography necessary for responsible participation in American society and in the international community; fine arts, which may include, but need not be limited to, music and art, and practical arts; knowledge and skills needed to qualify for further education, gainful employment, or training in a career or technical field; and development of the ability to apply such skills and knowledge in preparation for eventual employment and lifelong learning and to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

The School Board also implements:

1. programs in grades kindergarten through three that emphasize developmentally appropriate learning to enhance success
2. programs based on prevention, intervention, or remediation designed to increase the number of students who earn a high school diploma and to prevent students from dropping out of school; such programs shall include components that are research-based
3. career and technical education programs incorporated into the kindergarten through grade 12 curricula
4. educational objectives in middle and high school that emphasize economic education and financial literacy pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-200.03
5. early identification of students with disabilities and enrollment of such students in appropriate instructional programs consistent with state and federal law
6. early identification of gifted students and enrollment of such students in appropriately differentiated instructional programs
7. educational alternatives for students whose needs are not met in programs prescribed elsewhere in the Standards of Learning
8. adult education programs for individuals functioning below the high school completion level
9. a plan to make achievements for students who are educationally at risk a division-wide priority that shall include procedures for measuring the progress of such students

10. an agreement for postsecondary degree attainment with a community college in Virginia specifying the options for students to complete an associate's degree or a one-year Uniform Certificate of General Studies from a community college concurrent with a high school diploma; such agreement shall specify the credit available for dual enrollment courses and Advanced Placement courses with qualifying exam scores of three or higher

11. a plan to notify students and their parents of the availability of dual enrollment and Advanced Placement classes; career and technical education programs, including internships, externships, apprenticeships, credentialing programs, certification programs, licensure programs, and other work-based learning experiences; Academic Year Governor's School Programs; the qualifications for enrolling in such classes, programs and experiences; and the availability of financial assistance to low-income and needy students to take the Advanced Placement examinations; this plan shall include notification to students and parents of the agreement with a community college in Virginia to enable students to complete an associate's degree or a one-year Uniform Certificate of General Studies concurrent with a high school diploma

12. identification of students with limited English proficiency and enrollment of such students in appropriate instructional programs, which programs may include dual language programs whereby such students receive instruction in English and in a second language

13. early identification, diagnosis, and assistance for students with reading and mathematics problems and provision of instructional strategies and reading and mathematics practices that benefit the development of reading and mathematics skills for all students

14. incorporation of art, music, and physical education as a part of the instructional program at the elementary school level

15. a program of physical activity available to all students in grades kindergarten through five consisting of at least 20 minutes per day or an average of 100 minutes per week during the regular school year and available to all students in grades six through 12 with a goal of at least 150 minutes per week on average during the regular school year; such program may include any combination of (i) physical education classes, (ii) extracurricular athletics, (iii) recess, or (iv) other programs and physical activities deemed appropriate by the School Board

16. a program of student services for grades kindergarten through grade 12 that shall be designed to aid students in their educational, social, and career development

17. the collection and analysis of data and the use of the results to evaluate and make decisions about the instructional program.

18. a program of instruction in each government course in the school division on all information and concepts in the civics portion of the U.S. Naturalization test

Timely written notification is provided to the parents of any student who:

- undergoes literacy and Response to Intervention screening and services; or
- does not meet the benchmark on any assessment used to determine at-risk learners in preschool through grade 12, which notification includes all such assessment scores

and subscores and any intervention plan that results from such assessment scores or subscores.

Adopted: August 22, 1995

Amended: April 30, 1998; August 22, 2000; April 23, 2013; July 26, 2016; July 25, 2017; August 28, 2018; August 25, 2020.

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-253.13:1.

Cross Ref.:	IGAD	Career and Technical Education
	IGBE	Remedial and Summer Instructional Program
	IGBI	Advanced Placement Classes and Special Programs
	JHCF	Student Wellness

NATIONAL MOTTO

The statement “‘In God We Trust,’ the National Motto, enacted by Congress in 1956” is posted in a conspicuous place in each school for all students to read.

Adopted: June 2002  
Amended: August 25, 2020

Legal Ref.: Acts 2003, c. 902.

## FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (FLE)

### Generally

The Colonial Heights School Board provides Family Life Education (FLE) based on the FLE Standards of Learning (SOL) and curriculum guidelines developed by the Board of Education. The SOL objectives related to dating violence and the characteristics of abusive relationships are taught at least once in middle school and at least twice in high school. The high school FLE curriculum incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence based programs on the prevention of dating violence, domestic abuse, sexual harassment, including sexual harassment using electronic means, and sexual violence, human trafficking, and the law and meaning of consent. Such age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of sexual violence may include instruction that increases student awareness of the fact that consent is required before sexual activity. The FLE curriculum offered in any school incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the importance of the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals and tools for a student to use to ensure that he respects the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals. The FLE curriculum incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the harmful physical and emotional effects of female genital mutilation; associated criminal penalties; and the rights of the victim, including any civil action pursuant to Va. Code § 8.01-42.5.

The FLE curriculum may incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention, recognition, and awareness of child abduction, child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse.

The School Board reviews its family life education curricula at least once every seven years, evaluates whether the curricula reflects contemporary community standards, and revises the curricula if necessary.

### Right of Parental Review

A parent or guardian has the right to review the family life curricula, including all supplemental materials used in the program.

The School Board develops and distributes to the parents or guardians of students participating in the FLE program a summary designed to assist them in understanding the program implemented in its school division and to encourage parental guidance and involvement in the instruction of the students. Such information reflects the curricula of the program as taught in the classroom. The following statement is included on the summary: "Parents and guardians have the right to review the family life education program offered by their school division, including written and audio-visual educational materials used in the program. Parents and guardians also have the right to excuse their child from all or part of family life education instruction."

Adopted: August 22, 1995

Amended: June 18, 2002; July 28, 2011; July 28, 2015; July 25, 2017; August 28, 2018; August 27, 2019; August 25, 2020.



Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§22.1-207.1, 22.1-207.1:1, 22.1-207.2.

Cross Refs.: BCF Advisory Committees to the School Board  
IIA Instructional Materials  
INB Teaching About Controversial Issues  
KLB Public Complaints About Learning Resources

## COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Each middle and secondary school provides for the early identification and enrollment of students in a program with a range of educational and academic experiences related to college and career readiness in and outside the classroom, including an emphasis on experiences that will motivate disadvantaged and minority students to prepare for a career or postsecondary education.

Each elementary, middle, and secondary school provides for the identification by all students of personal interests and abilities to support planning for postsecondary opportunities and career preparation. Such support includes provision of information concerning exploration of career cluster areas in elementary schools, and course information and planning for college preparation programs, opportunities for educational and academic experiences in and outside the classroom, including internships and work-based learning, and the multiple pathways to college and career readiness in middle and high school.

Beginning in the elementary school years, students explore the different occupations associated with career clusters and select an area or areas of interest. Students begin the development of an academic and career plan portfolio (ACPP) in elementary grades to include information about interests, values such as dependability and responsibility, and skills supporting decisions about their future interests and goals. The information contained in the ACPP serves as the foundation for creating the Academic and Career Plan (ACP) in grade 7.

In middle school, students complete a locally selected career interest inventory and select a career pathway. To support development of the ACP, students complete at least one course in career investigation selected from the career and technical education state-approved list, or a school division-provided alternative means of delivering the career investigation course content, provided that the alternative is equivalent in content and academic rigor.

The School Board may require such courses in career investigation at the high school level as it deems appropriate, subject to approval by the Board of Education. The School Board may require such courses in career investigation at the elementary school level as it deems appropriate.

All schools continue development of a personal ACP with each seventh-grade student with completion by the end of the fall semester of the student's eighth-grade year. The components of the ACP include the student's program of study for high school graduation and a postsecondary career pathway based on the student's academic and career interests. In high school, a career-related learning experience is chosen by the student and documented in the ACP.

The ACP is developed in accordance with guidelines established by the Board of Education and signed by the student, student's parent or guardian, and school official or

officials designated by the principal. The ACP is included in the student's record and is reviewed and updated annually. Lists, as compiled annually by the Department of Education and provided to the School Board, of 1) the top 100 professions in Virginia by median pay and the education, training and skills required for each such profession and 2) the top 10 degree programs at institutions of higher education in Virginia by median pay of program graduates are included as part of each student's ACP.

Beginning in the middle school years, students are counseled on opportunities for beginning postsecondary education and opportunities for obtaining industry certifications, occupational competency credentials, or professional licenses in a career and technical education field prior to high school graduation as described in Policy LEB Advanced/Alternative Courses for Credit. Such opportunities include access to at least three Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Cambridge courses or three college-level courses for degree credit pursuant to 8 VAC 20-131-100. Students taking advantage of such opportunities are not denied participation in school activities for which they are otherwise eligible. Wherever possible, students are encouraged and afforded opportunities to take college courses simultaneously for high school graduation and college degree credit (dual enrollment), under the following conditions:

- a. Written approval of the high school principal prior to participation in dual enrollment must be obtained;
- b. The college must accept the student for admission to the course or courses; and
- c. The course or courses must be given by the college for degree credits (no remedial courses will be accepted).

Adopted: August 28, 2018  
Amended: August 25, 2020

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:3.

8 VAC 20-131-140.

Guidelines for Academic and Career Plans (Adopted by the Virginia Board of Education Sept 17, 2009).

Cross Ref.:	IGAD	Career and Technical Education
	IJ	Guidance and Counseling Program
	JO	Student Records
	LEB	Advanced/Alternative Courses for Credit

## EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES/ NONDISCRIMINATION

### I. Policy Statement

Equal educational opportunities shall be available for all students, without regard to sex, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, national origin, gender, gender identity ethnicity, religion, disability, ancestry, or marital or parental status or any other unlawful basis. Educational programs shall be designed to meet the varying needs of all students.

#### The School Board:

- provides facilities, programs and activities that are accessible, usable and available to qualified persons with disabilities;
- provides a free, appropriate education including nonacademic and extracurricular services to qualified persons with disabilities;
- does not exclude qualified persons with disabilities solely on the basis of their disabilities, from any preschool, daycare, adult education or career and technical education programs; and
- does not discriminate against qualified persons with disabilities in the provision of health, welfare or social services.

### II. Complaint Procedure

#### A. File Report

Any student who believes he or she has been the victim of prohibited discrimination should report the alleged discrimination as soon as possible to one of the compliance officers designated in this policy. Further, any student who has knowledge of conduct which may constitute prohibited discrimination should report such conduct to one of the compliance officers designated in this policy. Any employee who has knowledge of conduct which may constitute prohibited discrimination shall report such conduct to one of the compliance officers designated in this policy.

The reporting party should use the form, Report of Discrimination, JB-F, to make complaints of discrimination. However, oral reports and other written reports shall also be accepted. The complaint must be filed with either the building principal or one of the compliance officers designated in this policy. The principal shall immediately forward any report of alleged prohibited discrimination to the compliance officer. Any complaint that involves the compliance officer shall be reported to the superintendent.

The complaint, and identity of the complainant and alleged perpetrator shall not be disclosed except as required by law or policy, as necessary to fully investigate the complaint or as authorized by the complainant.

## B. Investigation

Upon receipt of a report of alleged prohibited discrimination, the compliance officer shall immediately authorize or undertake an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by school personnel or a third party designated by the school division. The investigation shall be completed as soon as practicable, which should generally be not later than 14 school days after receipt of the report by the compliance officer. Upon receiving the complaint, the compliance officer shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint by giving written notice that the complaint has been received to both the person complaining of discrimination and the person or persons allegedly responsible for the discrimination. Also upon receiving the complaint, the compliance officer shall determine whether interim measures should be taken pending the outcome of the investigation. If the compliance officer determines that more than 14 days will be required to investigate the complaint, the complainant and the person or persons allegedly responsible for the discrimination will be notified of the reason for the extended investigation and of the date by which the investigation will be concluded.

The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the alleged perpetrator, and any others who may have knowledge of the alleged discrimination or the circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation will consider witnesses and evidence from both the complainant and the person or persons responsible for the alleged discrimination. The investigation may also consist of the inspection of any other documents or information deemed relevant by the investigator. The school division shall take necessary steps to protect the complainant and others pending the completion of the investigation.

Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a case by case determination based on all of the facts and circumstances revealed after a complete and thorough investigation.

The compliance officer shall issue a written report to the superintendent upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the superintendent, then the report shall be sent to the School Board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations are substantiated, whether this policy was violated and recommendations for corrective action, if any.

All employees shall cooperate with any investigation of alleged discrimination conducted under this policy or by an appropriate state or federal agency.

## C. Action by Superintendent

Within 5 school days of receiving the compliance officer's report, the superintendent or designee shall issue a decision regarding (1) whether this policy was violated and (2) what action, if any, should be taken. This decision must be provided in writing to the complainant. If the superintendent or designee determines that prohibited discrimination occurred, the Colonial Heights City School Division shall take prompt, appropriate action to address and remedy the violation as well as prevent any recurrence. Such action may include discipline up to and including expulsion or discharge.

#### D. Appeal

If the school division determines that no prohibited discrimination occurred, the student who was allegedly subjected to discrimination may appeal this finding to the School Board within 5 school days of receiving the decision. Notice of appeal must be filed with the superintendent who shall forward the record to the School Board. The School Board shall make a decision within 30 calendar days of receiving the record. The School Board may ask for oral or written argument from the aggrieved party and the superintendent and any other individual the School Board deems relevant. Written notice of the School Board's decision will be given to both the complainant and the person or persons responsible for the alleged discrimination.

If the Superintendent or designee determines that prohibited discrimination occurred and discipline is imposed, the disciplined person may appeal the disciplinary sanction in the same manner as any other such sanction would be appealed.

#### E. Compliance Officer and Alternate Compliance Officer

The **Colonial Heights** School Board has designated **the Director of Human Resources, 512 Boulevard, Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834, (804)524-3400** as the Compliance Officer responsible for identifying, investigating, preventing and remedying prohibited discrimination. Complaints of discrimination may also be made to the Alternate Compliance Officer, **the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, 512 Boulevard, Colonial Heights, VA 23834, , (804)524-3400 ext. 18.**

The Compliance Officer:

- receives reports or complaints of discrimination;
- conducts or oversees the investigation of any alleged discrimination;
- assesses the training needs of the school division in connection with this policy;
- arranges necessary training to achieve compliance with this policy; and
- ensures that any discrimination investigation is conducted by an impartial investigator who is trained in the requirements of equal education opportunity, and has the authority to protect the alleged victim and others during the investigation.

#### III. Retaliation

Retaliation against students or school personnel who report discrimination or participate in the related proceedings is prohibited. The School division shall take appropriate action against any student or employee who retaliates against another student or employee who reports alleged discrimination or participates in related proceedings. The Compliance Officer will inform persons who make complaints, who are the subject of complaints, and who participate in investigations of how to report any subsequent problems.

#### IV. Right to Alternative Complaint Procedure

Nothing in this policy denies the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse to address concerns relating to prohibited discrimination including initiating civil action, filing a complaint with outside agencies or seeking redress under state or federal law.

## V. Prevention

Training to prevent discrimination should be included in employee and student orientations as well as employee in-service training.

This policy shall be (1) displayed in prominent areas of each division building in a location accessible to students, parents and school personnel, (2) included in the student and employee handbooks; and (3) sent to parents of all students within 30 calendar days of the start of school. All students and their parent/guardian shall be notified annually of the names and contact information of the compliance officers.

## VI. False Charges

Students or school personnel who knowingly make false charges of discrimination shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Adopted: March 28, 2000  
Amended: August 22, 2000  
Amended: August 28, 2001  
Amended: August 26, 2003  
Amended: February 2004  
Amended: January 22, 2013  
Amended: August 25, 2020

Legal Refs: 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688.  
29 U.S.C. §§ 794.  
42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d through 2000d-7.  
34 CFR 106.9.

Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, §§ 2.2-3900, 2.2-3901, 2.2-3902, 22.1-212.6:1.

Cross Refs:	AC	Nondiscrimination
	AD	Educational Philosophy
	GB	Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination
	JB-F	Report of Discrimination
	JBA	Section 504 Nondiscrimination Policy and Grievance Procedures
	JFHA/GBA	Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation

## SCHOOL ADMISSION

A person of school age (i.e., a person who will have reached his or her fifth birthday on or before September 30 of the school year and who has not reached 20 years of age on or before August 1st of the school year) is eligible for admission on a non-tuition basis if residing in the Colonial Heights School Division, or if eligible for admission under Policy JECA Admission of Homeless Children.

A person of school age is deemed to reside in the school division (*the following list is not exclusive*):

- when the person is living with a natural parent, or a parent by legal adoption, in the Colonial Heights School Division;
- when in accordance with the provisions of VA. Code § 22.1-360, the person is living with a noncustodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis, not solely for school purposes pursuant to a Special Power of Attorney executed under Title 10, United States Code, § 1044b by the custodial parent;
- when the parents of such person are dead and the person is living with a person in loco parentis who actually resides within the school division;
- when the parents of such person are unable to care for the person and the person is living, not solely for school purposes, with another person who resides in the school division and is either
  - (i) the court-appointed guardian, or has legal custody of the person, or
  - (ii) acting in loco parentis pursuant to placement of the person for adoption by a person or entity authorized to do so under Va. Code § 63.2-1200;
  - (iii) An adult relative providing temporary kinship care as that term is defined in Va. Code § 63.2-100. Both parents and the relative providing kinship care must submit signed, notarized affidavits:
    - a. explaining why the parents are unable to care for the person,
    - b. detailing the kinship care arrangement, and
    - c. agreeing that the kinship care provider or a parent will notify the school within 30 days of when the kinship care arrangements ends.

The parent must also provide a power of attorney authorizing the adult relative to make educational decisions regarding the person. A parent or the kinship care provider must also obtain written verification from the department of social services where the parent or parents live, and the department of social services where the kinship provider lives, that the kinship arrangement serves a legitimate purpose that is in the best interest of the person other than school enrollment. If the kinship care arrangement lasts more than one year, the school division must receive continued verification directly from both departments of social services that the parents are unable to care for the person and that the kinship care arrangement serves as a legitimate purpose other than school enrollment.

- when the person is living in the school division not solely for school purposes, as an emancipated minor; or



- when all or any portion of the building in which the person resides (i) with another person as set forth in the first through fourth bullets above or (ii) as an emancipated minor as set forth in the fifth bullet above is taxable by the locality in which the school division is located; or
- when the person has been placed in a foster care placement within the school division by a local social services agency. The sending and receiving school divisions will cooperate in facilitating the enrollment of any child placed in foster care across jurisdictional lines to enhance continuity of instruction. The child will be allowed to continue to attend the school in which he was enrolled prior to the most recent foster care placement, upon the joint determination of the placing social services agency and the school division that such attendance is in the best interest of the child. No person of school age who is the subject of a foster care placement will be charged tuition regardless of whether the child is attending the school in which he was enrolled prior to the most recent foster care placement or is attending a school in the receiving school division. These provisions apply to any student who was in in foster care upon reaching 18 years of age and has not reached 22 years of age.

Certain other students may be admitted into the public schools of the division and may be charged tuition in accordance with section 22.1-5 of the Code of Virginia and pursuant to Colonial Heights School Board Regulations JEC-R School Enrollment Procedures for Colonial Heights Public Schools and JEC-R2 School Residency. Children of Persons on Active Military Duty

No child of a person on active military duty

- who is attending a school free of charge in accordance with this policy shall be charged tuition by the school division upon such child's relocation to military housing located in another school division in the Commonwealth, pursuant to orders received by such child's parent to relocate to base housing. Such children shall be allowed to continue attending school in the school division and shall not be charged tuition for attending such school;
- who is attending a school free of charge in accordance with this policy shall be charged tuition upon such child's relocation pursuant to orders received by such child's parent to relocate to a new duty station or to be deployed. Such children shall be allowed to remain enrolled in the current school division free of tuition through the end of the school year; and
- who is eligible to attend school free of charge in accordance with this policy shall be charged tuition by a school division that will be the child's school division of residence once his service member parent is relocated pursuant to orders received. Such a child shall be allowed to enroll in the school division of the child's intended residence if documentation is provided, at the time of enrollment, of military orders of the service member parent or an official letter from the service member's command indicating such relocation. Documentation indicating a permanent address within the school division shall be provided to the school division within

120 days of a child's enrollment or tuition may be charged, including tuition for the days since the child's enrollment in school. In the event that the child's service member parent is ordered to relocate before the 120th day following the child's enrollment, the school division shall not charge tuition. Students eligible to enroll in the school division in accordance with this policy because they are the children of military personnel on active military duty who will reside in the division may register, remotely or in-person, for courses and other academic programs and participate in the lottery process for charter schools and college partnership laboratory schools in the school division at the same time and in the same manner as students who reside in the division. The assignment of the school such child will attend shall be determined by the school division.

Such children shall be counted in the average daily membership of the school division in which they are enrolled. Further, the school division in which such children are enrolled subsequent to their relocation to base housing shall not be responsible for providing for their transportation to and from school.

#### ADDITIONAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A. Except as otherwise provided below, no pupil shall be admitted for the first time to any public school in any school division in Virginia unless the person enrolling the pupil presents, upon admission, a certified copy of the pupil's birth record. The principal or his designee shall record the official state birth number from the pupil's birth record into the pupil's permanent school record and may retain a copy in the pupil's permanent school record. If a certified copy of the pupil's birth record cannot be obtained, the person so enrolling the pupil must fill out and have notarized a Birth Certificate Affidavit form setting forth the pupil's age and explaining the inability to present a certified copy of the birth record. The parent/guardian will need to follow up with the original or a certified copy of the Birth Certificate within 60 days. If the school division cannot ascertain a child's age because of the lack of a birth certificate, the child shall nonetheless be admitted into the public schools if the division superintendent determines that the person submitting the affidavit presents information sufficient to estimate with reasonable certainty the age of such child.
- B. If a certified copy of the birth record is not provided, the administration shall immediately notify the local law enforcement agency. The notice to the local law-enforcement agency shall include copies of the submitted proof of the pupil's identity and age and the affidavit explaining the inability to produce a certified copy of the birth record.
- C. Within 14 days after enrolling a transfer student, the administration shall request documentation that a certified copy of the pupil's birth record was presented when the pupil was enrolled in the former school.

- D. The School Board assigns a unique student identification number, determined in accordance with a system developed by the Department of Education, to each student enrolled in the division. No Student identification number includes or is derived from the student's social security number. Each student retains the student's identification number for as long as the student is enrolled in a public elementary or secondary school in Virginia.
- E. Tuition rates are established each year in accordance with the provisions of § 22.1-5 of the Code of Virginia.
- F. Prior to admission to the Colonial Heights School Division, the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of the child shall provide, upon registration,
- a sworn statement or affirmation indicating whether the student has been expelled from school attendance at a private school or in a public school division of the Commonwealth or another state for an offense in violation of school board policies relating to weapons, alcohol or drugs, or for the willful infliction of injury to another person. This document shall be maintained as a part of the student's scholastic record; and
  - a sworn statement or affirmation indicating whether the student has been found guilty of or adjudicated delinquent for any offense listed in subsection G of Va. Code § 16.1-260 or any substantially similar offense under the laws of any state, the District of Columbia, or the United States or its territories. This document shall be maintained by the superintendent and by any others to whom he disseminates it, separately from all other records concerning the student.

However, if the school administrators or the school board takes disciplinary action against a student based upon an incident which formed the basis for the adjudication of delinquency or conviction for an offense listed in subsection G of § 16.1-260, the notice shall become a part of the student's disciplinary record.

When the child is registered as a result of a foster care placement, the information required under this subsection must be furnished by the local social services agency or licensed child-placing agency that made the placement.

- G. A student who has been expelled or suspended for more than thirty days from attendance at school by a school board or a private school in Virginia or in another state or for whom admission has been withdrawn by a private school in Virginia or another state may be excluded from attendance in the Colonial Heights School Division regardless of whether such student has been admitted to another school division or private school in Virginia or in another state subsequent to such expulsion, suspension, or withdrawal of admission upon a finding that the student presents a danger to the other students or staff of the school division after (i) written notice to the student and his/her parent that the student may be subject to exclusion, including the reasons therefore, and notice of the opportunity for the student or his parent to

participate in a hearing to be conducted by the superintendent or his designee regarding such exclusion; and (ii) a hearing of the case has been conducted by the superintendent or his/her designee; and the decision has been to exclude the student from attendance. The student or his parent may file a written petition for review with the School Board within 15 days of notice of the decision of the superintendent or his/her designee. If the School Board grants a review of the record, the decision of the superintendent or his/her designee may be altered.

Upon the expiration of the exclusion period for an expulsion or a withdrawal of admission, which period shall be established by the School Board, committee thereof, or superintendent or his designee, as the case may be, at the relevant hearing, the student may petition the School Board for readmission. If the petition for readmission is rejected, the School Board shall identify the length of the continuing exclusion period and the subsequent date upon which such student may petition the School Board for readmission.

For the purposes of this section, the superintendent's designee shall be a (i) trained hearing officer or (ii) professional employee within the administrative offices of the school division who reports directly to the superintendent and who is not a school-based instructional or administrative employee.

In excluding any such expelled student from school attendance, the School Board may accept or reject any or all of any conditions for readmission imposed upon such student by the expelling school board pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-277.06. The excluding School Board shall not impose additional conditions for readmission to school.

- H. This policy does not preclude contractual arrangements between the Colonial Heights School Board and agencies of the federal government or the school board of another jurisdiction to permit students not otherwise eligible to attend Colonial Heights Public Schools.
- I. Prior to admission, the student must document compliance with, or eligibility for exemption from, the physical examination and immunization requirements contained in §§ 22.1-270, 22.1-271.2 and 32.1-46 of the Code of Virginia and policies JHCA and JHCB.

If the person enrolling a child who has been placed in foster care by a local social services agency is unable to produce a report of a comprehensive physical examination and/or proof of immunization, the student shall be immediately enrolled; however, the person enrolling the child shall provide a written statement that, to the best of his knowledge, the student is in good health and is free from communicable or contagious disease. In addition, the placing social service agency shall obtain and produce the required documents or otherwise ensure compliance with the statutory requirements for the foster child within 30 days after the child's enrollment.

Adopted: August 22, 1995

Amended: May 27, 1997; August 26, 1997; January 26, 1999; June 29, 1999; August 28, 2001; May 27, 2003; March 7, 2005; July 26, 2005; May 25, 2010; August 4, 2011; July 24, 2012; September 24, 2013; November 18, 2014; May 26, 2015; July 28, 2015; August 28, 2018; August 27, 2019; August 25, 2020.

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-1, 22.1-3, 22.1-3.1, 22.1-3.2, 22.1-3.4, 22.1-5, 22.1-255, 22.1-260, 22.1-270, 22.1-271.2, 22.1-276.01, 22.1-277.2, 22.1-287.02, 22.1-288.2, 32.1-46, 3.2-100, 63.2-900, and 63.2-1200.

2007 Va. Opin. AG 07-015.

1987-88 Va. Opin. AG 374.

Cross Refs.:	JEC-R	School Admission Regulation
	JECA	Admission of Homeless Children
	JHCA	Physical Examinations of Students
	JHCB	Immunization of Students
	JGD/JGE	Student Suspension/Expulsion

STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES  
FOR COLONIAL HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Only persons of school age who are entitled by law to attend Colonial Heights Public Schools and International Exchange Students meeting the guidelines established by the School Board may attend Colonial Heights Public Schools. The Colonial Heights Public School Division does not accept the enrollment of any student that is a non-resident of the City of Colonial Heights unless the student is eligible under the admission eligibility categories as outlined in this regulation.**

A parent, guardian, or person *in loco parentis* who wishes to enroll a student in Colonial Heights Public Schools must provide **proof of residency in Colonial Heights** (unless such person is paying tuition) and comply with other entrance requirements. School officials may not inquire into the student's citizenship or B, C, or D visa status in determining eligibility for tuition-free enrollment in the Colonial Heights Public Schools. Students residing in the City of Colonial Heights are expected to attend the school that serves the geographical area in which they reside, unless they have been accepted to either regional or division-wide educational programs or have an exception approved by the Superintendent pursuant to policy JC: School Attendance Areas.

The following categories of students are eligible for admission:

- Tuition Free:
  - Students who reside in the City of Colonial Heights
  - Homeless Students as defined in policy JECA: Admission of Homeless Students
  - Graduating seniors who become non-residents during the graduating school year upon receiving the Superintendent's written approval to continue enrollment.
- Tuition Payment Required:
  - Children of full-time, non-resident School Board employees may be enrolled in the Colonial Heights School Division for a tuition charge of \$2,000.00 per child per year, during the term of their employment in the school division. The School Board reserves the right to deny continued admission to non-resident students who fail to comply with the Student Code of Conduct. Initial enrollment may be granted on a space available basis, however, once a student is enrolled in the system, the student will not be denied admission based upon space. Enrollment may be granted only to students that meet admission requirements and who do not require educational services that exceed those that can be provided by the staff of the Colonial Heights School Division in its existing facilities through the Division's existing programs and services.

Eligibility for consideration does not signify acceptance of the admission of a student. Each request for admission will be considered on an individual basis. The residency of persons in the above categories who reside in temporary shelter, or on property located in multiple jurisdictions, are determined in the manner set forth in Policy JEC: School Admission.

Foreign students in an F-1 immigration status or who obtain F-1 student visas are not admitted in the division's elementary schools or publicly funded adult education programs. Such students may be admitted, for a period up to twelve months, in the division's secondary schools only if they pre-pay the full, unsubsidized per capita cost of the education.

## **Procedure for Admission**

The parent/guardian of the student will need to complete registration forms for their child. They can either use the preferred method of online pre-registration forms or manually complete the Registration Packet of forms. The manually completed Registration Packet of forms will need to be returned to the Central Registration Office at:

CHPS Technical Center: Central Registration Office, 3451 Conduit Road, Colonial Heights, VA 23834; (804)526-0321 Office; (804)524-2554 Fax

A parent or legal guardian will need to provide the following information in order to enroll his child into the Colonial Heights City Public School system.

**Enrollment Information:** A CHPS Student Pre-Registration (online electronic form) or a completed Colonial Heights City Public School (manual entry) School Enrollment Information form must be submitted. (This form is provided for each online pre-registration, and in the Registration Packet of forms.)

**School Records:** Proof of promotion to next grade (example: report card, letter from previous school or school records) must be submitted.

**Original Birth Certificate:** An original Birth Certificate or certified copy thereof **must** be presented. A non-certified copy cannot be accepted. If the parent cannot supply either of these, he/she must complete a Birth Certificate Affidavit form (JEC-R-E1) and have it notarized. The parent/guardian will need to follow up with the original or a certified copy of the Birth Certificate within 60 days. **A child cannot start school until the Birth Certificate has been presented or the school has received Birth Certificate Affidavit.** If the child is enrolling from another school in Colonial Heights and a copy of the Birth Certificate is already on file, the birth certificate will not be required.

**Student Identification Number:** Students are assigned a unique student identification number that will stay with them throughout their enrollment in Colonial Heights Public Schools.

**Immunization Information:** A complete immunization record is required based on School and Day Care Minimum Requirements per the VA Department of Education website:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/students\\_parents/student\\_enrollment.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/students_parents/student_enrollment.shtml),

and the VA Department of Health website:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements/>

If this requirement has not been fulfilled, the Colonial Heights Health Department (804-520-9380) can assist you.

**Proof of Residency:** The parent/legal guardian must present a valid deed or lease; a driver's license or photo ID; a completed and notarized Proof of Residency form (JEC-R-E3A); and sign the Superintendent's False Registration Verification Letter (JEC-R-E3B) for each child. Additional documentation may be required upon request.

If the parent/legal guardian and the student are living in a home owned or leased by another person or family, the Dual Residency forms (JEC-R-E4A & JEC-R-E4B) must be completed and notarized for each child.

The **parent/guardian** must complete and have notarized the *Parent/Legal Guardian Dual Family Residency* form (JEC-R-E4A); present their driver's license or photo ID, and two other \*acceptable forms of documentation.

The **owner or lessee** must complete and have notarized the *Owner or Lease Holder Dual Family Residency* form (JEC-R-E4B); present their driver's license or photo ID, a copy of their deed or lease (including a current utility bill if the lease is over a year old), and one other \*acceptable form of documentation.

\*acceptable forms of documentation include: a vehicle registration, voter registration, tax statement, bank statement, official correspondence with an address from a government agency, water bill, gas bill, or an electric bill with the parent/guardian's name and current address.

Unless otherwise waived by the Superintendent, for children who are not living with their natural parent, a court order awarding custody or legal guardianship must be presented.

**Recent Physical (Elementary Students ONLY):** All elementary students must have a physical exam dated within twelve (12) months of starting school for the first time.

**An elementary student cannot start school until the school has received physical information.**

**Student Enrollment by a Non-Resident Full-Time Employee:**

- Student Enrollment applications from non-resident full-time employees who are under contract for the next school year, will be accepted from April 1- August 1 of the current school year at the central registration office in the Technical Center.

**Tuition:**

- Any student accepted on a tuition basis will not be enrolled in the Colonial Heights schools before the receipt and approval of school records from the student's current/previous school. The Board reserves the right to revoke the attendance privilege of non-resident students when it deems the revocation to be in the best interest of the school system. Non-resident students enrolled in dual enrollment classes will not be reimbursed partial tuition. Students seeking to attend the Appomattox Regional Governor's School must apply through the locality where they reside.
- The total tuition fee for each school year is \$2,000.00 per student, per year with payment due in full on or before the first day of the first semester, unless enrolled in the payroll deduction program on or before the first day of the first semester. The Superintendent, as the Board's representative, has the sole discretion to deny or discontinue enrollment upon payment default. All checks should be made payable to Colonial Heights Public Schools and delivered to the Central Registration Secretary located at 3451 Conduit Road, Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834.



**Elementary School Student Boundary Placement:**

A student is required to attend the school in his attendance area as established by the School Board unless the Superintendent authorizes an individual student to attend a different school.

The Superintendent may consult with legal counsel regarding any out-of-zone attendance request. The Superintendent may, in his sole discretion, discuss the request and his decision with the School Board in closed meeting. Any notification of admission states the period for which the student has been approved to attend an out-of-zone elementary school. A principal may consult with the Superintendent and request that a student's authorization to attend an out-of-zone school be terminated when serious or recurrent student discipline/student attendance issues occur, and the Superintendent may terminate his out-of-zone authorization.

Full-Time elementary school staff, who reside in Colonial Heights, may write a letter to his/her principal and the Superintendent requesting that his/her elementary-aged child or children attend the elementary school where the staff member is employed as an out-of-zone placement. The Superintendent shall approve such a request unless he determines there is good cause for denying it.

**Other:**

The school division may admit and charge tuition to a student who:

- A. Is a resident of the school division but not of school age;
- B. Is of school age and not a resident of Virginia but is temporarily living with a non-parent who resides within the school division;
- C. Is of school age and resides beyond the boundaries of Virginia but near thereto in a state or the District of Columbia which grants equal attendance privileges to residents of the Commonwealth;
- D. Is of school age and resides on a military or naval reservation located wholly or partly within the geographical boundaries of the school division, is not a domiciled resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and is a student for whom federal funds provided under Public Law 874 of 1950, commonly known as Impact Aid, fund less than 50 percent of the total per capita cost of education in Colonial Heights Public Schools exclusive of capital outlay and debt service; such students are eligible for interscholastic programs immediately upon enrollment, provided that such persons (i) satisfy all other requirements for eligibility, and (ii) are dependents of a military service member required by the military to live on the military installation as evidenced by a statement on command letterhead signed by, or by direction of, the service member's commanding officer;
- E. Is of school age and attending a school in the division pursuant to a foreign student exchange program approved by the School Board;
- F. Is a resident of the Commonwealth but not of the school division, except as provided in Policy JEC-School Admission;

- G. Is of school age and was enrolled in a public school within the division as a domiciled resident of the Commonwealth, and has been required as a result of military or federal orders issued to their parents to relocate and reside on federal property in another state or the District of Columbia, where such state or the District of Columbia is contiguous to the school division; or
- H. Is of school age and residing within the school division, and is enrolled in summer programs other than remediation required under Va. Code § 22.1-253:13.1, or is enrolled in local initiatives or programs not required by the Standards of Quality or the Standards of Accreditation.
- I. Is a student of school age and is the child of a full-time non-resident Colonial Heights Public School employee upon acceptance of a completed application for enrollment.

**Transportation:**

Transportation is not furnished to nonresident students except in those cases where:

- agreements between divisions specify transportation services;
- federal or state legislation mandates the provision of transportation services; or
- transportation services can be provided at no cost to the division.

**NOTE: Registration documentation and applications for enrollment should be returned to:**

Colonial Heights Public Schools  
Central Registration Office  
3451 Conduit Road  
Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834

Adopted: August 27, 2013

Amended: November 18, 2014; May 26, 2015; July 28, 2015; September 25, 2018; April 23, 2019; August 25, 2020.

Legal Refs: 8 CFR 214.2.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-3, 22.1-5 and 22.1-260.  
1999 Va. Op. Atty. Gen. 105

Cross Refs.:	JC	School Attendance Areas
	JEC	School Admission
	JEC-R	Student Enrollment Procedures for Colonial Heights Public Schools
	JEC-R-E1	Birth Certificate Affidavit Form
	JEC-R-E2	Social Security Waiver Form
	JEC-R-E3A	Proof of Residency Form
	JEC-R-E3B	Superintendent's False Registration Verification Letter
	JEC-R-E4A	Parent/Legal Guardian Dual Family Residency Form
	JEC-R-E4B	Owner/Lease Holder Dual Family Residency Form
	JEC-R2	Colonial Heights Residency Regulation
	JECA	Admission of Homeless Children

## STUDENT ABSENCES/EXCUSES/DISMISSALS

### I. Student Attendance Policy

Student attendance is a cooperative effort and the School Board involves parents and students in accepting the responsibility for good attendance.

Each parent/guardian or person having control or charge of a child within the compulsory attendance age shall be responsible for such child's regular and punctual attendance at school as required under provisions of the law.

Parents of students who are absent must inform the school of the reason for the absence no later than upon the student's return to school. Absences are excused for the following reasons:

- funeral,
- illness (including mental health and substance abuse illnesses),
- injury,
- legal obligations,
- medical procedures,
- suspensions,
- expulsions,
- religious observances,
- and military obligation.

The superintendent, by regulation, establishes procedures for appropriate interventions when a student engages in a pattern of absences for less than a full day, the explanation of which, if it were a full-day absence, would not be an excused absence.

The superintendent's regulations will include procedures for excusing students who are absent by reason of observance of a religious holiday. Such regulations ensure that a student is not deprived of any award or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for any award, or of the right to take an alternate test or examination, which the student missed by reason of such absence, if the absence is verified in an acceptable manner.

Students shall attend school for a full day unless excused by the principal or principal's designee.

High school students may spend a maximum of 5 school days each academic year participating in High School to Work Partnerships established pursuant to guidelines developed by the Board of Education. Students who miss a partial or full day of school while participating in Partnership programs are not counted as absent for the purposes of calculating average daily membership. The superintendent's regulations include procedures by which students may make up work missed while participating in a High School to Work Partnership.

An attendance officer, or a division superintendent or the superintendent's designee when acting as an attendance officer pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-258, may complete, sign, and file with the intake officer of the juvenile and domestic relations district court, on forms approved by the Supreme Court of Virginia, a petition for a violation of a school attendance order entered by the juvenile and domestic relations district court pursuant to Va. Code § 16.1-278.5 in response to the filing of a petition alleging the pupil is a child in need of supervision as defined in Va. Code § 16.1-228.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit in any way the authority of any attendance officer or the division superintendent to seek immediate compliance with the compulsory school attendance law.

## II. Compulsory Attendance Procedures

Whenever a student fails to report to school on a regularly scheduled school day and no information has been received by school personnel that the student's parent is aware of and supports the absence, the school principal, principal's designee, attendance officer or other school personnel or volunteer notifies the parent by phone, email or other electronic means to obtain an explanation. School staff records the student's absence for each day as "excused" or "unexcused". Early intervention with the student and parent or parents takes place for repeated unexcused absences.

### A. Upon Fifth Absence without Parental Awareness and Support

If (1) a pupil fails to report to school for a total of five scheduled school days for the school year, and (2) there is no indication that the pupil's parent is aware of and supports the absence; and (3) reasonable efforts to notify the parent of the absences have failed, then the Principal or principal's designee shall make a reasonable effort to ensure that direct contact is made with the parent in person, through telephone conversation, or through the use of other communication devices to obtain an explanation for the pupil's absence and to explain to the parent the consequences of continued nonattendance. The school principal or principal's designee, the pupil, and the pupil's parent shall jointly develop a plan to resolve the pupil's nonattendance. Such plan shall include documentation of the reasons for the pupil's nonattendance.

### B. Upon Additional Absences Without Parental Awareness and Support

If the pupil is absent for more than one additional day after direct contact with the pupil's parent and school personnel have received no indication that the pupil's parent is aware of and supports the pupil's absence, the school principal or principal's designee shall schedule a conference with the pupil, the pupil's parent and school personnel. Such conference may include the attendance officer and other community service providers to resolve issues related to the pupil's nonattendance. The conference shall be held no later than 10 school days after the tenth absence of the pupil, regardless of whether his parent approves of the conference. The conference team shall monitor the pupil's attendance and may meet again as necessary to address concerns and plan additional interventions if attendance does not improve. In circumstances in which the parent is intentionally noncompliant with compulsory attendance requirements or the pupil is resisting parental efforts to comply with compulsory attendance requirements, the principal or

principal's designee shall make a referral to the attendance officer. The attendance officer shall schedule a conference with the pupil and pupil's parent within 10 school days and may (i) file a complaint with the juvenile and domestic relations district court alleging the pupil is a child in need of supervision as defined in Va. Code § 16.1-228 or (ii) institute proceedings against the parent pursuant to Va. Code § 18.2-371 or § 22.1-262. In filing a complaint against the student, the attendance officer shall provide written documentation of the efforts to comply with the provisions of this policy. In the event that both parents have been awarded joint physical custody pursuant to Va. Code § 20-124.2 and the school has received notice of such order, both parents shall be notified at the last known addresses of the parents

### III. Report for Suspension of Driver's License

In addition to any other actions taken pursuant to this policy, if a student who is under 18 years of age has 10 or more unexcused absences from school on consecutive school days, the principal may notify the juvenile and domestic relations court, which may take action to suspend the student's driver's license.

### IV. Attendance Reporting

Student attendance is monitored and reported as required by state law and regulations. At the end of each school year, each public school principal reports to the Superintendent the number of pupils by grade level for whom a conference was scheduled pursuant to Part II (B) above. The Superintendent compiles this information and provides it annually to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

### V. Dismissal Precautions

Principals do not release a student during the school day to any person not authorized by the student's parent/guardian to assume responsibility for the pupil. Students are released only on request and authorization of parent or guardian. The superintendent establishes procedures for release of pupils who are not residing with or under the supervision of a parent/guardian. The burden of proof on the authority of the person to receive the student is on the requesting party. A formal check-out system is maintained in each school.

Adopted: August 22, 1995

Amended: May 26, 1998; June 29, 1999; August 28, 2001; July 27, 2010; September 24, 2013; July 25, 2017; August 28, 2018; August 25, 2020.

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-227.1, 22.1-254, 22.1-258, 22.1-260, 22.1-279.3, 46.2-323, 46.2-334.01, and 54.1-3900.

8 VAC 20-730-10

8 VAC 20-730-20

Cross Ref. : IGAJ Driver Education  
JFC Student Conduct

## EXCLUSIONS AND EXEMPTIONS FROM SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The School Board shall excuse from attendance at school:

1. Any student who, together with the student's parents, by reason of bona fide religious training or belief is conscientiously opposed to attendance at school.
2. On the recommendation of the juvenile and domestic relations court of the city or county in which the student resides, and for such period of time as the court determines appropriate, any student who, together with the student's parents, is opposed to attendance at a school by reason of concern for the student's health as verified by competent medical evidence, or by reason of such pupil's reasonable apprehension for personal safety when such concern or apprehension in that pupil's specific case is determined by the court, upon consideration of the recommendation of the principal and division superintendent, to be justified.

The School Board may excuse from attendance at school:

1. On recommendation of the principal and the division superintendent and with the written consent of the parent or guardian, any student who the school board determines, in accordance with regulations of the Board of Education, cannot benefit from education at school; or
2. On recommendation of the juvenile and domestic relations district court of the city or county in which the student resides, any student who, in the judgment of the court, cannot benefit from education at school.

Any request for exemption from attendance shall be presented annually in writing to the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

The compulsory education requirements do not apply to

- Children suffering from contagious or infectious diseases;
- Children whose immunizations against communicable diseases have not been completed;
- Children under 10 years of age who live more than two miles from a public school unless public transportation is provided within one mile of the place where such children live; and
- Children between the ages of 10 and 17, inclusive, who live more than 2.5 miles from a public school unless public transportation is provided within 1.5 miles of the place where such children live.

In addition, any child who will not have reached the child's sixth birthday on or before September 30 of each school year whose parent or guardian notifies the school board that the parent does not wish the child to attend school until the following year because the child, in the opinion of the parent or guardian, is not mentally, physically, or emotionally prepared to attend school, may delay the child's attendance for one year.

Adopted: August 22, 1995  
Amended: May 26, 1998  
Amended: June 29, 1999  
Amended: August 22, 2000  
Amended: August 28, 2001  
Amended: April 22, 2003  
Amended: July 25, 2006  
Amended: August 25, 2020

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-254.

Cross Refs.:	JEA	Compulsory Attendance
	JHCB	Immunization of Students
	JHCC	Communicable Diseases
	LBD	Home Instruction

## TEACHER REMOVAL OF STUDENTS FROM CLASS

Teachers have the initial authority to remove students from class for disruptive behavior. "Disruptive behavior" means a violation of School Board policies or regulations issued by the superintendent governing student conduct that interrupts or obstructs the learning environment.

### Criteria for Removal

In order for a teacher to remove a student from class for disruptive behavior

- removal of the student from the class must be necessary to restore a learning environment free from interruptions and obstructions caused by the student's behavior
- interventions by the teacher and/or administrators have been attempted and failed to end the student's disruptive behavior, and
- notice of the student's disruptive behavior and the opportunity to meet with the teacher and/or school administrators must have been provided to the student's parents as described below.

When all of the above criteria have been satisfied, a teacher may remove a student from class.

### Requirements for Incident Reports

Teachers should write incident reports regarding all incidents of disruptive behavior. The reports will be filed with the school administration and provided to the student's parents within 24 hours of the incident. The parents must be given the opportunity to meet with the teacher and/or school administrator to discuss the student's behavior and the possible consequences if the behavior continues. The teacher will document, in writing, his or her attempts to request and encourage the parents to meet with him or her or school administrators.

A student may not be removed from class for disruptive behavior unless two written incident reports have been filed with school administrators and provided to the student's parents concerning two prior incidents of disruptive behavior. Upon removal, the teacher shall file a "Student Removal Form" (JFCA-E) with school administrators. The teacher will include any other documentation supporting the removal including, but not limited to, the previous two incident reports.

### Procedures for Written Notification of Student and Parents

The teacher shall provide copies of any incident report and Student Removal Form to the student and his or her parents and notify them of the opportunity to meet with the teacher and/or school administrators to discuss the behavior and the possible consequences if the behavior continues. Such notice shall be provided within twenty-four hours of each incident. The teacher shall document, in writing, his or her attempts to request



and encourage the parents to meet with school administrators and/or the teacher. Such notice and documentation shall be required for each incident report and student removal.

### Guidelines for Alternative Assignment and Instruction of Removed Students

The principal shall determine the appropriate placement of any student removed from class by a teacher. The principal may

- assign the student to an alternative program
- assign the student to another class
- send the student to the principal's office or study hall. If the principal chooses this option, the teacher shall provide and evaluate appropriate make-up work for the student
- suspend the student or recommend the student for expulsion. If the principal chooses this option, alternative instruction and assignment, if any, shall be provided according to School Board policy and in the case of students with disabilities, in accordance with federal law
- return the student to class in accordance with the procedures below

### Procedure for the Student's Return to Class

The principal shall determine, after consultation with the teacher, the duration of the student's removal from class. The principal shall notify the teacher of the decision to return the student to class. If the teacher disagrees with the principal's decision to return a student to the class

- the teacher and principal shall discuss the teacher's objection to returning the student to class and the principal's reason for returning the student.
- the teacher, after meeting with the principal, may appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent or designee within one school day. The incident reports and removal form must accompany the appeal. After discussion with the principal and teacher or receiving their written comments, the decision of the superintendent or designee shall be final. The decision shall be made within forty-eight hours of the teacher's appeal. During the appeal process, the student shall not be returned to class and the principal will determine an appropriate placement for the student.

Once the decision has been made to return the student to class, the teacher and principal shall develop a plan to address future disruptive behavior.

### Other Provisions

The principal shall ensure that students removed from class under this policy continue to receive an education in accordance with School Board policies.

Application of this policy to students with disabilities shall be consistent with federal and state law and regulations as well as School Board policy regarding students with disabilities.

Teacher deficiencies in classroom management shall be addressed in teacher evaluations pursuant to Policy GCN Evaluation of Professional Staff.

This policy does not limit or restrict the ability of School Board employees to apply other policies, regulations or laws for maintaining order in the classroom.

Adopted: Adopted: May 26, 1998

Amended: August 28, 2001

Amended: April 23, 2013

Amended: April 28, 2020

Amended: August 25, 2020

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Legal Ref: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-276.01, 22.1-276.2

Cross Refs: GCN Evaluation of Professional Staff  
JFC Student Conduct  
JGDA Disciplining Students with Disabilities  
JGDB Discipline of Students with Disabilities for Infliction of Serious  
Bodily Injury  
JGD/JGE Student Suspension/Expulsion

## WEAPONS IN SCHOOL

## I. Generally

Carrying, bringing, using or possessing any firearm, dangerous device, or dangerous or deadly weapon in any school building, on school grounds, in any school vehicle or at any school-sponsored activity without the authorization of the school principal or the superintendent or superintendent's designee is prohibited, and grounds for disciplinary action. The superintendent or superintendent's designee is permitted to give authority to possess a firearm on school property only to persons expressly authorized by statute to possess a firearm on school property.

Such weapons include, but are not limited to:

- any pistol, shotgun, stun weapon, revolver, or other firearm listed in Va. Code §22.1-277.07, of the Code of Virginia, designed or intended to propel a projectile of any kind, including a rifle,
- unloaded firearms in closed containers,
- any air rifle or BB gun,
- toy guns and look-alike guns,
- any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, machete, knife or razor,
- slingshots,
- spring sticks,
- brass or metal knuckles, blackjacks,
- any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain,
- any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades, and which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart,
- explosives, and
- destructive devices as defined in Va. Code §22.1-277.07, of the Code of Virginia, and
- other dangerous articles

## I. Expulsion for Possession of Firearms

A student who has possessed a firearm on school property or at a school-sponsored activity as prohibited by Va. Code § 18.2-308.1 or who has possessed a firearm or destructive device as defined in Va. Code § 22.1-277.07, or a firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or a pneumatic gun as defined in Va. Code § 15.2-915.4 on school property or at a school-sponsored activity may be expelled for at least one year in accordance with Policy JGD/JGE Student Suspension/Expulsion. The School Board may determine, based on the facts of a particular situation, that special circumstances exist and no disciplinary action or another disciplinary action or another term of expulsion is appropriate. The School Board may promulgate guidelines for determining what constitutes special circumstances. The School Board authorizes the superintendent or the superintendent's designee to conduct a preliminary review of such cases to determine whether a disciplinary action other than expulsion is appropriate. If it is determined by the superintendent or

superintendent's designee that a disciplinary action other than expulsion is appropriate, such disciplinary action is taken in accordance with Article 3 of Chapter 14 of Title 22.1 of the Code of Virginia.

## II. Students with Disabilities

- A. Students with disabilities are subject to the provisions of Section I of this policy and may be disciplined to the same extent as a nondisabled student provided the manifestation review committee determines that the violation was not a manifestation of the student's disability. The provisions of Policy JGDA Disciplining Students with Disabilities will be followed in addition to the regular disciplinary procedures.
- B. Additional authority to remove a student with a disability from school for a weapons violation.
1. In addition to the authority granted in subsection A above, a student with a disability may also be removed without parent consent and assigned to an interim alternative education program by school personnel for not more than forty-five (45) school days when the student carries or possesses a weapon to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a state or local educational agency. This option is available regardless of whether a manifestation exists. The removal should not be in excess of any removal imposed on a student without a disability for the same offense.
  2. For purposes of this forty-five (45) school day removal, the weapon must meet the following definition:
 

“a weapon, device, instrument, material or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2 ½ inches in length.”

Adopted: September 24, 1996

Amended: May 27, 1997; August 26, 1997; June 29, 1999; August 22, 2000; August 28, 2001; April 22, 2003; May 27, 2003; March 27, 2006; July 24, 2007; August 26, 2008; May 2011; July 21, 2014; July 28, 2015; April 28, 2020; August 25, 2020.

Legal Refs.: 18 U.S.C. § 930.  
20 U.S.C. § 1415.

Code of Virginia, §§15.2-915.4, 18.2-308, 18.2-308.1, 18.2-308.7, 22.1-277.07, 22.1-277.07:1, 22.1-280.2:4.

8 VAC 20-81-10.

Cross Refs.: GBEB            Staff Weapons in School  
JGD/JGE        Student/Suspension/Expulsion  
JFC              Student Conduct

JGDA  
JGDB

Disciplining Students with Disabilities  
Discipline of Students with Disabilities for Infliction of Serious  
Bodily Injury

## PROHIBITION AGAINST HARASSMENT AND RETALIATION

### **I. Policy Statement**

The Colonial Heights School Board is committed to maintaining an educational environment and workplace that is free from harassment. In accordance with law, the Board prohibits harassment against students, employees, or others on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, status as a veteran, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law or based on a belief that such characteristic exists, hereinafter referred to as protected group status, at school or any school sponsored activity.

It is a violation of this policy for any student or school personnel to harass a student or school personnel based on protected group status at school or any school sponsored activity. Further, it is a violation of this policy for any school personnel to tolerate harassment based on a student's or employee's protected group status at school or any school sponsored activity, by students, school personnel or third parties participating in, observing or otherwise engaged in school sponsored activities.

For the purpose of this policy, school personnel includes school board members, school employees, agents, volunteers, contractors or other persons subject to the supervision and control of the School Division.

The school division

- promptly investigates all complaints, written or verbal, of harassment based on protected group status at school or any school sponsored activity;
- promptly takes appropriate action to stop any harassment;
- takes appropriate action against any student or school personnel who violates this policy; and
- takes any other action reasonably calculated to end and prevent further harassment of school personnel or students.

### **II. Definitions**

#### **A. Harassment Based on Sex.**

Harassment based on sex consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication, which may include use of cell phones or the internet, of a sexual nature when:

- (i) submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining or retaining employment or education; or
- (ii) submission to or rejection of the conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's employment or education; or
- (iii) that conduct or communication substantially or unreasonably interferes with an individual's employment or education, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive employment or educational environment (i.e. the conduct is sufficiently serious to limit a student's or employee's ability to participate in or benefit from the educational program or work environment).

Examples of conduct which may constitute harassment based on sex if it meets the immediately preceding definition include:

- unwelcome sexual physical contact
- unwelcome ongoing or repeated sexual flirtation or propositions, or remarks
- sexual slurs, leering, epithets, threats, verbal abuse, derogatory comments or sexually degrading descriptions
- graphic comments about an individual's body
- sexual jokes, notes, stories, drawings, gestures or pictures
- spreading sexual rumors
- touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way
- displaying sexual objects, pictures, cartoons or posters
- impeding or blocking movement in a sexually intimidating manner
- sexual violence
- display of written materials, pictures, or electronic images
- unwelcome acts of verbal, nonverbal, written, graphic, or physical conduct based on sex or sex stereotyping

#### B. Harassment Based on Race, National Origin, Disability or Religion

Harassment based on race, national origin, disability or religion consists of physical or verbal conduct, which may include use of cell phones or the internet, relating to an individual's race, national origin, disability or religion when the conduct:

- (i) creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or educational environment; or
- (ii) substantially or unreasonably interferes with an individual's work or education; or
- (iii) otherwise is sufficiently serious to limit an individual's employment opportunities or to limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the education program.

Examples of conduct which may constitute harassment based on race, national origin, disability or religions if it meets the immediately preceding definition include:

- graffiti containing racially offensive language.
- name calling, jokes or rumors.
- physical acts of aggression against a person or his property because of that person's race, national origin, disability or religion.

- hostile acts which are based on another's race, national origin, religion or disability.
- written or graphic material which is posted or circulated and which intimidates or threatens individuals based on their race, national origin, disability or religion.

### C. Additional Prohibited Behavior

Behavior that is not unlawful may nevertheless be unacceptable for the educational environment or the workplace. Demeaning or otherwise harmful actions are prohibited, particularly if directed at personal characteristics, including socioeconomic level, regardless of whether the personal characteristic is protected by law.

## III. Complaint Procedure

### A. Formal Procedure

#### 1. File

Any student or school personnel who believes he or she has been the victim of harassment prohibited by law or by this policy by a student, school personnel or a third party should report the alleged harassment to one of the compliance officers designated in this policy or to any school personnel. The alleged harassment should be reported as soon as possible, and the report generally should be made within fifteen (15) school days of the occurrence. Further, any student who has knowledge of conduct which may constitute prohibited harassment should report such conduct to one of the compliance officers designated in this policy or to any school personnel. Any school personnel who have noticed that a student or other school personnel may have been a victim of prohibited harassment shall immediately report the alleged harassment to one of the compliance officers designated in this policy.

The reporting party should use the form, Report of Harassment, GBA-F/JFHA-F, to make complaints of harassment. However, oral reports and other written reports are also accepted. The complaint should be filed with either the building principal or one of the compliance officers designated in this policy. The principal shall immediately forward any report of alleged prohibited harassment to the compliance officer. Any complaint that involves the compliance officer or principal shall be reported to the superintendent.

The complaint, and identity of the complainant and alleged harasser, will be disclosed only to the extent necessary to fully investigate the complaint and only when such disclosure is required or permitted by law. Additionally, a complainant who wishes to remain anonymous shall be advised that such confidentiality may limit the School Division's ability to fully respond to the complaint.

#### 2. Investigation

Upon receipt of a report of alleged prohibited harassment, the compliance officer shall immediately authorize or undertake an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by school personnel or a third party designated by the school division. The investigation shall be completed as soon as practicable, which generally



should be not later than 14 school days after receipt of the report by the compliance officer. Upon receiving the complaint, the compliance officer shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint by giving written notice that the complaint has been received to both the person complaining of harassment and the person accused of harassment. Also upon receiving the complaint, the compliance officer shall determine whether interim measures should be taken pending the outcome of the investigation. Such interim measures may include, but are not limited to, separating the alleged harasser and the complainant and, in cases involving potential criminal conduct, determining whether law enforcement officials should be notified. If the compliance officer determines that more than 14 school days will be required to investigate the complaint, the complainant and the accused shall be notified of the reason for the extended investigation and of the date by which the investigation will be concluded. If the alleged harassment may also constitute child abuse, then it must be reported to the Department of Social Service in accordance with Policy JHG, Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting.

The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the alleged harasser, and any others who may have knowledge of the alleged harassment or the circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation will consider witnesses and evidence from both the alleged harasser and the person allegedly harassed. The investigation may also consist of the inspection of any other documents or information deemed relevant by the investigator. The school division shall take necessary steps to protect the complainant and others pending the completion of the investigation.

In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, the division shall consider, at a minimum: (1) the surrounding circumstances; (2) the nature of the behavior; (3) past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior; (4) the relationship between the parties; (5) how often the conduct occurred; (6) the identity of the alleged perpetrator in relation to the alleged victim (i.e. whether the alleged perpetrator was in a position of power over the alleged victim); (7) the location of the alleged harassment; (8) the ages of the parties and (9) the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a case by case determination based on all of the facts and circumstances revealed after a complete and thorough investigation.

The compliance officer shall issue a written report to the superintendent upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the superintendent, then the report shall be sent to the School Board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations are substantiated, whether this policy was violated and recommendations for corrective action, if any.

All employees shall cooperate with any investigation of alleged harassment conducted under this policy or by an appropriate state or federal agency.

### 3. Action by Superintendent

Within 5 school days of receiving the compliance officer's report, the Superintendent or designee shall issue a decision regarding whether this policy was

violated. This decision must be provided in writing to the complainant and the alleged perpetrator. If the Superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that it is more likely than not that prohibited harassment occurred, the Colonial Heights School Division shall take prompt, appropriate action to address and remedy the violation as well as prevent any recurrence. Such action may include discipline up to and including expulsion or discharge. Whether or not the Superintendent or designee determines that prohibited harassment occurred, the Superintendent or designee may determine that school-wide or division-wide training be conducted or that the complainant receives counseling.

#### 4. Appeal

If the Superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that no prohibited harassment occurred, the employee or student who was allegedly subjected to harassment may appeal this finding to the School Board within 5 school days of receiving the decision. Notice of appeal must be filed with the superintendent who shall forward the record to the School Board. The School Board shall make a decision within 30 calendar days of receiving the record. The School Board may ask for oral or written argument from the aggrieved party, the superintendent and any other individual the School Board deems relevant. Written notice of the School board's decision will be given to both the alleged harasser and the person allegedly harassed.

If the Superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that prohibited harassment occurred and discipline is imposed, the disciplined person may appeal the disciplinary sanction in the same manner as any other such sanction would be appealed.

Employees may choose to pursue their complaints under this policy through the relevant employee grievance procedure instead of the complaint procedure in this policy.

#### 5. Compliance Officer and Alternate Compliance Officer

The **Colonial Heights** School Board has designated **the Director of Human Resources, 512 Boulevard, Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834, (804)524-3400** as the Compliance Officer responsible for identifying, investigating, preventing and remedying prohibited harassment. Complaints of harassment may also be made to the Alternate Compliance Officer, **the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, 512 Boulevard, Colonial Heights, VA 23834, (804)524-3400 ext. 18.**

The Compliance Officer

- receives reports or complaints of harassment;
- conducts or oversees the investigation of any alleged harassment;
- assesses the training needs of the school division in connection with this policy;
- arranges necessary training to achieve compliance with this policy; and
- ensures that any harassment investigation is conducted by an impartial investigator who is trained in the requirements of equal employment/education opportunity, and has the authority to protect the alleged victim and others during the investigation.

## B. Informal Procedure

If the complainant and the person accused of harassment agree, the student's principal or principal's designee may arrange for them to resolve the complaint informally with the help of a counselor, teacher, or administrator.

If the complainant and the person accused of harassment agree to resolve the complaint informally, they shall each be informed that they have the right to abandon the informal procedure at any time in favor of the initiation of the Formal Procedures set forth herein. The principal or principal's designee shall notify the complainant and the person accused of harassment in writing when the complaint has been resolved. The written notice shall state whether prohibited harassment occurred.

## IV. Retaliation

Retaliation against students or school personnel who report harassment or participate in any related proceedings is prohibited. The School Division shall take appropriate action against students or school personnel who retaliate against any student or school personnel who reports alleged harassment or participates in related proceedings. The Compliance Officer will inform persons who make complaints, who are the subject of complaints, and who participate in investigations, of how to report any subsequent problems.

## V. Right to Alternative Complaint Procedure

Nothing in this policy shall deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse to address concerns relating to prohibited harassment including initiating civil action, filing a complaint with outside agencies or seeking redress under state or federal law.

## VI. Prevention and Notice of Policy

Training to prevent harassment prohibited by law or by this policy is included in employee and student orientations as well as employee in-service training.

This policy is (1) displayed in prominent areas of each division building in a location accessible to students, parents and school personnel, (2) included in the student and employee handbooks; and (3) sent to parents of all students within 30 calendar days of the start of school. Further, all students, and their parents/guardians, and employees are notified annually of the names and contact information of the compliance officers.

## VII. False Charges

Students or school personnel who knowingly make false charges of harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action as well as any civil or criminal legal proceedings.

Adopted: May 23, 2000

Amended: August 22, 2000; August 26, 2003; August 4, 2011; January 22, 2012; July 28, 2015; August 25, 2020.

Legal Refs: 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688.  
29 U.S.C. § 794.  
42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d-2000d-7.  
42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e-2000e-17.  
42 U.S.C § 2000ff-1.

34 C.F.R. 106.9

Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, §§ 2.2-3900, 2.2-3901, 2.2-3902, 22.1-295.2.

Cross Refs:	AC	Non-discrimination
	AD	Educational Philosophy
	GAB/IIBEA	Acceptable Computer System Use
	GB	Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination
	GBA-F/JFHA-F	Report of Harassment
	GBM	Professional Staff Grievances
	GBMA	Support Staff Grievances
	JB	Equal Educational Opportunities/Nondiscrimination
	JFC	Student Conduct
	GCPD	Professional Staff Members: Contract Status and Discipline
	GAE	Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
	KKA	Service Animals in Public Schools

## STUDENT SUSPENSION/EXPULSION

### I. DEFINITIONS

As used in this Policy,

“Alternative education program” includes night school, adult education, or another education program designed to offer instruction to students for whom the regular program of instruction may be inappropriate.

“Destructive device” means (1) any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or other similar device; (2) any weapon, except a shotgun or a shotgun shell generally recognized as particularly suitable for sporting purposes, by whatever name known that will, or may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and that has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter that is homemade or was not made by a duly licensed weapon manufacturer, any fully automatic firearm, any sawed-off shotgun or sawed-off rifle as defined in Va. Code § 18.2-299 or any firearm prohibited from civilian ownership by federal law; and (3) any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described herein and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. “Destructive device” does not include any device that is not designed or redesigned for use as a weapon, or any device originally designed for use as a weapon and that is redesigned for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line-throwing, safety, or other similar device, nor shall it include any antique firearm as defined in subsection G of Va. Code § 18.2-308.2:2.

“Disruptive behavior” means a violation of School Board policies or the Standards of Student Conduct issued by the superintendent pursuant to Policy JFC Student Conduct that interrupts or obstructs the learning environment.

“Exclusion” means a Virginia School Board’s denial of school admission to a student who has been expelled or has been placed on a long-term suspension of more than thirty calendar days by another School Board or a private school, either in Virginia or another state, or for whom admission has been withdrawn by a private school in Virginia or another state.

“Expulsion” means any disciplinary action imposed by a School Board or a committee thereof, as provided in School Board policy, whereby a student is not permitted to attend school within the school division and is ineligible for readmission for 365 calendar days after the date of the expulsion.

“Firearm” means (1) any weapon, including a starter gun, that will, or is designed or may readily be converted to, expel single or multiple projectiles by the action of an explosion of a combustible material; (2) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; or (3) any unloaded firearm in a closed container. “Firearm” does not include any pneumatic gun as defined in this Policy.

“Long-term suspension” means any disciplinary action whereby a student is not permitted to attend school for 11 to 45 school days.

“One year” means 365 calendar days as required in federal regulations.

“Pneumatic gun” means any implement, designed as a gun, that will expel a BB or a pellet by action of pneumatic pressure. "Pneumatic gun" includes a paintball gun that expels by action of pneumatic pressure plastic balls filled with paint for the purpose of marking the point of impact.

“School property” means any real property owned or leased by the School Board or any vehicle owned or leased by the School Board or operated by or on behalf of the School Board.

“Short-term suspension” means any disciplinary action whereby a student is not permitted to attend school for a period not to exceed ten school days.

In Sections III, IV, VI, and VIII of this Policy, “superintendent’s designee” means a 1) trained hearing officer or 2) professional employee in the administrative offices of the school division who reports directly to the superintendent and who is not a school-based instructional or administrative employee.

## II. SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS OF STUDENTS GENERALLY

Pupils may be suspended or expelled from attendance at school for sufficient cause; however, in no case may sufficient cause for suspension include only instances of truancy.

Except as provided in subsection C of Va. Code § 22.1-277 or Va. Code §§ 22.1-277.07 or 22.1-277.08, no student in preschool through grade three is suspended for more than three school days or expelled from attendance at school, unless (i) the offense involves physical harm or credible threat of physical harm to others or (ii) the School Board or the superintendent or superintendent’s designee finds that aggravating circumstances exist, as defined by the Virginia Department of Education.

Any student for whom the division superintendent has received a report pursuant to Va. Code § 16.1-305.1 of an adjudication of delinquency or a conviction for an offense listed in subsection G of Va. Code § 16.1-260 may be suspended or expelled from school attendance.

The authority of teachers to remove students from their classes in certain instances of disruptive behavior shall not be interpreted to affect the operation of this Policy.

- [Students assigned to out-of-school suspension (OSS) **will be** allowed to make-up work and can receive credit for that work, not to exceed a grade of 60 (D), during the time of the suspension.
- Absences during OSS shall not be counted against a student for purposes of failure due to attendance.

- A parent conference with the administration **will be** necessary before the student may return to the classroom.]

### III. SHORT-TERM SUSPENSIONS

A pupil may be suspended for not more than ten school days by either the school principal, any assistant principal, or, in their absence, any teacher. The principal, assistant principal, or teacher may suspend the pupil after giving the pupil oral or written notice of the charges against him and, if he denies them, an explanation of the facts as known to school personnel and an opportunity to present his version of what occurred. In the case of any pupil whose presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property, or whose presence is an ongoing threat of disruption, the pupil may be removed from school immediately and the notice, explanation of facts, and opportunity to present his version shall be given as soon as is practical thereafter.

Upon suspension of any pupil, the principal, assistant principal, or teacher responsible for such suspension shall report the facts of the case in writing to the superintendent or superintendent's designee and the parent of the pupil suspended. The superintendent or superintendent's designee shall review promptly the action taken by the principal, assistant principal, or teacher upon a petition for such review by any party in interest and confirm or disapprove such action based on an examination of the record of the pupil's behavior.

The decision of the superintendent or superintendent's designee is final and may not be appealed.

Any oral or written notice to the parent of a student who is suspended from school attendance for not more than ten days includes notification of the length of the suspension, information regarding the availability of community-based educational programs, alternative education programs or other educational options, and of the student's right to return to regular school attendance upon the expiration of the suspension. The costs of any community-based educational program, or alternative education program or educational option, which is not a part of the educational program offered by the school division, are borne by the parent of the student.

### IV. LONG-TERM SUSPENSION

A pupil may be suspended from attendance at school for 11 to 45 school days after written notice is provided to the pupil and the pupil's parent of the proposed action and the reasons therefore and of the right to a hearing before the School Board. The decision of the superintendent or superintendent's designee may be appealed to the full School Board. Such appeal shall be decided by the School Board within thirty days.

The written notice of a suspension for 11 to 45 school days includes notification of the length of the suspension and provides information concerning the availability of community-based educational, alternative education, or intervention programs. Such notice also states that the student is eligible to return to regular school attendance upon the expiration of the suspension or to attend an appropriate alternative education program approved by the School Board during

or upon the expiration of the suspension. The costs of any community-based educational, alternative education, or intervention program that is not a part of the educational program offered by the school division that the student may attend during his suspension is borne by the parent of the student.

A long-term suspension may extend beyond a 45-school-day period but shall not exceed 364 calendar days if (i) the offense is one described in Va. Code §§ 22.1-277.07 or 22.1-277.08 or involves serious bodily injury or (ii) the School Board or division superintendent or superintendent's designee finds that aggravating circumstances exist, as defined by the Virginia Department of Education.

Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit the School Board from permitting or requiring students suspended pursuant to this section to attend an alternative education program provided by the School Board for the term of such suspension.

## V. EXPULSION

### A. Generally

Pupils may be expelled from attendance at school after written notice to the pupil and the pupil's parent of the proposed action and the reasons therefore and of the right to a hearing before the School Board. The School Board confirms or disapproves of the proposed expulsion regardless of whether the pupil has exercised the right to a hearing.

The written notice given to the pupil and the pupil's parent includes notification of the length of the expulsion and provides information to the parent of the student concerning the availability of community-based educational, training, and intervention programs. The notice also states whether or not the student is eligible to return to regular school attendance, or to attend an appropriate alternative education program approved by the School Board, or an adult education program offered by the school division, during or upon the expiration of the expulsion, and the terms or conditions of such readmission. The costs of any community-based educational, training, or intervention program that is not a part of the educational program offered by the school division that the student may attend during the expulsion is borne by the parent of the student.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the School Board from permitting or requiring students expelled pursuant to this Policy to attend an alternative education program provided by the School board for the term of such expulsion.

If the School Board determines that the student is ineligible to return to regular school attendance or to attend during the expulsion an alternative education program or an adult education program in the school division, the written notice also advises the parent of such student that the student may petition the School Board for readmission to be effective one calendar year from the date of the expulsion, and of the conditions, if any, under which readmission may be granted.



## B. Conduct Giving Rise to Expulsion

Recommendations for expulsions for actions other than those specified below are based on consideration of the following factors:

- the nature and seriousness of the conduct;
- the degree of danger to the school community;
- the student's disciplinary history, including the seriousness and number of previous infractions;
- the appropriateness and availability of an alternative education placement or program;
- the student's age and grade level;
- the results of any mental health, substance abuse, or special education assessments;
- the student's attendance and academic records; and
- other appropriate matters.

No decision to expel a student shall be reversed on the grounds that such factors were not considered. Nothing in this subsection precludes the School Board from considering any of the factors listed above as "special circumstances" for purposes of expulsions discussed in the following subsections.

### Firearms, Destructive Devices and Pneumatic Guns

The School Board shall expel from school attendance for a period of not less than one year any student whom such School Board has determined to have possessed a firearm on school property or at a school-sponsored activity as prohibited by Va. Code § 18.2-308.1, or to have possessed a firearm or destructive device as defined in this policy, a firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or a pneumatic gun as defined in this policy on school property or at a school-sponsored activity. A school administrator or the School Board may, however, determine, based on the facts of a particular situation, that special circumstances exist and no disciplinary action or another disciplinary action or another term of expulsion is appropriate. The School Board may promulgate guidelines for determining what constitutes special circumstances. In addition, the School Board authorizes the superintendent or superintendent's designee to conduct a preliminary review of such cases to determine whether a disciplinary action other than expulsion is appropriate. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a student's expulsion regardless of the facts of the particular situation.

The exemptions set out in Va. Code § 18.2-308 regarding concealed weapons shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the provisions of this Policy. The provisions of this section do not apply to students who possess such firearm or firearms or pneumatic guns as a part of the curriculum or other programs sponsored by the schools in the school division or any organization permitted to use school premises.

### Drug Offenses

The School Board shall expel from school attendance any student whom the School Board has determined to have brought a controlled substance, imitation controlled substance, or marijuana as defined in Va. Code § 18.2-247, onto school property or to a school-sponsored activity. The School Board may, however, determine, based on the facts of the particular case that special circumstances exist and another disciplinary action is appropriate. In addition, the School Board authorizes the superintendent or the superintendent's designee to conduct a preliminary review of such cases to determine whether a disciplinary action other than expulsion is appropriate. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a student's expulsion regardless of the facts of the particular situation.

### C. Procedure for School Board Hearing

The procedure for the School Board hearing is as follows:

- The School Board determines the propriety of attendance at the hearing of persons not having a direct interest in the hearing. The hearing is private unless otherwise specified by the School Board.
  - The School Board may ask for opening statements from the principal or principal's representative and the student or student's parent(s) (or their representative) and, at the discretion of the School Board, may allow closing statements.
  - The parties then present their evidence. Because the principal has the ultimate burden of proof, he presents his evidence first. Witnesses may be questioned by the School Board members and by the parties (or their representative). The School Board may, at its discretion, vary this procedure, but it shall afford full opportunity to both parties for presentation of any material or relevant evidence and shall afford the parties the right of cross-examination provided, however, that the School Board may take the testimony of student witnesses outside the presence of the student, the student's parent(s) and their representative if the School Board determines, in its discretion, that such action is necessary to protect the student witness.
  - The parties shall produce such additional evidence as the School Board may deem necessary. The School Board is the judge of the relevancy and materiality of the evidence.
  - Exhibits offered by the parties may be received in evidence by the School Board and, when so received, are marked and made part of the record.
  - The School Board may, by majority vote, uphold, reject or alter the recommendations.
  - The School Board transmits its decision, including the reasons therefor, to the student, the student's parent(s), the principal and superintendent.

## VI. ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The School Board may require any student who has been

- charged with an offense relating to the laws of Virginia, or with a violation of School Board policies, on weapons, alcohol, or drugs, or intentional injury to another person, or with an offense that is required to be disclosed to the superintendent pursuant to Va. Code § 16.1-260.G;
- found guilty or not innocent of an offense relating to Virginia's laws on weapons, alcohol, or drugs, or of a crime that resulted in or could have resulted in injury to others, or of an offense that is required to be disclosed to the superintendent pursuant to Va. Code § 16.1-260.G;
- found to have committed a serious offense or repeated offenses in violation of School Board policies;
- suspended pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-277.05; or
- expelled pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-277.06, 22.1-277.07, or 22.1-277.08 or subsection C of Va. Code § 22.1-277,

to attend an alternative education program.

The School Board may require such student to attend such programs regardless of where the conduct occurred.

The School Board may require any student who has been found to have been in possession of, or under the influence of, drugs or alcohol on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity in violation of School Board policies, to undergo evaluation for drug or alcohol abuse, or both, and, if recommended by the evaluator and with the consent of the student's parent, to participate in a treatment program.

The School Board authorizes the superintendent or superintendent's designee to require students to attend an alternative education program consistent with the provisions of the previous paragraph after (i) written notice to the student and the student's parent that the student will be required to attend an alternative education program and (ii) notice of the opportunity for the student or the student's parent to participate in a hearing to be conducted by the superintendent or the superintendent's designee regarding such placement. If the student or parent wants to participate in a hearing regarding the placement, the student or parent must notify the superintendent or superintendent's designee within five days of receiving the written notice of the student's assignment to the alternative education program. The decision of the superintendent or superintendent's designee regarding such alternative education placement is final unless altered by the Board upon written petition by the student or student's parent for a review of the record by the School Board. Such petition must be received by the superintendent or superintendent's designee within five days after receiving written notice of the decision after the hearing.

A principal or principal's designee may impose a short-term suspension, pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-277.04, upon a student who has been charged with an offense involving intentional

injury enumerated in Va. Code § 16.1-260.G, to another student in the same school pending a decision as to whether to require that such student attend an alternative education program.

As used in this section, “charged” means that a petition or warrant has been filed or is pending against a pupil.

## VII. REPORTING

A. Except as may otherwise be required by federal law, regulation, or jurisprudence, reports are made to the division superintendent and to the principal or principal’s designee on all incidents involving

- (1) the assault, or assault and battery, without bodily injury, of any person on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity;
- (2) the assault and battery which results in a bodily injury, sexual assault, death, shooting, stabbing, cutting, or wounding of any person, abduction of any person as described in Va. Code § 18.2-47 or Va. Code § 18.2-48, or stalking of any person as described in Va. Code § 18.2-60.3, on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity;
- (3) any conduct involving alcohol, marijuana, a controlled substance, imitation controlled substance, or an anabolic steroid on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity, including the theft or attempted theft of student prescription medications;
- (4) any threats against school personnel while on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity;
- (5) the illegal carrying of a firearm as defined in Va. Code § 22.1-277.07 onto school property;
- (6) any illegal conduct involving firebombs, explosive materials or devices, or hoax explosive devices, as defined in Va. Code § 18.2-85 or explosive or incendiary devices, as defined in Va. Code § 18.2-433.1, or chemical bombs, as described in Va. Code § 18.2-87.1, on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity;
- (7) any threats or false threats to bomb, as described in Va. Code § 18.2-83, made against school personnel or involving school property or school buses;
- (8) the arrest of any student for an incident occurring on a school bus, on school property, or at a school sponsored activity, including the charge therefor; and
- (9) any illegal possession of weapons, alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products.

B. The superintendent and the principal or principal’s designee receive reports made by local law enforcement authorities on offenses, wherever committed, by students enrolled at the school if the offense would be a felony if committed by an adult or would be a violation of the Drug Control Act, Va. Code § 54.1-3400 et seq., and occurred on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity, or would be an adult misdemeanor involving any incidents described in the clauses (1) through (8) of subsection VII.A. of this policy, and whether the student is released to the custody of the student’s parent or, if 18 years of age or more, is released on bond. A superintendent who receives notification that a juvenile has

committed an act that would be a crime if committed by an adult pursuant to subsection G of Va. Code § 16.1-260 reports such information to the principal of the school in which the juvenile is enrolled.

- C. The principal or principal's designee submits a report of all incidents required to be reported pursuant to subsection VII.A.(1-8) of this policy to the superintendent. The superintendent annually reports all such incidents to the Department of Education.

In submitting reports of such incidents, principals and superintendents accurately indicate any offenses, arrests, or charges as recorded by law-enforcement authorities and required to be reported by such authorities pursuant to subsection VII.B. of this policy.

- D. The principal or principal's designee also notifies the parent of any student involved in an incident required by this subsection to be reported, regardless of whether disciplinary action is taken against such student or the nature of the disciplinary action. Such notice relates to only the relevant student's involvement and does not include information concerning other students.
- E. Whenever any student commits any reportable incident as set forth in this subsection, such student is required to participate in such prevention and intervention activities as deemed appropriate by the superintendent or superintendent's designee.
- F. Except as may otherwise be required by federal law, regulation, or jurisprudence, a principal immediately reports to the local law-enforcement agency any act enumerated in clauses (2) through (7) of subsection VII.A. of this policy that may constitute a felony offense and may report to the local law enforcement agency any incident described in clause (1) of subsection VII.A. of this policy.

In addition, except as may be prohibited by federal law, regulation, or jurisprudence, the principal also immediately reports any act enumerated in clauses (2) through (5) of subsection VII.A of this policy that may constitute a criminal offense to the parents of any minor student who is the specific object of such act. Further, the principal reports whether the incident has been reported to local law enforcement pursuant to this subsection and if the incident is so reported, that the parents may contact local law enforcement for further information, if they so desire.

- G. For purposes of this section, "parent" or "parents" means any parent, guardian or other person having control or charge of a child.

### VIII. RE-ADMISSION OF SUSPENDED AND/OR EXPELLED STUDENTS

Any student who has been suspended from a school of this division is not eligible to attend any other school within the division until eligible to return to the student's regular school.

Any student who has been expelled or suspended for more than thirty days from attendance at school by a School Board or a private school in this Commonwealth or in another

state or for whom admission has been withdrawn by a private school in this Commonwealth or in another state may be excluded from attendance in the Colonial Heights Schools, in accordance with Policy JEC School Admission. In the case of a suspension of more than thirty days, the term of the exclusion may not exceed the duration of such suspension.

In excluding any such expelled student from school attendance, the local School Board may accept or waive any or all of any conditions for readmission imposed upon such student by the expelling School Board pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-277.06. The excluding School Board shall not impose additional conditions for readmission to school.

No suspended student is admitted to the regular school program until such student and the student's parent have met with school officials to discuss improvement of the student's behavior, unless the school principal or principal's designee determines that re-admission, without parent conference, is appropriate for the student.

If the parent fails to comply with this policy or Policy JEC School Admission, the School Board may ask the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court to proceed against the parent for willful and unreasonable refusal to participate in efforts to improve the student's behavior.

Upon the expiration of the exclusion period for an expulsion or a withdrawal of admission, which period shall be established by the School Board or superintendent or superintendent's designee, as the case may be at the relevant hearing, the student may re-petition the School Board for admission. If the petition for admission is rejected, the School Board shall identify the length of the continuing exclusion period and the subsequent date upon which such student may re-petition the School Board for admission.

The School Board may permit students excluded pursuant to this section to attend an alternative education program provided by the School Board for the term of such exclusion.

## IX. DISCIPLINING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities are disciplined in accordance with Policy JGDA Disciplining Students with Disabilities.

Adopted: June 28, 1994

Amended: August 22, 1995; May 27, 1997; July 28, 2009; August 4, 2011; September 24, 2013; July 21, 2014; May 26, 2015; April 26, 2016; August 28, 2018, September 25, 2018; April 28, 2020; August 25, 2020.

Legal Ref.: 20 U.S.C. § 7151

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 15.2-915.4, 16.1-260, 18.2-119, 18.2-308.1, 18.2-308.7, 18.2-308.2:2, 22.1-200.1, 22.1-254, 22.1-276.01, 22.1-276.2, 22.1-277, 22.1-277.04, 22.1-277.05, 22.1-277.06, 22.1-277.07, 22.1-277.07:1, 22.1-277.08, 22.1-277.2, 22.1-277.2:1, 22.1-279.3:1.

8 VAC 20-560-10.

Cross Refs.:	IGBH	Alternative School Programs
	JEC	School Admission
	JFC	Student Conduct
	JFCD	Weapons in School
	JGDA	Disciplining Students with Disabilities
	JGDB	Discipline of Students with Disabilities for Infliction of Serious Bodily Injury
	KG	Community use of School Facilities

## STUDENT RECORDS

### Generally

The Colonial Heights School Board shall maintain accurate and complete records for every student enrolled in the public schools in accordance with all federal and state laws.

The superintendent and/or his designee(s) is responsible for the collection of data, record maintenance and security, access to, and use of records, confidentiality of personally identifiable information, dissemination of information from records, and destruction of records, including the destruction of personally identifiable information regarding a student with a disability at the request of the parents. The superintendent shall also provide for notification of all school division personnel of policy and procedures for management of education records and notification of parents and students of their rights regarding student records, including the right to obtain, upon request, a copy of this policy.

### Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the Colonial Heights Public Schools uses the following definitions.

Authorized representative – any entity or individual designated by a state or local educational authority or an agency headed by an official listed in 34 CFR § 99.31(a)(3) to conduct, with respect to federal- or state-supported education programs, any audit or evaluation, or any compliance or enforcement activity in connection with federal legal requirements that relate to these programs.

Directory information - information contained in a student's education record that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Directory information may include information such as the student's name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, grade level, enrollment status, dates of attendance, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors, and awards received, and the most recent educational institution attended. Directory information may not include the student's social security number. Directory information may include a student identification number or other unique personal identifier used by a student for accessing or communicating in electronic systems if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user or a student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student ID badge, if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity such as a PIN or password or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user.)

Early childhood education program – a Head Start program or an Early Head Start program, a state licensed or regulated child care program, or a program that serves children from birth through age six that addresses the children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development and is a state prekindergarten program, a program under section 619 or Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or a program operated by a local educational agency.



Education program - any program that is principally engaged in the provision of education, including, but not limited to, early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, postsecondary education, special education, job training, career and technical education, and adult education, and any program that is administered by an educational agency or institution.

Education records - any information recorded in any way including handwriting, print, computer media, video or audiotape, film, microfilm, and microfiche maintained by the Colonial Heights School Board or an agent of the school division which contains information directly related to a student, except

- records that are kept in the sole possession of the maker, are used only as a personal memory aid, and are not accessible or revealed to another person except a temporary substitute for the maker of the record;
- records created and maintained for law enforcement purposes by the Colonial Heights School Board's law enforcement unit, if any. A law enforcement unit is any individual, office, department, or division of the school division that is authorized to enforce any local, state, or federal law, refer enforcement matters to appropriate authorities or maintain the physical security and safety of the school division;
- in the case of persons who are employed by the Colonial Heights School Board but who are not in attendance at a school in the division, records made and maintained in the normal course of business which relate exclusively to the person in his capacity as an employee;
- records created or received after an individual is no longer in attendance and that are not directly related to the individual's attendance as a student;
- grades on peer-graded papers before they are collected and recorded by a teacher; and
- any electronic information, such as email, even if it contains personally identifiable information regarding a student, unless a printed copy of the electronic information is placed in the student's file or is stored electronically under an individual student's name on a permanent and secure basis for the purpose of being maintained as an educational record. For purposes of this policy, electronic information that exists on a back-up server, a temporary archiving system, or on a temporary basis on a computer is not an education record and is not considered as being maintained.

Eligible student - a student who has reached age 18.

Parent - a parent of a student, including a natural parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or guardian.

Student – any person who is or has been in attendance at Colonial Heights Public Schools regarding whom the school division maintains education records or personally identifiable information.

## Dissemination and Maintenance of Records About Court Proceedings

### Adjudications

The superintendent shall disseminate the notice or information regarding an adjudication of delinquency or conviction for an offense listed in Va. Code § 16.1-260. G. contained in a notice received pursuant to § 16.1-305.1 to school personnel responsible for the management of student records and to other relevant school personnel, including, but not limited to, the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled. The principal shall further disseminate such information to licensed instructional personnel and other school personnel who (1) provide direct educational and support services to the student and (2) have a legitimate educational interest in such information.

A parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of a student, and, with consent of a parent or in compliance with a court order, the court in which the disposition was rendered, shall be notified in writing of any disciplinary action taken with regard to any incident upon which the adjudication of delinquency or conviction for an offense listed in subsection G of Va. Code § 16.1-260 was based and the reasons therefore. The parent or guardian shall also be notified of his or her right to review, and to request an amendment of, the student's scholastic record.

Every notice of adjudication of delinquency or conviction for an offense listed in subsection G of Va. Code § 16.1-260 received by a superintendent, and information contained in the notice, which is not a disciplinary record as defined in Board of Education regulations, shall be maintained by him and by any others to whom he disseminates it, separately from all other records concerning the student. However, if the school administrators or the school board takes disciplinary action against a student based upon an incident which formed the basis for the adjudication of delinquency or conviction for an offense listed in subsection G of Va. Code § 16.1-260, the notice shall become a part of the student's disciplinary record.

Any notice of disposition received pursuant to Va. Code § 16.1-305.1 shall not be retained after the student has been awarded a diploma or a certificate as provided in Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:4.

### Petitions

The superintendent shall not disclose information contained in or derived from a notice of petition received pursuant to Va. Code § 16.1-260 or report received pursuant to Va. Code § 66-25.2:1 except as follows:

- if the juvenile is not enrolled as a student in a public school in the division to which the notice or report was given, the superintendent shall promptly so notify the intake officer of the juvenile court in which the petition was filed or the Director of the Department which sent the report and may forward the notice of petition or report to the superintendent of the division in which the juvenile is enrolled, if known;
- prior to receipt of the notice of disposition in accordance with Va. Code § 16.1-305.1, the superintendent may disclose the fact of the filing of the petition and the nature of the offense to the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled if the

superintendent believes that disclosure to school personnel is necessary to ensure the physical safety of the student, other students or school personnel within the division.

The principal may further disseminate the information regarding a petition, after the student has been taken into custody, whether or not the child has been released, only to those students and school personnel having direct contact with the student and need of the information to ensure physical safety or the appropriate educational placement or other educational services; and

- if the superintendent believes that disclosure of information regarding a report received pursuant to Va. Code §66-25.2:1 to school personnel is necessary to ensure the physical safety of the student, other students, or school personnel, he/she may disclose the information to the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled. The principal may further disseminate the information regarding such report only to school personnel as necessary to protect the student, the subject or subjects of the danger, other students, or school personnel.

#### Protective Orders and Orders Prohibiting Contact with a Child

Any school principal who receives notice that a circuit court, general district court, juvenile and domestic relations district court, or magistrate has issued a protective order for the protection of any child who is enrolled at the school, or any other order prohibiting contact with such a child, notifies licensed instructional personnel and other school personnel who (i) provide direct educational or support services to the protected child or the child subject to the order, (ii) have a legitimate educational interest in such information, and (iii) are responsible for the direct supervision of the protected child or the child subject to the order that such order has been issued.

#### Annual Notification

The school division annually notifies parents and eligible students of their rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) including

- the right to inspect and review the student's education records and the procedure for exercising this right;
- the right to request amendment of the student's educational records that the parent believes to be inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's privacy rights and the procedure for exercising this right;
- the right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent;
- the type of information designated as directory information and the right to opt out of release of directory information;
- that the school division releases records to other institutions that have requested the records and in which the students seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer;

- the right to opt out of the release of the student’s name, address, and phone number to military recruiters or institutions of higher education that request such information;
- a specification of the criteria for determining who constitutes a school official and what constitutes a legitimate educational interest; and
- the right to file complaints with the Family Policy Compliance Office in the United States Department of Education concerning the school division’s alleged failure to comply with FERPA.

**Procedure to Inspect Education Records**

Parents of students or eligible students may inspect and review the student's education records within a reasonable period of time, which shall not exceed 45 days, and before any meeting regarding an IEP or hearing involving a student with a disability. Further, parents shall have the right to a response from the school division to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of the education record.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the student's school principal a written request which identifies as precisely as possible the record or records he or she wishes to inspect.

The principal (or appropriate school official) will make the needed arrangements for access as promptly as possible and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

When a record contains information about students other than a parent's child or the eligible student, the parent or eligible student may not inspect and review the portion of the record which pertains to other students.

**Copies of Education Records**

The Colonial Heights Public Schools will not provide a parent or eligible student a copy of the student's education record unless failure to do so would effectively prevent the parent or eligible student from exercising the right to inspect and review the records.

**Fees for Copies of Records**

The fee for copies will be \$0.10 per page. The actual cost of copying time and postage will be charged. The Colonial Heights Public Schools does not charge for search and retrieval of the records. The Colonial Heights Public Schools does not charge a fee for copying an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or for a copy of the verbatim record of a hearing conducted in accordance with the State Board of Education's Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia.

**Types, Locations, and Custodians of Education Records**

The Colonial Heights Public School shall provide parents on request a list of the types and locations of education records collected, maintained, or used by the school division.

The following is a list of the types of records that the Colonial Heights Public Schools maintain, their locations, and their custodians.

<b>Types</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Custodian</b>	<b>Information</b>
5/20	Colonial Heights Public Schools		Page 5 of 12

### Disclosure of Education Records

The Colonial Heights Public Schools shall disclose education records or personally identifiable information contained therein only with the written consent of the parent or eligible student except as authorized by law. Exceptions which permit the school division to disclose education record information without consent include the following:

1. To school officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the records.

A school official is:

- A person employed by the School Board
- A person appointed or elected to the School Board.
- A person employed by or under contract to the School Board to perform a special task, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist.
- A contractor, consultant, volunteer, or other party to whom the school division has outsourced services or functions for which the school division would otherwise use employees and who is under the direct control of the school division with respect to the use and maintenance of education records.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official is:

- Performing a task that is specified in his or her position description or by a contract agreement.
- Performing a task related to a student's education.
- Performing a task related to the discipline of a student.
- Providing a service or benefit relating to the student or student's family, such as health care, counseling, job placement, or financial aid.

2. To officials of another school, school system, or institution of postsecondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll or where the student is already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer.
3. To certain officials of the U.S. Department of Education, the United States Attorney General, the Comptroller General, and state educational authorities, in connection with certain state or federally supported education programs and in accordance with applicable federal regulations.
4. In connection with a student's request for or receipt of financial aid as necessary to determine the eligibility, amount, or conditions of the financial aid, or to enforce the terms and conditions of the aid.
5. For the purpose of furthering the ability of the juvenile justice system to effectively serve the pupil prior to adjudication. The principal or his designee may disclose identifying information from a pupil's scholastic record to state or local law-enforcement or correctional personnel, including a law-enforcement officer, probation officer, parole officer or administrator, or a member of a parole board, seeking information in the course of his duties; an officer or employee of a county or city agency responsible for protective services to children, as to a pupil referred to that agency as a minor requiring investigation or supervision by that agency; attorneys for the Commonwealth, court services units, juvenile detention centers or group homes, mental and medical health agencies, state and local children and family service agencies, and the Department of

Juvenile Justice and to the staff of such agencies. Prior to disclosure of any such scholastic records, the persons to whom the records are to be disclosed shall certify in writing to the principal or his designee that the information will not be disclosed to any other party, except as provided under state law, without the prior written consent of the parent of the pupil or by such pupil if the pupil is eighteen years of age or older.

6. To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, educational agencies or institutions to develop, validate or administer predictive tests; administer student aid programs; or improve instruction. The studies must be conducted in a manner that does not permit personal identification of parents and students by individuals other than representatives of the organization that have legitimate interests in the information. The information must be destroyed when it is no longer needed for the purposes for which the study was conducted. The School Board must enter into a written agreement with the organization conducting the study which
  - specifies the purpose, scope, and duration of the study or studies and the information to be disclosed;
  - requires the organization to use personally identifiable information from education records only to meet the purpose or purposes of the study stated in the written agreement;
  - requires the organization to conduct the study in a manner that does not permit personal identification of parents and students by anyone other than representatives of the organization with legitimate interests; and
  - requires the organization to destroy all personally identifiable information when the information is no longer needed for the purposes for which the study was conducted and specifies the time period in which the information must be destroyed.
7. To accrediting organizations to carry out their functions.
8. To parents of an eligible student who claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
9. To the entities or persons designated in judicial orders or subpoenas as specified in FERPA.
10. To appropriate parties in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals. If the school division releases information in connection with an emergency, it will record the following information:
  - the articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals that formed the basis for the disclosure; and
  - the parties to whom the division disclosed the information.
11. To an agency caseworker or other representative of a state or local child welfare agency or tribal organization who has the right to access a student's case plan when such agency or organization is legally responsible for the care and protection of the student.

12. Directory information so designated by the school division.
13. When the disclosure concerns sex offenders and other individuals required to register under section 170101 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, 42 U.S.C. § 14071, and the information was provided to the division under 42 U.S.C. § 14071 and applicable federal guidelines.

The school division discloses or makes available to a guardian ad litem, on request, any information, records, or reports concerning a student for whom a petition for guardianship or conservatorship has been filed that the guardian ad litem determines are necessary to perform his duties under Va. Code § 64.2-2003.

The school division will use reasonable methods to identify and authenticate the identity of parents, students, school officials, and any other parties to whom it discloses personally identifiable information from education records.

### **Unauthorized Disclosure of Electronic Records**

In cases in which electronic records containing personally identifiable information are reasonably believed to have been disclosed in violation federal or state law applicable to such information, the school division will notify, as soon as practicable, the parent of any student affected by such disclosure, except as otherwise provided in Va. Code §§ 32.1-127.1:05 or 18.2-186.6. Such notification shall include the (i) date, estimated date, or date range of the disclosure; (ii) type of information that was or is reasonably believed to have been disclosed; and (iii) remedial measures taken or planned in response to the disclosure.

### **Disclosure to Federal Agencies**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law or policy, no member or employee of the Colonial Heights School Board will transmit personally identifiable information, as that term is defined in FERPA and related regulations, from a student's record to a federal government agency or an authorized representative of such agency except as required by federal law or regulation.

### **Disclosure of Information Relating to Home Instructed Students**

Neither the superintendent nor the School Board will disclose to the Department of Education or any other person or entity outside of the local school division information that is provided by a parent or student to satisfy the requirements of Policy LBD Home Instruction or subdivision B1 of Va. Code §22.1-254. However, the superintendent or School Board may disclose, with the written consent of a student's parent, such information to the extent provided by the parent's consent. Nothing in this policy prohibits the superintendent from notifying the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the number of students in the school division receiving home instruction.

### **Audit or Evaluation of Education Programs**

Authorized representatives of the Comptroller General of the United States, the Attorney General of the United States, the federal Secretary of Education, and state and local educational

authorities may have access to education records in connection with an audit or evaluation of federal- or state- supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with federal legal requirements that relate to those programs.

Any authorized representative other than an employee must be designated by a written agreement which

- designates the individual or entity as an authorized representative;
- specifies the personally identifiable information to be disclosed, specifies that the purposes for which the personally identifiable information is disclosed to the authorized representative is to carry out an audit or evaluation of federal- or state-supported education programs, or to enforce or comply with federal legal requirements that relate to those programs; and specifies a description of the activity with sufficient specificity to make clear that the work falls within the exception of 34 CFR § 99.31(a)(3) including a description of how the personally identifiable information will be used;
- requires the authorized representative to destroy personally identifiable information when the information is no longer needed for the purpose specified;
- specifies the time period in which the information must be destroyed; and establishes policies and procedures, consistent with FERPA and other federal and state confidentiality and privacy provisions, to protect personally identifiable information from further disclosure and unauthorized use, including limiting use of personally identifiable information to only authorized representatives with legitimate interests in the audit or evaluation of a federal- or state-supported education program or for compliance or enforcement of federal legal requirements related to such programs.

### **Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Learning**

The Colonial Heights Public Schools provides, on request made by military recruiters or an institution of higher education, access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings unless a parent or eligible student has submitted a written request that the student's name, address and telephone listing not be released without the prior written consent of the parent or eligible student.

The school division will notify parents of the option to make a request and complies with any request.

The school division provides military recruiters the same access to secondary school students as is provided generally to post-secondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of those students.

### **Record of Disclosure**

The Colonial Heights Public Schools maintains a record, kept with the education records of each student, indicating all individuals (except school officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the records), agencies, or organizations which request or obtain access to a student's education records. The record will indicate specifically the legitimate interest the party had in obtaining the information. The record of access will be available only to parents, to the



school official and his assistants who are responsible for the custody of such records, and to persons or organizations which audit the operation of the system.

The requirements related to records of disclosure stated above do not apply to disclosures made pursuant to an ex parte order issued by a court at the request of the United States Attorney General (or any Federal officer or employee, in a position not lower than an Assistant Attorney General, designated by the Attorney General) seeking to collect education records relevant to an authorized investigation or prosecution of international terrorism as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2331 or other acts listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B).

Personal information will only be transferred to a third party on the condition that such party will not permit any other party to have access to such information without the written consent of the parents of the student. If a third party permits access to information, or fails to destroy information, the division will not permit access to information from education records to that third party for a period of at least five years.

**Any information and records of personal/social counseling shall be kept confidential and separate from a student's educational records and not disclosed to third parties without prior consent of the parents/legal guardians of a minor student or the adult student or as otherwise provided by laws. The Colonial Heights School Division does not authorize the release of information concerning student discipline and/or criminal records.**

## Directory Information

The Colonial Heights School Board notifies parents and eligible students at the beginning of each school year what information, if any, it has designated as directory information, the right to refuse to let the division designate any or all of such information as directory information, and the period of time to notify the division, in writing, that he or she does not want any or all of those types of information designated as directory information. The notice may specify that disclosure of directory information will be limited to specific parties, for specific purposes, or both. If the School Board specifies that disclosure of directory information will be so limited, the disclosures of directory information will be limited to those specified in the public notice.

No school discloses the address, telephone number, or email address of a student pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act unless the parent or eligible student affirmatively consents in writing to such disclosure. Except as required by state or federal law, no school discloses the address, telephone number, or email address of a student pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(11) unless (a) the disclosure is to students enrolled in the school or to school board employees for educational purposes or school business and the parent or eligible student has not opted out of such disclosure in accordance with Virginia law and this policy or (b) the parent or eligible student has affirmatively consented in writing to such disclosure.

Parents and eligible students may not use the right to opt out of directory information disclosures to 1) prevent disclosure of the student's name, identifier, or institutional email address in a class in which the student is enrolled; or 2) prevent an educational agency or institution from requiring the student to wear, to display publicly, or to disclose a student ID card or badge that exhibits information designated as directory information and that has been properly designated as directory information.

## Correction of Education Records

The procedures for the amendment of records that a parent or eligible student believes to be inaccurate are as follows.

1. Parents or the eligible student must request in writing that the Colonial Heights Public Schools amend a record. In so doing, they should identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why they believe it is inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's privacy or other rights.
2. Colonial Heights Public Schools shall decide whether to amend the record in accordance with the request within a reasonable period of time. If it decides not to comply, the school division shall notify the parents or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing to challenge the information believed to be inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's rights.
3. Upon request, Colonial Heights Public Schools shall arrange for a hearing, and notify the parents or eligible student, reasonably in advance, of the date, place, and time of the hearing. The hearing shall be held within a reasonable period of time after the request.
4. The parent or eligible student may, at his or her own expense, be assisted or represented by one or more individuals of his or her own choice, including an attorney.
5. The hearing shall be conducted by a hearing officer who is a disinterested party; however, the hearing officer may be an official of the school division. The parents or eligible student shall be afforded a full and fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the issues raised in the original request to amend the student's education records in accordance with FERPA.
6. Colonial Heights Public Schools shall prepare a written decision which will include a summary of the evidence presented and the reasons for the decision within a reasonable period of time after the hearing. The decision will be based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing.
7. If Colonial Heights Public Schools decides that the information is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's right of privacy, it shall amend (including expungement) the record and notify the parents or eligible student, in writing, that the record has been amended.
8. If Colonial Heights Public Schools decides that the challenged information is not inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's right of privacy, it will notify the parents or eligible student that they have a right to place in the record a statement commenting on the challenged information and/or a statement setting forth reasons for disagreeing with the decision. The statement will be maintained as part of the student's education records as long as the contested portion is maintained and disclosed whenever the school division discloses the portion of the record to which the statement relates.

## Confidentiality of HIV and Drug and Alcohol Treatment Records

The Colonial Heights Public Schools complies with the confidentiality requirements of Va. Code § 32.1-36.1 providing for the confidentiality of records related to any test for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). In addition, the school division maintains confidentiality of drug and alcohol treatment records as required by federal and state law.

Adopted: August 22, 1995 Amended: May 26, 1998; April 30, 1998; January 26, 1999; August 22, 2000; March 26, 2002; May 27, 2003; March 27, 2006; July 25, 2006; July 24, 2007; August 26, 2008; July 27, 2010; March 1, 2012; July 24, 2012; January 22, 2012; November 19, 2013; July 21, 2014, November 18, 2014; July 28, 2015, July 26, 2016; April 25, 2017; August 28, 2018; August 27, 2019; August 25, 2020.

Legal Refs.: 18 U.S.C. §§ 2331, 2332b., 20 U.S.C. §§1232g, 7908., 42 U.S.C. § 290dd-2., 34 C.F.R. 99.3, 99.7, 99.10, 99.11, 99.20, 99.21, 99.22, 99.31, 99.32, 99.33, 99.34, 99.35, 99.36, 99.37.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.2-3704, 2.2-3804, 16.1-260, 16.1-305.1, 16.1-305.2, 22.1-254.1, 22.1-279.3:2, 22.1-287, 22.1-287.01, 22.1-287.02, 22.1-287.1, 22.1-288, 22.1-288.1, 22.1-288.2, 22.1-289, 23.1-405, 32.1-36.1, 64.2-2003.

Cross Ref.:	IJ	Guidance and Counseling Program
	JEC	School Admission
	JEC-R	School Admission
	JECA	Admission of Homeless Children
	JFC	Student Conduct
	JGDA	Disciplining Students with Disabilities
	JGD/JGE	Student Suspension/Expulsion
	JHCB	Student Immunizations
	JHCD	Administering Medicines to Students
	JOA	Student Transcripts
	JRCA	School Service
	KBA-R	Requests for Public Records
	KBC	Media Relations
	KNB	Reports of Missing Children
	KP	Parental Rights and Responsibilities
	LBD	Home Instruction
	LEB	Advanced/Alternative Courses for Credit

## REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC RECORDS

The Colonial Heights School Board complies with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, all public records are open to citizens of the Commonwealth, representatives of newspapers and magazines with circulation in the Commonwealth and representatives of radio and television stations broadcasting in or into the Commonwealth during the regular office hours of the custodian of such records. All requests for information are processed in accordance with KBA-R Requests for Public Records.

Officers, employees, and members of the School Board who fail to provide public records as required by FOIA because they altered or destroyed the requested records with the intent to avoid the provisions of FOIA are subject to penalties in their individual capacity of up to \$100 per record altered or destroyed.

The name and contact information for the person the Colonial Heights School Board has designated as its Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer(s) is listed in regulation KBA-R Requests for Information and posted at the School Board office and on the division's website. The FOIA Officer serves as a point of contact for members of the public in requesting public records and coordinate the School Board's compliance with FOIA. The FOIA officer(s) receive(s) training at least once during each consecutive period of two calendar years beginning on the date on which the FOIA Officer last completed a training session by the School Board's legal counsel or the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

Adopted: March 26, 2002

Amended: July 26, 2016; July 25, 2017; April 23, 2019, August 27, 2019; August 25, 2020.

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, sections 2.2-3704, 2.2-3704.2, 2.2-3714.

Cross Ref.: KBA-R Requests for Public Records

## RELATIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES

### **Investigations by Law Enforcement Officers at School**

When it becomes necessary for any law enforcement officer to interrogate a student on school premises, the principal is contacted immediately. The principal or principal's designee makes a reasonable effort to contact the parent or guardian and have the parent or guardian in attendance for the interrogation. If the parent or guardian cannot be present for the interrogation, then the principal or principal's designee is present throughout the interrogation.

### **Service of Process at School**

Should there be a need to serve a student or school employee with any "legal process," the School Board encourages the process server to make all reasonable attempts to serve such documents off school premises; however, if the documents must be served on school premises, they should be served at the principal's office of the school which the student attends or the main office of the facility at which the employee is assigned.

In any case in which custody or visitation of a minor child is at issue and a summons is issued for the attendance and testimony of a teacher or other school employee who is not a party to the proceeding, if such summon is serviced on school property, it may be served only by a sheriff or his deputy.

### **Development of Programs**

The superintendent seeks to develop, in cooperation with the local law-enforcement agencies, juvenile and domestic relations court judges and personnel, parents, and the community at large, programs and procedures to prevent violence and crime on school property and at school-sponsored events. The superintendent obtains and uses Sex Offender Registry information in accordance with Policy KN Sex Offender Registry Notification.

### **Report to Law Enforcement Officials**

Except as may otherwise be required by federal law, regulation, or jurisprudence, the principal immediately reports to local law-enforcement officials all incidents listed below that may constitute a felony offense:

1. assault and battery, which results in bodily injury, sexual assault, death, shooting, stabbing, cutting or wounding of any person, abduction of any person as described in Va. Code §§ 18.2-47 or 18.2-48, or stalking of any person as described in Va. Code § 18.2-60.3, on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity; or
2. any conduct involving alcohol, marijuana, a controlled substance, imitation controlled substance, or an anabolic steroid on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity, including the theft of or attempted theft of student prescription medications; or

3. any threats against school personnel while on a school bus, on school property, or at school-sponsored activity; or
4. the illegal carrying of a firearm, as defined by Va. Code § 22.1-277.07, onto school property;
5. any illegal conduct involving firebombs, explosive materials or devices, or hoax explosive devices, as defined in Va. Code § 18.2-85, or explosive or incendiary devices, as defined in Va. Code § 18.2-433.1, or chemical bombs, as described in Va. Code § 18.2-87.1, on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity; or
6. any threats or false threats to bomb, as described in Va. Code § 18.2-83, made against school personnel or involving school property or school buses.

The principal may report to local law enforcement officials any incident involving the assault or assault and battery, without bodily injury, of any person on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity.

If the local law-enforcement agency employs school resource officers, the School Board and the agency have a memorandum of understanding that sets forth the powers and duties of the school resource officers. The School Board and the law-enforcement agency review and amend or affirm the memorandum of understanding at least once every two years or at any time upon the request of either party. The School Board provides notice and an opportunity for public input during each review period for the memorandum of understanding. The current memorandum of understanding is conspicuously published on the division website.

Adopted: August 22, 1995

Amended: May 26, 1998; August 28, 2001; June 18, 2002; March 23, 2004; June 14, 2005; May 26, 2015; August 28, 2018; August 27, 2019; August 25, 2020.

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 8.01-47, 8.01-293, 9.1-101, 16.1-264, 22.1-279.3:1, 22.1-279.9, 22.1-280.2:1, 22.1-280.2:3, 22.1-293.

Cross Ref.:	JFC	Student Conduct
	JGD/JGE	Student Suspension/Expulsion
	CLA	Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse;
	KN	Sex Offender Registry Information

## COMMERCIAL, PROMOTIONAL, AND CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS

### **Generally**

The Colonial Heights School Board recognizes that corporate and other private sponsorship of programs and activities related to education can provide valuable enhancement of the educational program offered by the Board. For that reason, the Colonial Heights School Board may enter into commercial, promotional, and corporate sponsorship and partnership arrangements under certain conditions.

### **Definitions**

An "educational partnership" is a mutually beneficial, cooperative relationship in which partners share values, objectives, and/or human or financial resources to enhance learning for students.

An "educational sponsorship" is an arrangement pursuant to which the sponsor provides money, price reductions, equipment, materials, services, or other benefits in exchange for recognition of its products or entity for a specified period of time.

### **Authority to Enter into Agreements**

On behalf of the school board, principals may enter into sponsorships and partnerships for their schools when the sponsorship or partnership does not extend beyond a single school year or exceed \$5,000 in value to the school.

On behalf of the school board, the superintendent may enter into sponsorships and partnerships which will benefit more than one school or the division as a whole. The Superintendent may also enter into sponsorships and partnerships when the sponsorship or partnership extends beyond a single school year or exceeds \$5,000 in value.

The school board may create a Sponsorship Review Committee to approve any sponsorship or partnership which the Board determines should be considered by the Committee. The school board shall establish criteria identifying proposed sponsorships and partnerships which must be approved by the Committee rather than by a principal or the superintendent. If the Committee's decision regarding the proposed sponsorship or partnership is not unanimous, the decision may be appealed to the school board by either the potential sponsor or partner or by a member of the Sponsorship Review Committee.

### **Requirements**

Any agreement to enter into an educational sponsorship or educational partnership will be in writing.

The written agreement shall include:

- A statement of the educational purpose for the relationship.

- A statement that the school board has the right to terminate the agreement without penalty if it determines that the agreement is having an adverse impact on the educational experience of students.
- A statement that if an agreement is terminated because of an adverse impact on the educational experience of students, no other agreement for an educational partnership or sponsorship will be entered into between the school board and the partner or sponsor whose agreement has been terminated for a specified period of time.
- A statement detailing the specific benefits to the school or school division from the agreement.
- A statement clearly defining the roles, expectations, rights, and responsibilities of all parties to the agreement. This statement shall include a statement of whether the agreement permits the sponsor or partner to advertise in connection with the agreement and if so, the extent of such advertising.
- A statement clearly defining whether the agreement creates any exclusive rights for the sponsor or partner and, if such rights are created, clearly defining those rights. If no exclusive rights are created, the agreement shall include a statement that the existence of the sponsorship or partnership will not limit the discretion of the school board or its personnel in the use of sponsored or non-sponsored materials.
- The duration of the agreement.
- A statement that the school board retains the exclusive right to authorize the use of its name, logo, or other similar information.
- A statement that the school or school board must approve its identification as a partner or cosponsor in all publicity materials.
- A statement of the monetary value to be received by the school or school division pursuant to the agreement.
- A statement defining how the benefits arising from agreement will be distributed.
- A statement of the basis on which students will be permitted to participate in the program or otherwise benefit from the agreement.
- A statement that the sponsor or partner assumes the responsibility for obtaining the consent of any student or school board employee whose likeness may appear in any materials disseminated by the partner or sponsor.
- A statement disclosing any relationship between the sponsor or partner, or any of its employees or major stockholders, and any student, school board employee, school board member, or the superintendent.
- A statement that all partnerships and sponsorships will be consistent with all federal and state laws, ordinances, school division policies and regulations, and all



preexisting school board contracts. If the terms of the partnership or sponsorship agreement establish that the employees, contractors or others acting on behalf of the partner or sponsor will have direct contact with students on school property during regular school hours or during school-sponsored activities, the sponsor or partner must certify that all such persons have not been convicted of any violent felony set forth in the definition of barrier crime in subsection A of Va. Code § 19.2-392.01; any offense involving the sexual molestation or physical or sexual abuse or rape of a ~~child~~ child, or any crime of moral turpitude.

- A statement that if the terms of the partnership or sponsorship agreement establish that the employees, contractors, or others acting on behalf of the partner or sponsor will have direct contact with students on school property during regular school hours or during school-sponsored activities, the individuals acting on behalf of the partner or sponsor may have been convicted of any felony or crime of moral turpitude that is not set forth in the definition of barrier crime in subsection A of Va. Code § 19.2-392.02 and does not involve the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse, or rape of a child, provided that in the case of a felony conviction, the individual's civil rights have been restored by the Governor.
- A statement that no partnership or sponsorship shall exploit any student or school board employee.
- A statement that no sponsor or partner shall be permitted to collect personal information, including names, addresses or telephone numbers of students or school board employees because of the partnership or sponsorship.
- A statement that any curriculum materials provided pursuant to the agreement will be held to the same standards as other curriculum materials.
- A statement that any participation by any student or school board employee in any activity established pursuant to the agreement will be purely voluntary. If a student or school board employee wants to participate in any sponsored or partnered activity but objects to using the materials provided by the sponsor or partner, the sponsor or partner must supply substantially similar materials to which the student does not object for that student to use in the activity. If a student objects to using materials provided by the sponsor or partner, the school board employee in charge of the activity shall provide for a means by which the student's objections are made known to other students involved in the activity and by which those objections are discussed in an educational manner.

### **Prohibitions**

No agreement shall be entered into if the sponsorship or partnership involves or gives the appearance of involving any activity which could result in the following:

- promotion of hostility or violence;
- an attack on ethnic, racial, or religious groups;
- discrimination prohibited by any law or school board policy;
- promotion of the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, nicotine vapor products, or firearms;
- promotion of sexual, obscene, or pornographic activities; or

- promotion of any image that is not in keeping with the established goals and purposes of the school board.

Adopted: June 18, 2002  
Amended: March 27, 2006  
Amended: August 26, 2008  
Amended: April 22, 2014  
Amended: July 21, 2014  
Amended: August 27, 2019  
Amended: August 25, 2020

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§22.1-79.5, 22.1-89.4, 22.1-296.1, 22.1-279.6.

Cross Ref.:	DJG	Vendor Relations
	DO	Non-Locally Funded Programs
	IIAA	Textbook Selection, Adoption and Purchase
	IAB	Supplementary Materials Selection and Adoption
	IICB/IICC	Community Resource Persons/School Volunteers
	JFCB	Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity
	JHCF	Student Wellness
	JL	Fund Raising and Solicitation
	KA	Goals for School-Community Relations
	KH	Public Gifts to the School
	KLB	Pubic Complaints about Learning Resources

## CHARTER SCHOOLS

### **Purpose**

In order to (i) encourage the development of innovative programs; (ii) provide opportunities for innovative instruction and student assessment; (iii) provide parents and students more choices; (iv) provide innovative scheduling, structure and management; (v) encourage the use of performance-based educational programs; (vi) establish high standards for teachers and administrators; and (vii) develop models for replication in other public schools, the Colonial Heights School Board shall receive and consider applications for the establishment of charter schools.

### **Definition of Charter School**

A charter school is a public, nonreligious, or non-home-based alternative school located within the Colonial Heights school division or operated jointly by multiple school divisions. A charter school may be created as a new school or by converting all or part of an existing public school. Conversions of private schools or home-based programs are not permitted. A charter school for at-risk pupils may be established as a residential school.

In establishing public charter schools within the division, the School Board gives priority to public charter school applications designed to increase the educational opportunities of at-risk students. At least one half of the public charter schools in the division must be designed for at-risk students. However, conversions of existing public schools into public charter schools that serve the same community as the existing public school do not count in the determination of school division compliance with the one-half requirement.

Enrollment in a charter school is open to any child who resides within the school division or, in the case of a regional public charter school, within any of the relevant school divisions, through a lottery process on a space-available basis, except that in the case of the conversion of an existing public school, students who attend the school and the siblings of such students are given the opportunity to enroll in advance of the lottery process. Students eligible to enroll in the school division pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-3.B because they are the children of military personnel on active military duty who will reside in the division may participate in the lottery process for charter schools in the division at the same time and in the same manner as students who reside in the division.

Public charter schools are subject to all federal laws and authorities as set forth in law and the charter contract. Public charter schools are subject to the same civil rights, health and safety requirements applicable to other public schools in the Commonwealth, except as otherwise provided by law.

Public charter schools are subject to the student assessment and accountability requirements applicable to other public schools. Nothing precludes a public charter school from establishing additional student assessment measures that go beyond state requirements if the School Board approves such measures.

Management committees of public charter schools are subject to and shall comply with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.).

No public charter school shall discriminate against any individual on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services or any other unlawful basis, and each public charter school shall be subject to any court-ordered desegregation plan in effect for the school division.

No public charter school shall discriminate against any student on the basis of limited proficiency in English and each public charter school shall provide students who have limited proficiency in English with appropriate services designed to teach such students English and the general curriculum, consistent with federal civil rights laws.

No public charter school shall engage in any sectarian practices in its educational program, admissions or employment policies or operations.

### **Application Process**

Any person, group or organization may submit an application for the formation of a public charter school to the Colonial Heights School Board. A complete application includes the applicant's Virginia Public Charter School Application package submitted to the Board of Education, the result of the Board of Education's review of the application and the Charter School Application Addendum (LC-E Colonial Heights Charter School Application Addendum). Prior to submitting a charter school application to the School Board, a public charter school applicant shall submit its proposed charter application to the Board of Education for review and comment and a determination as to whether the application meets the approval criteria developed by the Board of Education. Charter School applications initiated by the Colonial Heights School Board must conform to the Virginia Public Charter School Application. However, such applications are not required to receive Board of Education review and comment prior to action by the School Board.

The Board of Education examines all applications, other than those initiated by the School Board, for feasibility, curriculum, financial soundness, and other objective criteria it may establish, consistent with existing state law. The Board of Education's review and comment is for the purpose of ensuring that the application conforms with such criteria. The school division may work with a charter school applicant before the application is submitted to the Board of Education for review and recommendation.

All public charter school applicants, other than those initiated by the School Board, must also complete the application addendum in the format provided in Exhibit LC-E Colonial Heights Charter School Application Addendum. The School Board shall establish a "review team" consisting of appropriate school personnel, a local business representative and a resident charter school proponent to evaluate charter school applications. The School Board shall designate the chairman of the review team as the contact person for answering questions about the application process and receiving applications. The review team shall work cooperatively with applicants for charter schools. When an application is incomplete, the review team shall request the necessary information; an incomplete application is not grounds for denying a

charter. However, if the applicant does not provide the necessary information within a reasonable timeframe (established by the review team) then the application may be denied.

The review team shall (1) recommend to the School Board appropriate criteria for reviewing charter school applications; (2) evaluate all charter school applications based on the review criteria adopted by the School Board; (3) recommend one of the following options to the School Board for each application: approve, reject, place on a waiting list or return with suggestions for improvement; (4) monitor charter school progress; and (5) make recommendations for revocation, renewal or non-renewal of charter contracts.

The Colonial Heights School Board shall establish a regulation for receiving, reviewing and ruling on applications for the establishment of charter schools. Such regulation must include a timeline for the application and review process and the means for reviewing and evaluating each application, including the criteria on which the decision to grant or deny a charter will be based. To provide appropriate opportunity for input from parents, teachers, citizens, and other interested parties and to obtain information to assist the school board in its decision to grant or deny a public charter school application, the regulation will provide for public notice and the receipt of comment on public charter school applications. The school board shall give at least 14 days' notice of its intent to receive public comment on an application. A copy of the regulation, including the review criteria, shall be posted on the division's website and a copy shall be made available to any interested party upon request.

### **School Board Decision**

If the school board denies a public charter school application or revokes or fails to renew a charter agreement, it shall provide to the applicant or grantee its reasons, in writing, for such decision, and it shall post such reasons on its website. A public charter school applicant whose application was denied, or a grantee whose charter was revoked or not renewed, is entitled to petition the school board for reconsideration. The petition for reconsideration shall be filed no later than 60 days from the date the public charter school application is denied, revoked, or not renewed. Such reconsideration shall be decided within 60 days of the filing of the petition.

The school board shall establish a process for reviewing petitions of reconsideration, which shall include an opportunity for public comment. The petition of reconsideration may include an amended application based on the reasons given by the school board for such decision. Prior to seeking reconsideration, an applicant or grantee may seek technical assistance from the Superintendent of Public Instruction to address the reasons for denial, revocation, or non-renewal.

Upon reconsideration, the decision of the school board to grant or deny a public charter school application or to revoke or fail to renew a charter agreement is final and not subject to appeal. Following a decision to deny a public charter school application or to revoke or fail to renew a charter agreement, the School Board submits documentation to the Board of Education as to the rationale for the School Board's decision. The Board of Education has no authority to grant or deny a public charter school application or to revoke or fail to renew a charter agreement but may communicate any Board finding relating to the rationale for the School Board's denial of the public charter school application or revocation of or failure to renew the charter agreement based on the documentation submitted in any school division in which at least half of the schools receive funding pursuant to Title I, Part A.

Nothing in this policy prohibits an applicant whose application has been denied or a grantee whose charter has been revoked or not renewed from submitting a new application.

### **Charter Contract**

Within 90 days of approval of a charter application, the School Board and the management committee of the approved public charter school shall execute a charter contract that clearly sets forth (i) the academic and operational performance expectations and measures by which the public charter school will be judged and (ii) the administrative relationship between the School Board and public charter school, including each party's rights and duties. The 90-day period may be extended by up to 30 days by mutual agreement of the parties. Such performance expectations and measures shall include applicable federal and state accountability requirements and may be refined or amended by mutual agreement after the public charter school has collected baseline achievement data for its enrolled students.

The academic and operational performance expectations and measures in the charter contract shall be based on a performance framework that clearly sets forth the academic and operational performance indicators, measures and metrics that will guide the School Board's evaluations of the public charter school. The performance framework shall include indicators, measures and metrics for:

- student academic proficiency;
- student academic growth;
- achievement gaps in both proficiency and growth between the major student subgroups based on gender, race, poverty status, special education status, English language learner status and gifted status;
- attendance;
- recurrent annual enrollment;
- postsecondary education readiness of high school students;
- financial performance and sustainability; and
- the performance and stewardship of the management committee, including compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and terms of the charter contract.

The performance framework shall allow the inclusion of additional rigorous, valid and reliable indicators proposed by the charter school to augment external evaluations of its performance, provided that the School Board approves the quality and rigor of such indicators.

The performance framework shall require the disaggregation of all student performance data by major student subgroups based on gender, race, poverty status, special education status, English language learner status and gifted status.

Annual performance targets shall be set by the public charter school and the School Board and shall be designed to help each school meet applicable federal, state and School Board expectations.

The charter contract shall be signed by the chairman of the School Board and the president or chairman of the public charter school's management committee. Within 10 days of

executing a charter contract, the School Board shall submit to the Board written notification of the charter contract execution, including a copy of the executed charter contract and any attachments.

No public charter school shall commence operations without a charter contract executed in accordance with this policy and approved in an open meeting of the School Board.

### **Waivers of School Board Policy and State Regulation**

A charter school may operate free from School Board policies and state regulations, except the Standards of Quality, the Standards of Accreditation and Standards of Learning, as agreed in the charter contract. The School Board shall request from the Board of Education, on behalf of its charter schools, waivers from state regulation contained in each approved charter application. If the charter school is designed to increase the opportunities of at-risk students, then the School Board shall request that the Board of Education approve an Individual School Accreditation Plan.

### **Management and Operation**

A charter school shall be administered and operated by a management committee in the manner agreed to in the charter contract. The management committee shall be composed of parents of students enrolled in the school, teachers and administrators working in the school and representatives of any community sponsors, or any combination thereof. A charter school shall be responsible for its own operations. However, a charter school may negotiate and contract with the School Board, or any other third party, for the provision of necessary services; services provided by the School Board must be provided at cost.

The applicant and members of the management committee, administrators, and other personnel serving in a public charter school must disclose any ownership or financial interest they may have in renovating, lending, granting, or leasing public charter school facilities.

### **Personnel**

Charter school personnel shall be selected as agreed in the charter contract. Such personnel may, but are not required, to be employees of the School Board. However, all charter school personnel shall be subject to the provisions of Virginia Code §§ 22.1-296.1, 22.1-296.2, and 22.1-296.4.

Professional, licensed employees currently employed by the School Board may volunteer for assignment to a charter school and may be assigned by the School Board to a charter school for one contract year and reassigned annually upon the request of the employee and management committee. Professional, licensed employees assigned to a charter school shall receive the same employment benefits as such personnel assigned to non-charter schools. Professional, licensed personnel who request assignment to a non-charter school or who are not recommended for reassignment in the charter school, other than for reasons cited in § 22.1-307 of the Code of Virginia, shall be transferred to a non-charter school according to School Board policy.

The School Board may employ health, mental health, social services and other related personnel to serve in residential charter schools for at-risk students as determined in the charter

agreement. However, the School Board is not required to fund the residential or other services provided by a residential charter school.

The School Board has the final authority to assign professional, licensed personnel to charter or other schools within the division.

## **Funding**

Charter schools shall be funded as provided by law and negotiated in the charter contract.

## **Revocation and Renewal of the Charter Contract**

The School Board may revoke a charter contract if:

- the charter school violates the conditions, standards or procedures established in the application;
- the charter school violates a material term of the charter contract (for example: failing to provide required reports to the School Board);
- the charter school fails to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or student performance standards identified in the charter application;
- the charter school fails to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management;
- the charter school violates any provision of law from which the public charter school was not specifically exempted.

A charter contract may be renewed for up to five years. The management committee must apply to renew the charter by one year before the charter expires.

The application for renewal shall contain:

- a report on the progress of the charter school in achieving the goals, objectives, program and performance standards for students and other conditions and terms the School Board required in the charter;
- a financial statement, on forms prescribed by the Board of Education, disclosing the costs of administration, instruction and other spending categories which is written in a way to allow the School Board and the public to compare such costs to the costs of other schools and comparable organizations; and
- other information the School Board may require.

If a charter contract is revoked or not renewed, or a charter school is dissolved, the management committee shall be responsible for all financial obligations of the charter school.

## **Reports**

The School Board reports the following to the Board of Education:

- the grant or denial of charter applications, applications for renewal, and the revocation of any charter contract. For any such denial revocation or failure to renew, the report to the Board of Education shall contain documentation as to the reason for the denial or revocation;



- whether a public charter school is designed to increase the educational opportunities of at-risk students.

The Board of Education will report the number of public charter schools established in Virginia, and the number of charters denied, in its annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Approved: May 26, 1998 Amended: June 29, 1999; June 18, 2002; April 22, 2003; March 22, 2005; June 14, 2005; July 27, 2010; November 16, 2010; July 24, 2012; September 24, 2013; July 21, 2014; November 18, 2014; July 26, 2016; July 25, 2017; August 27, 2019; August 25, 2020.

Legal Ref: 20 U.S.C. § 6311(b)(1)(B).

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-3, 22.1-212.5 et seq.

Cross Refs:	KBA	Requests for Public Records
	KBA-F1	Request for Public Records
	KBA-F2	Record of Inspection and/or Delivery of Copies
	KBA-R	Requests for Public Records
	LC-E	[School Division] Charter School Application Addendum

## COLONIAL HEIGHTS CITY CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION ADDENDUM

Any person, group or organization may submit an application for the formation of a charter school. Applicants must follow state law and School Board policy regarding charter schools. A complete Colonial Heights City Charter School Application (“Application”) consists of (i) the Applicant’s *Virginia Public Charter School Application* package submitted to the State Board of Education, (ii) the result of the State Board of Education’s review of the Applicant’s state application, and (iii) the *Colonial Heights City Charter School Application Addendum* prepared in accordance with this policy. However, Charter School applications initiated by the Colonial Heights School Board are not required to receive Board of Education review and comment prior to action by the School Board.

Applications must be received by the **Superintendent** on or before **July 1st** prior to the year in which the charter school desires to open. An original plus **5** copies of the application must be submitted. An application fee of \$775.00 shall be submitted with the application. Applicants must follow the application addendum format provided below.

### **I. Goals and Objectives; Educational Program**

Provide a statement of the goals and objectives of the proposed public charter school. The following components must be addressed:

- A. A description of the performance-based goals. To the extent possible, the application should include the academic performance indicators, measures and metrics that will guide the BLANK School Board’s evaluations of the charter school and should include, at minimum:
  1. student academic proficiency;
  2. student academic growth;
  3. academic gaps in both proficiency and growth between major student subgroups;
  4. attendance;
  5. recurrent enrollment from year to year; and
  6. postsecondary readiness (for high schools).
- B. A description of the measurable educational objectives to be achieved by the public charter school.
- C. A description of the pupil performance standards and curriculum, which must meet or exceed any applicable Virginia Standards of Quality.
- D. A description of how the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) and the corresponding SOL Curriculum Framework will be used as the foundation for curricula to be implemented for each grade or course in the public charter school. Include within the description how the goals and objectives of the curricula will meet or exceed the Virginia Standards of Learning, address student performance standards

- related to state and federal assessment standards and include measurable outcomes.
- E. A description of any internal and external assessment to be used to measure pupil progress towards achievement of the school's pupil performance standards, in addition to the SOL assessments prescribed by Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:3.
  - F. A description of the public charter school assessment plan to obtain student performance data, which includes how the data will be used to monitor and improve achievement and how program effectiveness will be measured over a specified period of time. Also provide benchmark data on how student achievement will be measured and how these data will be established and documented in the first year of operation and how the data will be measured over each year of the term of the charter. The benchmark data should address targets for student improvement to be met in each year.
  - G. The timeline for achievement of pupil performance standards, in accordance with the Virginia SOL.
  - H. An explanation of the corrective actions to be taken in the event that pupil performance at the public charter school falls below the standards outlined in the Virginia Board of Education's *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*.
  - I. Information regarding the minimum and maximum enrollment per grade for each year during the term of the charter contract, as well as class size and structure for each grade served by the public charter school.
  - J. Information regarding the proposed calendar and a sample daily schedule, including any plans to open prior to Labor Day.
  - K. A description of plans for identifying and successfully serving students with disabilities, English Learners, academically at-risk students and gifted and talented students which include the extent of the involvement of the School Board in providing such services.
  - L. If applicable, the following components should be addressed:
    - 1. any plans to utilize virtual learning in the educational program, including identification of the virtual learning source and a description of how virtual learning will be used and an estimate of how many students are expected to participate.
    - 2. a general description of any alternative accreditation plans, in accordance with the Virginia Board of Education's *Regulations Establishing Standards for*

*Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8 VAC 20-131-420), that the public charter school will request the School Board to submit to the Virginia Board of Education for approval.

3. a general description of any alternative accreditation plan for serving students with disabilities, in accordance with the Virginia Board of Education's *Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia* that the public charter school will request the School Board to submit to the Virginia Board of Education for approval.

## **II. Evidence of Support**

Provide evidence that an adequate number of parents, teachers, pupils or any combination thereof, supports the formation of a public charter school. The following components must be addressed:

- Information and materials indicating how parents, the community and other stakeholders were involved in supporting the application for the public charter school.
- Tangible evidence of support for the public charter school from parents, teachers, students and residents, or any combination thereof, including but not limited to information regarding the number of persons and organizations involved in the process and petitions related to the establishment of the charter school.
- A description of how parental involvement will be used to support the education needs of the students, the school's mission and philosophy and its educational focus.

## **III. Statement of Need**

Describe the need for a public charter school in the school division or relevant part of the school division. The following components must be addressed:

- A statement of the need for a public charter school that describes the targeted school population to be served and the reasons for locating the school in its proposed location.
- An explanation of why the public charter school is being formed. (Is the school being formed at the requests of parents or community organizations? How was the need determined? What data were examined as part of the needs assessment? Briefly describe the need and include a summary of the quantitative data.)
- An explanation of why a public charter school is an appropriate vehicle to address the identified need.

## **IV. Applicant Information**

List the name, address, phone number and qualifications of the applicant(s) and designate an applicant contact person.

## **V. Facility**

Describe the facility(ies) to be used for the charter school or the plan for the acquisition

of a facility. The description should address

- how the facility provides suitable instructional space;
- provisions for library services;
- provisions for the safe administration and storage of student records;
- provisions for the safe administration and storage of student medications;
- the applicant's plan for complying with building and fire codes and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);
- information on emergency evacuation plans;
- information regarding site location and preparation;
- the structure of operation and maintenance services; and
- financial arrangements for the facility, including any lease arrangements with the School Board or other entities and whether any debt will be incurred.

If the facility is not property of the school division, then the following must be provided:

- a certificate of occupancy;
- a health inspection certificate;
- an annual fire certificate of inspection;
- proof of compliance with federal, state and local health and safety laws and regulations; and
- a copy of the lease or contract under which the charter school will use the facility.

If the facility is property of the school division, then describe plans, if any, for alteration or renovation.

## **VI. Enrollment Process**

Describe the enrollment process that is consistent with all federal and state laws and regulations and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination that are applicable to public schools and with any court-ordered desegregation plan in effect for the school division or, in the case of a regional public charter school, in effect for any of the relevant school divisions. The following components must be addressed:

- A description of the lottery process to be used for the establishment of a waiting list for students for whom space is not available.
- A description of a tailored admission policy that meets the specific mission or focus of the public charter school, if applicable.
- A timeline for when the lottery process will begin for the first academic year of enrollment and when parents will be notified of the outcome of the lottery process.
- A description of any enrollment-related policies and procedures that address special situations, such as the enrollment of siblings and children of faculty and founders and the enrollment of nonresident students, if applicable.
- An explanation of how the applicant will ensure that, consistent with the public charter school's mission and purpose, community outreach has been undertaken so that special populations are aware of the formation of the public charter school and that enrollment is open to all students residing in the school division where the public charter school is located or in school divisions participating in a regional charter school.

- A description of how the transfer of student records and other program information to and from the public charter school will be accomplished.
- A description of how students seeking enrollment after the school year begins will be accommodated.

In the case of the conversion of an existing public school, describe how students who attend the school and the siblings of such students shall be given the opportunity to enroll in advance of the lottery process.

## **VII. Employment Terms and Conditions**

Provide an explanation of the relationship that will exist between the proposed public charter school and its employees, including evidence that the terms and conditions of employment have been addressed with affected employees. At the discretion of the School Board, charter school personnel may be employees of the School Board, or Boards, granting the charter. Any personnel not employed by the School Board shall remain subject to the provisions of Va. Code §§ 22.1-296.1, 22.1-296.2, and 22.1-296.4. The following components must be addressed:

- A plan that addresses the qualification of teachers and administrators at the public charter school, including compliance with state law and regulation regarding Virginia Board of Education licensing requirements.
- A plan to provide high-quality professional development programs.
- Provisions for the evaluation of staff at regular intervals and in accordance with state law and regulation.
- Provisions for a human resource policy for the public charter school that is consistent with state and federal law.
- Notification to all school employees of the terms and conditions of employment.

## **VIII. Transportation**

Describe how the public charter school plans to meet the transportation needs of its pupils. The following components must be addressed:

- A. A description of how the transportation of students will be provided:
  1. by the local school division;
  2. by the public charter school;
  3. by the parent(s); or
  4. though a combination of these options.
  
- B. If transportation services will be provided by the public charter school, explain whether the school will contract for transportation with the School Board or with another entity or have its own means of transportation and indicate whether transportation will be provided to all students attending the school.
  
- C. A description of transportation services for students with disabilities in compliance with Va. Code § 22.1-221 and the Board of Education's *Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia*.

- D. A description of transportation services for students in foster care in compliance with federal law.

## **IX. Residential Charter Schools**

If the application is for a residential charter school for at-risk students, the following components must be addressed:

- A. A description of the residential program to include:
1. the educational program;
  2. a facilities description to include grounds, dormitories and staffing;
  3. a program for parental education and involvement;
  4. a description of after-care initiatives;
  5. the funding sources for the residential facility and other services provided;
  6. any counseling and other social services to be provided and their coordination with current state and local initiatives; and
  7. a description of enrichment activities available to students.
- B. A description of how the facility will be maintained including, but not limited to:
1. janitorial and regular maintenance services and
  2. security services to ensure the safety of students and staff.

## **X. Services to be Provided by the School Board**

List the services and their estimated costs that the applicant wishes the School Board to provide; for example, food service, payroll or conducting criminal background checks. Also, list services and their estimated costs that will be provided by others.

## **XI. Timeline**

Provide a detailed timeline, identifying each step required to establish the charter school, including, but not limited to, staff hiring, location and purchase of materials, implementing the evaluation plan, obtaining necessary services, opening an appropriate facility and consulting with experts, if necessary. **Please remember that, as with establishing Regional Vocational and Governor's Schools, it will take at least 8-12 months to implement the proposal.**

## **XII. Health and Safety**

Describe the procedures the charter school will implement to ensure the health and safety of the students and employees, including:

- how and if the management committee will conduct a state criminal record check on all employees;
- how the charter school will conduct fingerprinting and federal criminal record checks, if applicable;
- how the charter school will comply with the requirement to report child abuse; and
- how the charter school will comply with Occupational Safety & Health Act requirements.

**XIII. Indemnity**

Assure that the School Board will be defended, held harmless and indemnified against any claim, action, loss, damage, injury, liability, cost or expense of any kind as a result of the operation of the charter school or actions by its agents, employees, invitees or contractors.

**XIV. Renewal**

Assure that if the charter school wants to renew its contract, it shall apply at least six months prior to the expiration of the contract.

**XV. Displacement Plans: Pupils and Employees**

A. Describe the plan for the displacement of pupils, teachers and other employees who will not attend or be employed in the public charter school, in instances of the conversion of an existing public school to a public charter school, and for the placement of public charter school pupils, teachers and employees upon termination or revocation of the charter.

The following components must be addressed:

1. Identification of a member of the school's leadership who will serve as a single point of contact for all activities that may need to take place for the school to close, including but not limited to the transfer of students to another school, the management of student records and the settlement of financial obligations.
2. A notification process to parents/guardians of students attending the school and teachers and administrators of the closure date.
3. A notification process to parents/guardians of students attending the public charter school of alternative public school placements within a set time period from the date that the closure is announced.
4. Provisions for ensuring that student records are provided to the parent/guardian or another school identified by the parent or guardian within a set time period. If the student transfers to another school division, provisions for the transfer of the student's record to the school division to which the student transfers shall be made upon request of that school division.
5. Notification to the School Board of a list of all students in the school and the names of the schools to which these students will transfer.
6. A placement plan for school employees that details the assistance to be provided, if any, within a set period of time from the date of closure. For teachers and administrators, the plan of assistance should address finding employment with the school division where the public charter school is located or other public school divisions.
7. A close-out plan related to financial obligations and audits, the termination of contracts and leases, and the sale and/or disposition of assets within a set period of time from the date of closure. The plan shall include the disposition of the school records and financial accounts upon closure.

B. Describe the plan for the placement of students and employees if the charter school facility is destroyed (e.g. by flood or fire), or unable to be occupied or dissolved for any reason.



**XVI. Management and Operation**

Describe the management and operation of the charter school, including the nature and extent of parental, professional educator and community involvement. List the names and addresses and relevant experience of the proposed management committee. This section should include:

- a detailed description of the relationship between the management committee and the School Board, including the charter school spokesperson (i.e. who is accountable to the School Board);
- how the charter school will be accountable to the public, including a plan for compliance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act, the Virginia Public Records Act and reporting requirements;
- how the management committee is selected and its relationship to the teachers and administrators;
- a description of the rules and procedures followed to arrive at policy and operational decisions; and
- summaries of the job descriptions of key personnel, including the school leader/principal.

The following components must also be addressed:

A. An explanation of how support services will be funded and delivered. These services include, but are not limited to:

1. food services;
2. school health services;
3. custodial services;
4. extracurricular activities; and
5. security services

B. An explanation of any partnership or contractual relationships (education management organization, food services, school health services, custodial services, security services, etc.) central to the school's operations or mission, including information regarding the relationship of all contractors to the governing board of the public charter school, and information regarding how contractors and the employees of the contractors having direct contract with students will comply with Va. Code § 22.1-296.1.

C. Plans for recruiting and developing school leadership and staff.

**XVII. Financial Plan: Evidence of Economical Soundness, Proposed Budget and Annual Audit**

Provide a budget and any other information that illustrates the proposed charter school is economically sound for both the charter school and the school division. Include detailed sources of revenue and expenditures for the proposed term of the charter (at most five years) and a description of the manner in which an annual audit of the financial and administrative operations of the charter school, including any services provided by the school division, will be conducted.

Anticipated gifts, grants or donations and a student fee schedule should be included. The following components must also be included:

- Proposed start-up and three-year budgets with clearly stated assumptions and information regarding projected revenues and expenditures.
- Proposed start-up and three-year cash flow projections with clearly stated assumptions and indications of short- and long-term sources of revenue.
- A proposed funding agreement with the School Board including information regarding anticipated local, state and federal per-pupil-amounts to be received and any information pertaining to the maintenance of facilities. In accordance with Va. Code § 22.1-212.14, the per pupil funding provided to the charter school will be negotiated in the charter agreement and will be commensurate with the average school-based costs of educating the students in the existing schools in the division or divisions unless the cost of operating the charter school is less than that average school-based cost. To the extent discussions have been held with the school division, please describe the outcome of those discussions. If there have been no discussions to date, please indicate the reason.

### **XVIII. Legal Liability and Insurance Coverage**

Describe the proposed arrangement between the charter school and the School Board regarding their respective legal liability and applicable insurance coverage, including the types of insurance that will be obtained for the public charter school, its property, its employees, the charter school management committee and the School Board and its agents and the levels of insurance sought. Types of insurance include, but are not limited to,

- general liability;
- health;
- property;
- property and casualty (including vehicle coverage);
- officer and employee liability; and workers' compensation.

### **XIX. Disclosures**

Disclose ownership or financial interest in the public charter school by the charter applicant and the governing body, administrators, and other personnel of the proposed public charter school, and require that the applicant and the governing body, administrators, and other personnel of the public charter school shall have a continuing duty to disclose such interests during the term of the charter. The following components must be addressed:

- A description of how the applicant and members of the management committee will disclose any ownership or financial interest.
- Information regarding the frequency by which such disclosures will be made during the term of the charter.
- A description of ownership or financial interest of the applicant and/or members of the management committee in the proposed charter school. This includes any relationships that parties may have with vendors performing services at the school.

### **XX. Waivers**

Describe and justify any waiver from School Board policies and state regulations that the charter school requests. The Standards of Quality, and by reference the Standards of Accreditation and Standards of Learning, may not be waived. **Please note that state law only allows waivers of policy and regulation. No waiver of state statutes or federal statutes or regulations is permitted.**

**XXI. Discrimination**

Assure that the charter school will follow state and federal law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, national origin, religion, ancestry, or the need for special education services and shall be subject to any court-ordered desegregation plan in effect in the school division.

**XXII. Assurance**

By signing and submitting this application for a public charter school, the applicant expressly assures the School Board that if the application is approved by the School Board, the school leadership of the public charter school will be retained on contract no later than 60 days prior to the opening date of the school.

**XXIII. Signatures**

The Applicant hereby certifies that the information and assurances contained within the *Virginia Public Charter School Application* submitted on behalf of the proposed charter school to the Virginia Board of Education and the information contained in this *Public Charter School Application Addendum* is correct.

Name of Authorized Official:

Title:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Authorized Official:

Date:

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