

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

2007-2008



**CHESAPEAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA**



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
CITY OF CHESAPEAKE

301 ALBEMARLE DRIVE
SECOND FLOOR
CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA 23322-5501
(757) 382-8100
FAX (757) 382-8152

RUFUS A. BANKS, JR.
CHIEF JUDGE

EILEEN A. OLDS
JUDGE

LARRY D. WILLIS, SR.
JUDGE

LORRAINE C. THROCKMORTON
CLERK OF COURT

2007 - 2008 School Year

Dear Concerned Parent or Guardian:

This letter serves to advise you that the court takes very seriously any violation of our State's mandatory school attendance laws. As you know, your minor child is required to attend school; and you as the parent/guardian also have a legal duty and responsibility to comply with same. Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 22.1-254, *"every parent, guardian, or other person in the Commonwealth having control or charge of any child who will have reached the fifth birthday before September 30 of any school year and who has not passed the eighteenth birthday shall, during the period of each year the public schools are in session.....send such child to school....."*

If you or your child disregard that legal obligation, you are subject to criminal prosecution; and these types of cases are now handled routinely in the Chesapeake Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. Recently, we have undertaken a more aggressive docketing procedure to have such cases brought before the Court in a timely manner. We view this as a serious matter and such cases are addressed with appropriate consequences; which may include confinement in the Tidewater Detention Home for juveniles or the Chesapeake City Jail for adults.

As always, it is our goal to fairly administer justice. This letter is an attempt to guarantee that you have notice of your responsibilities under the law and to advise you that the Court has a dedicated docket to handle such cases as they may arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Olds".

Eileen A. Olds
Judge

dsw



Chesapeake Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

Post Office Box 16496
Chesapeake, Virginia 23328

August 2007

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The mission of our school system is "to ensure that students attain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to become lifelong learners and productive citizens by combining the efforts of students, parents, community, and staff to provide a quality education in a safe, orderly environment in which human dignity is valued." In striving to fulfill this mission, the Chesapeake School Board and the school administration have established the safety of students and staff as a top priority. The teachers and principals of your schools take very seriously their responsibility to keep our schools safe, secure, and free from violence. Because of this strong commitment and your parental involvement, our students have not had to worry about the disruptions that have plagued schools elsewhere in the country. With each new year, we have maintained our proud tradition of excellence. Our standards have been rigorous, and our students have enjoyed safe, comfortable learning conditions.

As we launch the 2007-2008 school year, I am once again asking you to support our efforts to maintain settings in which students feel emotionally and physically safe. There is no doubt that our school system has already taken important steps, such as the use of technology and additional security personnel, to keep our schools safe. We have also suggested ways in which parents can contribute to safe schools and communities. This year we will continue to promote school safety through various methods. The Chesapeake School Board will deal quickly and firmly with any incidents (1) that jeopardize the safety of students and staff or (2) that involve the use, possession, sale, or distribution of drugs or alcohol. In cases involving threats, assaults, or the possession or use of guns, look-alike weapons, other dangerous articles, drugs, or alcohol, students will be subject to severe disciplinary action, including expulsion.

I firmly believe that students are more likely to be successful in school when they receive support and direction at home. I also believe that school safety is everyone's responsibility. Please support our efforts by reminding your child that every student is responsible not only for abiding by the student conduct policy guidelines but also for helping us keep our schools safe. By working in partnership, we can ensure that your child continues to enjoy a secure environment which promotes academic success.

I wish for your son or daughter the most successful school year ever!

Sincerely,

W. Randolph Nichols
Superintendent

We Promote Excellence

*The Chesapeake Public School System is an equal educational opportunity school system.
The School Board of the City of Chesapeake also adheres to the principles of equal opportunity in employment and, therefore,
prohibits discrimination in terms and conditions of employment on the basis of race, sex, national origin, color, religion, age, or disability.*

STATEMENT TO THE PARENTS

The School Board believes that one of its most important goals is to provide a safe and comfortable learning environment for every student. One way to achieve this goal is to establish discipline policies that will assure good student behavior. We realize that most children behave appropriately; however, there are a few whose behavior sometimes interrupts the education of others. It is our hope that you will assist us in stressing to your child the need for good student behavior in the school.

This handbook presents guidelines and procedures for behavior and student conduct based on School Board policy. Please take time with your child to review these policies and to discuss the importance of proper conduct in school.

Your School Board appreciates your support in enforcing its discipline policies. With your cooperation, we believe we can provide our students with a learning environment that will promote academic and personal success.

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION OF THE PAGE TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF RECEIPT

We understand that the Chesapeake School Board is committed to provide each student a safe, comfortable, non-threatening environment that is conducive to learning. In order to achieve this, students must conduct themselves as responsible members of the school community.

We have read and discussed this pamphlet, **Student Conduct Policy Guidelines**, and we agree to abide by the guidelines outlined. We recognize that parents have a responsibility to assist the school in disciplining their children and maintaining order.

By signing this statement of receipt, parents shall not be deemed to waive, but to expressly reserve, their rights protected by the constitutions or laws of the United States or the Commonwealth. In addition, parents shall have the right to express disagreement with a school's or the school division's policies or decisions.

Student Name _____ Grade _____

School _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

Our society places great value upon the rights and responsibilities of each individual. Reflecting this emphasis, the School Board believes that one of its most important goals is to provide a safe and comfortable environment that is conducive to learning. Students, staff, and parents have a joint responsibility to provide this desired learning environment. Such an environment may be achieved through appropriate education, teamwork, policies, and disciplinary action.

This handbook is developed to make students aware of their responsibility for their own conduct. It also is developed to make students and parents aware of the consequences of behavior when it, in any way, interrupts or disrupts the educational process.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

The School Board, aware of its responsibility to provide each student a safe, comfortable, and non-threatening learning environment, has established a policy regarding student conduct. The School Board promotes student behavior that encourages students to become effective citizens of the school community. For students to grow and mature, they must accept the responsibilities and obligations of good citizenship which enable self-discipline, good health, reasonable standards of behavior, and a favorable atmosphere for learning. Students on school grounds or in places under school jurisdiction must abide by the rules established to achieve this goal.

Admission to a Chesapeake public school requires that students conduct themselves as responsible members of the school community. Discipline is based on mutual respect; thus, the School Board recognizes the need for parents, teachers, and administrators to work together to ensure that students, as they become aware of their rights, understand the responsible behavior which must accompany them. Students shall accept responsibility for their own conduct, obey the law, adhere to the policies of the school system, comply with regulations, safeguard the property of the school, and respect the rights and privileges of others in the school community. Propriety of conduct and good order in our schools are essential at all times.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents and guardians enrolling a student must provide the following:

- A sworn statement as to whether or not the student has been expelled or is under threat of expulsion for any offense including one involving drugs, weapons, or willful injury to someone else.
- A sworn statement as to whether or not the student has been found guilty of or adjudicated delinquent for any offense listed in subsection G of the Code of Virginia 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.

EDUCATION

✓ Right - Students have the right to a free and appropriate public education unimpaired because of gender, race, religion, national origin, disabling conditions, or intellectual ability. This public education right begins with kindergarten and extends through the twelfth grade and is guaranteed by the Constitution of Virginia.

✗ Responsibility - Students have the responsibility to attend school regularly, make a conscientious effort in classroom work, and conform to school rules and regulations. Students also have the responsibility to avoid actions or activities, individually or in groups, which shall interfere with the right of any other person to receive a public education.

ENVIRONMENT

✓ Right - Students have a right to a safe and orderly school and classroom environment which is conducive to learning.

✗ Responsibility - Students have the responsibility to ensure that their actions do not disrupt the classroom or school activities and that they abide by the laws of the United States, Virginia, and the City of Chesapeake, as well as the regulations and policies of the Chesapeake School Board and the individual school.

RESPECT

✓ Right - Students have a right to expect and receive courtesy, fairness, and respect from members of the school staff and other students.

✗ Responsibility - Students have the responsibility to respect the rights and authority of teachers, administrators, and all others included in the educational process. Students have a responsibility to respect each other.

PROPERTY

- ✓ Right - Students have a right to expect that other students and school personnel will respect their personal property.
- ✗ Responsibility - Students have the responsibility to respect the personal property rights of other students, teachers, and administrators as well as the public's property, including equipment, buses, and school buildings.

PARTICIPATION

- ✓ Right - Students who comply with all rules and regulations have a right to participate in school activities.
- ✗ Responsibility - Students have a responsibility to comply with all rules and regulations for student behavior at all school functions.

EXPRESSION

- ✓ Right - Students have the right to exercise freedom of expression, through appropriate channels, including the right to address policies publicly, privately, in writing, or orally. Students may advocate change in any law, policy, or regulation.
- ✗ Responsibility - Students have a responsibility to see that their expressions do not interfere with the educational program. Students have a responsibility not to use profane, obscene, slanderous, ethnically derogatory, or libelous statements; not to use disruptive tactics; and not to advocate violation of the law or school regulations.

APPEAL

- ✓ Right - Students and their parents have the right to appeal policies both publicly and privately, in writing and orally through appropriate channels. Students may advocate change in a law, policy, or regulation that is considered not to be in their best interest.
- ✗ Responsibility - Students and their parents who believe that conditions of the school or decisions made by staff members are not in their best interest and wish to appeal have the responsibility of presenting these complaints to the teacher or school administrator, who shall make himself/herself available or schedule an appointment to hear these complaints. If a student or a parent is not satisfied that a complaint previously presented has been resolved satisfactorily, a meeting may be requested with the student, parent, and principal. The student or the parent who continues to feel that the matter has not been resolved satisfactorily may contact the Office of Pupil Discipline.

MINUTE OF SILENCE

Students attending all Chesapeake Public Schools must adhere to a daily observation of one minute of silence. The teacher is to ensure that all pupils remain seated and silent and make no distracting display during the time. Students may meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity that does not interfere with other pupils.

1. A daily minute of silence shall occur in every classroom in the public schools of Virginia.
2. The teacher responsible for each classroom must take care that all pupils remain seated and silent, and make no distracting display during this time.
3. The student may, in the exercise of his or her individual choice, meditate, pray, or reflect or engage in any other silent activity which does not interfere with, distract, or impede other pupils in the like exercise of individual choice.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance will be recited in the schools and at many school activities. Students have the right to refrain from participation in the Pledge of Allegiance, but may not interfere with the rights of others to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SCHOOL BOARD POLICY MANUAL

The Department of Media Services at each school and at each Branch of the Chesapeake Public Library are required to keep an up-to-date copy of the School Board Policy Manual available for public use.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

At all times, on school grounds, while at bus stops, while en route to or from school, while attending school-sponsored activities, and while under the jurisdiction of the Chesapeake Public Schools, students are under school jurisdiction and are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, dignified, and respectful manner. In order to maintain a climate conducive to a safe and comfortable education, discipline policies require that students who violate standards be referred for disciplinary action. Disciplinary procedures for disruptive student behavior may require action by the teacher, assistant principal, principal, central office personnel, and/or the School Board.

The teacher's authority extends to all students, whether or not the teacher teaches the student in class. Action taken by a teacher may include, but is not limited to:

- A. *Warning/Reprimand*
- B. *Phone Call*
- C. *Detention*
- D. *Conference*
- E. *Referral*

A discipline referral should be sent to the assistant principal or principal when the teacher feels the behavior cannot be corrected through the teacher's classroom management procedures. After providing due process, the administrator will determine the appropriate course of action required to provide a safe, comfortable, and conducive learning environment. Action taken by an administrator may include, but is not limited to:

- A. *Warning/Reprimand*
- B. *Phone Call*
- C. *Conference*
- D. *Detention*
- E. *In-School Suspension*
- F. *Out-of-School Suspension*
- G. *Alternative Placement*
- H. *Recommendation for Long-Term Suspension*
- I. *Recommendation for Expulsion*

When a student is suspended from school, the principal or assistant principal will notify the parent in writing of the reason for the suspension and the date(s) of the suspension. A suspension ordinarily will be for a definite number of school days. However, in some instances, the terminal date will be indeterminate, dependent upon actions such as the completion of an investigation, attendance of a parent at a conference, or action by the superintendent, his designee, or the School Board.

A student who is suspended is denied access to all school premises except with permission of the principal. A student who violates this provision shall be referred to the proper law enforcement agencies.

Student disciplinary files (suspensions and expulsions) are part of the scholastic record and must be forwarded to any other school division to which the student transfers.

Please note that certain activities which do not occur while the student is under the jurisdiction of the Chesapeake Public Schools, but which reasonably may be expected to pose a danger to the health or safety of students or school personnel, or disrupt the school environment, may be subject to disciplinary actions. Such misconduct may result in placement in an alternative education program or disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

PROCEDURAL DUE PROCESS IN STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Principals know the importance of fairness in the administration of student discipline. Discipline is most effective when it is "firm and fair," and the administration strives to achieve that standard, even when it is impossible to obtain consensus among teachers, students, and parents.

Due Process requires that the student be given oral or written notice of the charges against him/her; an explanation of the evidence the administration has; and an opportunity to present his/her side of the story.

The parent of a suspended student may initiate an appeal and review of the suspension to the superintendent and/or his designee, and, if not satisfied, may submit a written appeal of this decision to the School Board.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

School administrators have the authority to search a student, a student's personal property, a student's vehicle, and/or a student's locker when a reasonable suspicion exists that prohibited, illegal, stolen, or dangerous articles are contained on a student, in a student's property, or in the locker assigned to a student. School officials may seize any illegal or unauthorized articles discovered in the search. Unauthorized articles may be defined as any items dangerous to the health or safety of students or school personnel, or disruptive of any lawful function, mission, or process of school, or any items described as unauthorized by individual schools. If illegal substances or objects are found in a search, law enforcement officers shall be notified.

PLACEMENT OF CERTAIN STUDENTS IN ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Students involved in violent behavior or other inappropriate behaviors within or outside the school may be identified to school officials. A student who has been charged with, or who has been found guilty or not innocent of identified crimes may be required to attend an alternative education program. These crimes and activities include, but are not limited to: weapons, alcohol or drugs, or intentional injury to others. The School Board has this authority regardless of where the incident occurred.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal punishment may not be used as a means of discipline. However, this does not prevent teachers and principals from using "reasonable and necessary force" to maintain order and control, remove a student from a disturbance which threatens physical injury to persons or property damage, prevent self-infliction of harm, defend oneself, or obtain possession of weapons, controlled substances, or paraphernalia.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR DISCIPLINING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities (including Section 504) may be suspended on a short-term basis of ten (10) school days or less following the same procedures applicable to students without disabilities. Such suspension does not constitute a change in placement. The student is subject to normal disciplinary procedures whether or not the behavior is a manifestation of the student's disability.

Additional procedural protections may need to be provided when a student with a disability is removed from class or school for more than ten (10) school days. A manifestation determination may be made to ascertain whether or not there is a direct relationship between the student's disability and the misconduct.

POLICE INTERROGATION

While a student is under the school's authority, law-enforcement officers shall be allowed to formally question a student who is a possible witness or who is a potential suspect in an incident provided that:

1. The parent or legal guardian of the child is contacted and has given permission for such questioning. When the parents or legal guardian cannot be contacted, the right of the student shall be protected by the presence of the principal or designee.
2. A private room is furnished for the questioning with the principal or designated representative present.
3. The principal or designated representative maintains information derived from the questioning in strict confidence unless law-enforcement procedures shall require otherwise.

THE YOUTH SERVICES OFFICER PROGRAM

The goal of the Youth Services Officer (YSO) Program is to improve cooperation between the police and schools in preventing delinquency and crime. The duties of a YSO are to: act as an advisor to students apart from or in conjunction with school personnel; maintain contact with parents/guardians of students exhibiting antisocial behavioral patterns; solicit assistance from parents/guardians in maintaining avenues of communication; act as an instructor before various schools, groups, and classes, explaining the reasons for pertinent laws, their meaning, consequences of violations, and the police function; make appearances before various community organizations to demonstrate police concern with the prevention of delinquency; and work with school personnel and the law enforcement agencies of the community in bridging the gap that often impedes the efforts of all organizations in effectively carrying out mutual responsibilities to the youth of the area. A YSO Handbook is available in each middle and secondary school. Written guidelines indicate that the YSO does not assume authority in matters of student discipline when it involves school policies governing behavior. In matters which constitute both a violation of school rules and regulations as well as law violations, however, the YSO may investigate and charge for the law violations.

EXPECTATIONS OF CONDUCT AND SANCTION FOR VIOLATIONS

The School Board believes that one of its most important goals is to provide a safe and comfortable learning environment for every student. One way to achieve this goal is to establish discipline policies that will assure appropriate student behavior. It is impossible for teaching or learning to take place in a classroom unless order is maintained. The following list of offenses includes only the most common infractions of school rules; however, no misconduct will be permitted. School officials are authorized to utilize any and all the disciplinary actions permitted by Virginia state law, including suspensions and expulsions. Consequences apply to offenses occurring on any Chesapeake Public School Board property, during any school-sponsored activity, on any Chesapeake public school bus, at a designated school bus stop, or while traveling to or from school.

Certain activities which do not occur while the student is under the authority of the Chesapeake Public Schools, but which may be reasonably expected to pose a danger to the health and safety of students or school personnel or to disrupt the school environment, may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

I. **Offense: Assault and/or Battery**

Explanation: Students are prohibited from verbally and/or physically assaulting and/or battering other students, school visitors, or members of the school staff. Any student who threatens or commits an assault and/or battery against another student shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

Any student who threatens or commits an assault and/or battery against a school visitor or a staff member shall be expelled for a minimum of one year.

Any collection of people, assembled for the purpose and with the intention of committing an assault and/or battery upon any person or an act of violence without authority of law, shall be deemed a "mob." Any and every person composing a mob which commits an act of violence shall be guilty of that act of violence and shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

In all such cases, the proper law enforcement officials shall be notified and appropriate charges may be filed.

II. **Offense: Bomb Threats, False Fire Alarms, Smoke Bombs, and Fireworks**

Explanation: BOMB THREATS - Any student who communicates, by any means, a threat to bomb, burn, destroy, or damage a school building or school property in any manner, any place of assembly, any building or structure, or any means of transportation will be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension and/or expulsion.

FALSE ALARMS - Any student who pulls a false fire alarm or otherwise communicates false information to another about the existence of any danger of bombing, burning, destruction, or damage to the school building or property, a place of assembly, any building or structure or means of transportation and the person knows that the information is false will be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension and/or expulsion.

SMOKE BOMBS - Any student who possesses, willfully and intentionally sets off, or causes to be set off any chemical bomb capable of producing smoke in the school building, on school property, or in any building used for public assembly or regularly used by the public will be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension and/or expulsion.

FIREWORKS - Any student who possesses, transports, manufactures, stores, sells, offers for sale, exposes for sale, or buys, uses, ignites, or explodes any firecracker, torpedo, skyrocket, or other substance or thing, of whatever form or construction, that contains any explosive or inflammable compound or substance commonly known as fireworks will be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension and/or expulsion.

In all such cases, the proper law enforcement officials shall be notified and appropriate charges may be filed.

III. **Offense: Bullying**

Explanation: While bullying can involve a single, severe behavior, bullying is usually defined as repeated negative behaviors intended to frighten or cause harm that may include, but are not limited to, verbal or written threats or physical harm. Examples of bullying include, but are not limited to:

1. Physical intimidation, taunting, name calling, and insults;
2. Comments regarding the race, gender, religion, physical abilities, or characteristics of a person or his associates;
3. False statements about other persons.

Chesapeake Public Schools will not tolerate any type of bullying. Students engaging in bullying behaviors will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension and/or a recommendation for expulsion. Incidents in which the behavior is believed to constitute criminal activity will also be referred to the proper law enforcement officials and appropriate charges may be filed.

IV. **Offense: Sexual Harassment/Harassment Based on Race, Disability, National Origin, Age, and Religion**

Explanation: Chesapeake Public Schools is committed to maintaining a learning/working environment free from sexual harassment and harassment based on race, national origin, age, disability, or religion. Therefore, Chesapeake Public Schools prohibits sexual harassment and harassment based on race, national origin, age, disability, or religion of students or school personnel at school or any school-sponsored activity. Such misconduct may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal of employees or expulsion of students.

V. **Offense: Destroying or Defacing School Property**

Explanation: If a student deliberately damages, destroys, defaces, or carries away school property, the student and his parent or guardian shall be required to pay for damages and may be prosecuted in accordance with state law. Such misconduct may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from school.

VI. **Offense: Disruptive Behavior**

Explanation: Students who violate standards of behavior are to be referred for disciplinary actions. Conduct which will constitute cause for discipline by school officials shall include, but is not limited to:

1. Disruptions to the educational process or to the orderly atmosphere for learning
2. Repeated failure to comply with directions of teachers or other authorized school personnel
3. Obscene actions, the use of obscene words or gestures, the use of profanity, or the use of ethnically derogatory statements or gestures
4. Participation in or commission of any criminal act

VII. **Offense: Fighting**

Explanation: Fighting is defined as mutual participation in an incident involving actual or threatened physical aggression or violence, regardless of whether any participant is injured as a result or which student actually initiated the physical contact. Students are prohibited from fighting of any kind while under the authority of the Chesapeake Public Schools. Students involved in fighting shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

Where appropriate, the proper law enforcement officials shall be notified and appropriate charges may be filed.

VIII. **Offense: Gang-Related Activity**

Explanation: Students are prohibited from involvement in any gang-related activity during the time that they are under the jurisdiction of Chesapeake Public Schools. Such activities may include, but are not limited to the display of symbols of gang membership (i.e., clothing, jewelry, or other accessories that symbolize gang membership or affiliation), recruitment of or invitation to other students to join or otherwise affiliate themselves with gangs, gang-related violence, or gang-related vandalism (including graffiti). Students who are involved in gang-related activities shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

IX. **Offense: Hazing**

Explanation: Hazing means to recklessly and intentionally endanger the health or safety of a student or students or to inflict bodily harm on a student or students in connection with or for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a club, organization, association, fraternity, sorority, team, or student body, regardless of whether the student or students so endangered or injured participated voluntarily in the activity. Students who are involved in any form of hazing shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

In addition to any disciplinary consequences that are imposed by the School Board, under provisions of Section 18.2-56 of the Code of Virginia, hazing is a Class 1 misdemeanor punishable by confinement in jail for up to twelve (12) months, a fine of up to \$2,500.00, or both. Such code provision also states that any person receiving bodily injury by hazing shall have a right to sue, civilly, the person or persons guilty thereof, whether adult or minor.

X. **Offense: Irregular School Attendance**

Explanation: The Code of Virginia requires Compulsory Attendance.

Teachers and principals shall require students to be regular and punctual in attendance. Regular school attendance and being on time to school and each class is important in the academic development of the students. Excessive or unexcused absence from school is harmful to such development. Parents of students who accumulate five (5) unexcused absences are required to meet with the school administration to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan for the student. At six (6) unexcused absences, a determination will be made if outside help sources can provide assistance. At seven (7) unexcused absences, students will be referred to court services. (Code of Virginia 22.1-258)

To receive credit for courses using traditional class schedules, a student shall not miss more than 30 days for a full-year course and not more than 15 days for a semester course, unless extenuating circumstances, such as a long illness, that would affect the student's school attendance are established. To receive credit for courses using the 4 x 4 block schedule, a student shall not miss more than 9 days for a course unless extenuating circumstances are established. The principal shall be the judge of extenuating circumstances.

Sickness of a student, medical appointments, severe illness or death in the family, exposure to contagious disease, religious holidays, or extenuating circumstances such as fire, accident, or extremely inclement weather shall be considered the only legitimate excuses for absence or tardiness unless an exception is authorized by the principal. In all cases of absence or tardiness, the parent or guardian shall give an excuse, in writing, stating the cause of the absence or tardiness. Absences for any reason other than those stated above must be with the advance permission of the principal or his or her representative. Such requests must be made in writing stating the reason for and time of absence.

The Code of Virginia establishes drug-free school zones to include school bus stops or public property or any private property open to public use which is within 1,000 feet of such school bus stops, during the time when school children are waiting to be picked up and transported to or are being dropped off from school or a school-sponsored activity.

XI. Offense: Sale or Distribution of Alcohol, Drugs, and Drug Paraphernalia or Bringing Drugs to School or to a School-Sponsored Activity

Explanation: Students will not give, sell, distribute, or possess with the intent to give, sell, or distribute on school property or at school-sponsored activities alcoholic beverages of any kind, marijuana, anabolic steroids, other controlled substances as defined in the Code of Virginia, 18.2-247 et. seq., drug paraphernalia, or imitation controlled substances. As used in this policy, drug paraphernalia will mean those items described in 18.2-265.1 of the Code of Virginia. As used herein, imitation controlled substances will mean a pill, capsule, tablet, or other item which is not a controlled substance, an alcoholic beverage, or marijuana, but which by overall dosage, unit appearance, including color, shape, size, marking, or packaging, or by representations made, is intended to lead or would lead a reasonable person to believe that such a pill, capsule, tablet, or other item is a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or marijuana. Students will not bring a controlled substance or marijuana to school or school-sponsored activities.

The principal shall suspend the student from school pending a hearing and shall refer the student to the Office of Pupil Discipline with the recommendation that the student be expelled.

In all such cases, the proper law enforcement officials shall be notified and appropriate charges may be filed.

XII. Offense: Possession or Use of Alcohol, Drugs, Drug Paraphernalia, or Imitation Controlled Substances

Explanation: Students will not use, be under the influence of, or have in their possession on school property or at school-sponsored activities, alcoholic beverages, marijuana, anabolic steroids, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, or imitation controlled substances (as defined in the Code of Virginia 18.2-247 et. seq.).

For the first offense, the principal shall suspend a student for a minimum of five days and shall refer the student to the Office of Pupil Discipline. Such referral shall include the recommendation that the student remain suspended until written proof is provided to the Office of Pupil Discipline indicating that the student has scheduled a substance abuse assessment by a licensed public or private substance abuse agency/counselor approved by Chesapeake Public Schools. It shall be the responsibility of the parent, legal guardian, or student if emancipated or 18 years of age, to provide the Office of Pupil Discipline, at intervals determined by the Department, with evidence of compliance with the recommendations of the assessment.

A list of licensed public and private substance abuse agencies/counselors shall be distributed to affected families. The cost of assessment, treatment, or counseling shall be the responsibility of the parent, legal guardian, or emancipated student.

In extenuating circumstances in which the student is considered to represent a threat to self or others or where the conduct would result in school disruption, a first offense may also result in a recommendation for expulsion.

For a second offense, the principal shall suspend the student from school pending a hearing and shall refer the student to the Office of Pupil Discipline with the recommendation that the student be expelled.

In all such cases, the proper law enforcement officials shall be notified and appropriate charges may be filed.

XIII. Offense: Possession of "Beepers," Tape Recorders, Compact Discs Players, Video-Cameras, Record Players, Radios, Cellular Telephones, or any Other Unauthorized Portable Communication / Electronic Devices

Explanation: Students shall not possess, use, or carry on their person, beepers, cellular telephones, or other portable communication devices during the school day.

XIV. Offense: Possession or Use of Guns

Explanation: Any student possessing, handling, or brandishing a gun of any type while under the jurisdiction of Chesapeake Public Schools or while on any school-owned or leased real property and/or vehicle operated by or on behalf of the School Board has violated both state and federal law, and criminal prosecution will most certainly be severe. Additionally, the School Board will move to expel the student from the school system.

Guns may include but are not limited to pistols, shotguns, rifles, BB guns, and pellet guns. Students possessing a look-alike or toy gun will be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension and/or a recommendation for expulsion.

In all such cases, the proper law enforcement officials shall be notified and appropriate charges may be filed.

XV. Offense: Possession or Use of Weapons and/or Dangerous Articles

Explanation: Any student while under the jurisdiction of Chesapeake Public Schools who possesses, handles, or brandishes any weapon or object that may be used as a weapon has violated Chesapeake School Board policy. These items may include but are not limited to stun guns, lasers, laser pointers, knives, or similar objects. The student will be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension and/or a recommendation for expulsion.

In all such cases, the proper law enforcement officials shall be notified and appropriate charges may be filed.

XVI. Offense: Possession or Use of Tobacco or Tobacco Products

Explanation: The use or possession of tobacco or tobacco products by students on school grounds is prohibited and will be punishable by suspension from school.

XVII. Offense: Student Dress

Explanation: The Chesapeake School Board expects all students to dress in a manner appropriate for the promotion of learning. Student appearance shall not be disrespectful, indecent, dangerous to the health and welfare of students, or disruptive to the school environment. Each school shall be responsible for disseminating dress code information annually in accordance with regulations established by the superintendent.

1. Students will not be allowed to wear inappropriate clothes, jewelry, or other apparel or personal belongings that advocate violence, alcohol, and other drug use and/or distribution; that represent gang activity and/or membership; that use obscenities; or that reflect adversely on persons due to race, gender, creed, or intellectual abilities, or that contain inappropriate innuendos.
2. Students who wear revealing attire (such as see-through shirts) may be removed from school.
3. Hats may not be worn in school buildings.
4. For reasons of health and safety, all students are required to wear appropriate shoes when on school property.
5. Students whose dress is considered contrary to good hygiene, distracting to other students, or in any way disruptive to the learning process will be required to meet the school standards.
6. Prior to the end of the first month of each school year, each local school will make available to parents and students school dress code standards.

XVIII. Offense: Threats and Incitement

Explanation: Any student who threatens or incites another to threaten injury to a person or damage to school property whether the threat is made on or off school property shall be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion.

In all such cases, the proper law enforcement officials shall be notified and appropriate charges may be filed.

XIX. Offense: Violation of Driving and Parking Rules

Explanation: Any automobile, truck, or motorcycle which is driven to school by a student and parked on school property must be registered with the school principal. Upon arrival at school, the student driver must park the car in the designated student parking area, lock it, and leave it immediately. The area designated for student parking will be off limits at all times, except to students who are arriving and departing. The student who violates these regulations will be subject to disciplinary action including loss of parking privilege on school property and possible referral to law enforcement authorities. It is a privilege to drive a vehicle to school, and this privilege will be denied those students who violate the rules or cause a safety problem.

Discrimination Policy

All members of the Chesapeake Public School community are reminded that the Chesapeake City School Board and all Chesapeake Public Schools are committed to avoiding discrimination at all times. As School Board Policy 3-6 indicates;

The school board is committed to the principle of equal opportunity for all and shall not permit unfair discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. This principle shall apply to students, employees, patrons, vendors, and all others who serve or are served by the school system . . .

This requirement extends to all aspects of the school program, including the educational and extracurricular programs.

Procedures for seeking resolution of grievances resulting from alleged discrimination are available from the Title IX coordinator, Mr. Wayne B. Martin at:

312 Cedar Road
P.O. Box 16496
Chesapeake, VA 23328
757-547-0585

Section 504

Should you have any questions concerning the application of Section 504, please direct them to the school division's Section 504 Coordinator; Mr. Wayne B. Martin at:

312 Cedar Road
P.O. Box 16496
Chesapeake, VA 23328
757-547-0585

Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry

During the 2006 session of the General Assembly, the Code of Virginia was amended to require that "Local school boards shall develop and implement policies to advise the parent of each student enrolled in the school division of the availability of information in the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry and the location of the Internet website."

Parents can access the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry at <http://sex-offender.vsp.state.va.us/static/cnregistration.htm>

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Effective with the ninth grade class of 2007-2008 (class of 2011), the determination of valedictorian and salutatorian is made based on the weighted grade point average at the end of the second semester of the senior year.

Security/Surveillance Cameras

Security/Surveillance cameras are installed in each Chesapeake public school to promote safety and monitor student behavior and illegal or illicit activity. While they record activity in certain areas of the school building and grounds, these cameras do not cover all areas and are not constantly monitored.

Video footage contained on these tapes can only be viewed by school personnel who have a specific need to do so. It is a violation of students' FERPA rights (see "Rights Regarding Student Records" - attachment) for parents or any other individual to view security tapes without a court issued subpoena.

PHYSICIAN PRESCRIBED AND OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATION INFORMATION

Because of the dangers of misuse of drugs, we attempt to discourage administration of medication during school hours and, whenever possible, request that doses of medication be scheduled at times other than school hours. We recognize that this is not always possible and will cooperate in the administration of medication that must be given during school hours. In order to undertake this, these regulations are required:

1. A physician's written order and parent/guardian authorization are required for medication to be administered to a student.
2. A medication order form (CS-405) completed by the physician and parent is required for a student to be administered medication at school. The parent can obtain the form from the school principal or nurse. The physician provides information detailing the name of the medication, dosage, time interval, possible side effects, duration of order, and the medical condition for which medication is prescribed.
3. Requests for changes in the dosage must be authorized by the physician.
4. Each school year a new medication order form has to be provided for the current year.
5. For the safety and welfare of all students, medication cannot be brought to school by the student. The medication must be delivered in a container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy or physician to the principal or school nurse by the parent/guardian or another adult designated by the parent.
6. The medication will be kept in a locked area of the school clinic and dispensed as prescribed by the physician.
7. Additional information regarding students needing inhaled medication for asthma and for self-administered auto-injectable epinephrine is available through the school nurse.
8. Over-the-counter medication will be given only if prescribed by a physician. Over-the-counter medication has the potential for adverse side effects; therefore, the same regulations as for prescription medication must be met. In addition, over-the-counter medication must be delivered to the school in an unopened container.
9. Prescribed medication that has been discontinued by the student's physician must be picked up by the parent within two (2) weeks. All medication that has not been given at the end of the school year shall be picked up by the parent by the last day of school, or that medication will be destroyed.

Incidents resulting from failure to use medications as indicated by instructions given by the physician or packaging, which leads to a danger to student safety, may subject the student to disciplinary actions which may include suspension and/or a recommendation for expulsion.

Scoliosis Screenings

Just What is Scoliosis?

Everyone's spine has natural curves. These curves round our shoulders and make our lower back curve slightly inward. Some people have spines that also curve from side to side. These curves cannot be corrected simply by learning to stand up straight. This condition of side-to-side spinal curves is called scoliosis.

Scoliosis affects a small percentage of the population. The cause is virtually unknown, usually developing in middle or late childhood. School screenings help inform parents about the presence of warning signs such as uneven shoulders, prominent shoulder blades, uneven waist, elevated hips, or leaning to one side for example. **Early detection** is important so a student's pediatrician or physician can monitor curve progression. **Only a physician** can accurately diagnose scoliosis. Early detection is most important for successful treatment. The goal of the treatment is to stop the deformity. If left untreated scoliosis can cause problems with heart and lung functions. Treatment of scoliosis, once diagnosed, depends upon the cause and severity of the deformity. Treatment may include close observations, exercise, bracing, electrical stimulation, surgery or a combination of these.

The screening procedures for scoliosis are simple. It is a postural screening process of assessment and evaluation used to identify students with spinal deviation at an early stage of development and to refer students for a medical evaluation. Screeners who have been trained will look at the child's back while he/she stands and then bends forward, looking to see if any signs are present or they may use a Scoliometer, a device for measuring the amount of abnormal curvature in the spine.

Chesapeake Public Schools through the Health Services Department offers a Scoliosis Screening Program at no cost to the parent. This program is currently offered in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Scoliosis screening is only done with parent/guardian permission.

Additional information on scoliosis can be obtained from your family physician and the school nurse.

Tdap Immunization Requirement for 6th Graders

The Code of Virginia, 32.1-46, requires all rising 6th graders to have a booster dose of pertussis-containing vaccine **prior to entering 6th grade**. This requirement does not apply to children who have documentation of having a dose of a tetanus containing vaccine {Tetanus (T), Tetanus Diphtheria (Td), Tetanus Diphtheria Acellular Pertussis (Tdap)} within the last five years. **Documentation is required to be submitted before first day of classes or the student may not attend class.** Please call the school nurse with any questions.

Acceptable Telecommunications and Internet Use Policy



Chesapeake Public Schools has adopted the following policy to ensure school-level compliance with procedures and guidelines concerning all telecommunication activities.

The purpose of accessing the Internet is to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the United States by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. All use of the Internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of Chesapeake Public Schools.

Privileges

Use of the Telecommunications Systems, including the Internet, is a privilege and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges.

Compliance

All students will comply with these guidelines and policies adopted, changed, or implemented from time to time by Chesapeake Public Schools. All users will abide by proper Network etiquette ("Netiquette"), electronic communication ethics and rules, and user responsibilities. Netiquette requires users to be polite, use only appropriate language at all times, work efficiently so others may use the equipment, and avoid using or revealing personal information, especially when this might embarrass or harm another person.

Consequences of Inappropriate Network Behavior

Repeated or severe infractions of the procedures and guidelines may result in termination of access privileges. Student infractions may result in appropriate disciplinary action in addition to suspension, termination of access privileges, or recommendation for expulsion. Unauthorized use of the network, intentional deletion or damage to files and data belonging to other users, or copyright violations may be termed theft. All users of Chesapeake Public Schools' telecommunication and computing resources are responsible for being aware of this policy. Violations of this policy that result in inappropriate or improper use of Chesapeake Public Schools' resources are subject to disciplinary action. Offenders may be prosecuted under the terms described in the Code of Virginia, [18.2-152.4](#). The Virginia Computer Crimes Act places penalties that range from a misdemeanor to a Class 6 felony for computer fraud, trespass, invasion of privacy, theft of services, forgery, or damage to computer data, networks, programs, or software. In all such cases, the proper law enforcement officials shall be notified and appropriate charges shall be filed.

REGULATIONS FOR PUPILS RIDING SCHOOL BUSES

TO: Parents and Guardians of Chesapeake Public Schools Children

FROM: Dr. W. Randolph Nichols, Superintendent of Schools



I am requesting your assistance in providing a SAFE and EFFICIENT transportation program for your child.

Please read the **Regulations for Pupils Riding School Buses** with your child. It is important that you and your child understand the regulations covering the conduct of your child when he/she rides a Chesapeake Public Schools bus. Please encourage your child to abide by these regulations in the interest of safety.

The school principal has the authority to discipline pupils attending public schools and riding buses to and from school. The principal also has the authority to suspend bus riding privileges to students who create disciplinary problems on the bus, posing a hazard to themselves, their fellow students, the bus driver, and the motoring public.

JUST A REMINDER, PLEASE STOP FOR SCHOOL BUSES LOADING OR UNLOADING STUDENTS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

GENERAL

These regulations are furnished for all pupils who ride Chesapeake Public Schools' buses on regular runs, field trips, or extracurricular trips. Parents or guardians and pupils should read this information, sign the appropriate form, and return it to the school principal.

MEETING THE BUS

Parents and guardians are encouraged to accompany primary and elementary-age students to and from bus stops.

Pupils Must:

- Be on time. Be at their bus stop at least five minutes before the regular pickup time, but no earlier than ten minutes before the bus arrives.
- Not stand on the traveled portion of the roadway while waiting for a bus.
- Not engage in play or activities that will endanger themselves or their companions while waiting beside the road.
- Watch for the bus driver's signal that it is safe to cross a highway or road. They should cross at least ten feet in front of the bus and never cross behind it.
- Respect the property of home owners in the area.
- Board the bus in an orderly fashion.
- Report immediately to the driver any illness or injury sustained on or around the bus.

CONDUCT ON THE BUS

Pupils Must:

- Recognize that the bus driver is the authority on the bus, obey the bus driver, and be courteous to him/her and to fellow students. The driver has the authority to assign seats, to maintain order and discipline, and to promote safety.
- Go directly to their assigned seats and remain seated unless directed by the driver to do otherwise.
- Not mar or deface the bus. Willful or careless damage must be paid for by the pupil performing the act.
- Not use profanity or indecent language.
- Not use tobacco.
- Not be in possession of drugs or alcohol.
- Not extend arms, legs, or head out of bus.
- Not talk to driver while bus is in motion except in an emergency.
- Not fight, scuffle, or slap others.
- Not tamper with the emergency door.
- Not wave or shout at pedestrians or passengers in other vehicles.
- Not throw objects in the bus or from a window or throw objects at the bus.
- Not carry on the bus oversized objects that would block the aisle, cause loss of passenger seat space, obstruct the driver's view, or create a safety hazard. Objects shall never be placed in the aisle or at the front of the bus on the floor.
- Not throw paper or litter on the floor.
- Not sell or consume food or beverages.

- Not engage in unnecessarily loud talking or laughter.
- Not open windows without permission from the driver.
- Not operate portable radios and/or other audio equipment including cell phones.
- Not sit on textbooks and other objects. Standing or sitting in the aisle is not permitted.
- Not have any unsafe objects (water pistols, animals, reptiles, insects, matches, knives, firearms, etc.) in their possession.
- Have written request from parents to go home on an alternate route, subject to approval of the school principal. Bus drivers must be notified by the school office when approval is given to a pupil to change a bus trip.
- Be aware that no change will be made in the location of bus stops or bus routing without the approval of the Transportation Office.
- Ride the bus to which assigned. No change in a bus may be made without the permission of the school principal and/or the transportation director.

LEAVING THE BUS

Parents, guardians, or adults designated should meet kindergarten students at the bus stop.

Pupils Must:

- Remain seated until the bus comes to a full stop. Leave the bus in an orderly manner; pupils in the front seats unload first.
- Leave the bus at their regular stops.
- Leave the bus stop area when safety permits as soon as discharged from the bus. If pupils must cross a highway, they are to do so only at the front of the bus and at a distance of at least 10 feet in front of the bus. Students must not cross until the driver has signaled that it is safe to do so.

These rules and regulations are for your information and your child's benefit. Bus drivers are instructed to report any infractions to the school principal.

Riding a school bus is a privilege. Should any child be referred to the school principal, the principal will be responsible for taking disciplinary action, including the loss of the privilege of bus transportation until appropriate disciplinary action is taken. Parents and guardians will be responsible for the transportation of any pupils who have lost school bus transportation privileges.

If we can be of any help to you with problems relative to the transportation of your child, please feel free to contact the school principal or Transportation Office. Your cooperation in the safe transportation of your child is appreciated.

TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

The Chesapeake Public School System is an equal educational opportunity school system. The School Board of the City of Chesapeake also adheres to the principles of equal opportunity in employment and, therefore, prohibits discrimination in terms and conditions of employment on the basis of race, sex, national origin, color, religion, age, or disability.

CS-580/R-06

PENALTIES FOR BEHAVIOR INFRACTIONS

After consideration of the circumstances surrounding the incident, the student's previous record, and the age and developmental stage of the student, disposition of the case may be selected from the following alternatives which are listed in alphabetical order:

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING - By School Board mandate, by the superintendent's directive, or at the principal's request, the student and parent may be required to attend a conference with a representative of the Office of Pupil Discipline before readmittance to school. At the conclusion of the conference, the representative notifies the school if this requirement is satisfactorily completed and the student is permitted back in school, subject to any additional probationary rules as stipulated at the administrative conference.

CONFISCATION - Any item prohibited by the Code of Virginia or School Board Policy will be removed from the student's possession.

COURT REFERRAL - In the case of a drug offense, assault, weapon possession, truancy, or other violation of the Code of Virginia, the student may be taken to court. Usually the youth services officer of the Chesapeake Police Department will be involved in filing the charges. The plaintiff may be either the school or the victim.

DETENTION - This is a method of discipline which may be employed by any teacher or administrator to keep a student before or after school, or during lunch (in which case students will receive lunch in an isolated, supervised area), or on Saturday in the hope of correcting the inappropriate behavior. Parents must be notified in advance of the detention.

EXPULSION - Expulsion is the denial of the right of a student to attend school or its functions because of disruptive behavior or behavior that presents a hazard to the safety and well-being of other students or school staff. Authority to expel a student is reserved for the School Board. Students may be expelled for sufficient cause.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES INTERVENTION - When a student experiences repeated problems in school, the school personnel may refer this student to instructional support services for intervention (e.g., child study committee, student assistance team, school counselor).

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES - In cases of all violations of the Code of Virginia, the youth services officer or other representative of the Chesapeake Police Department, Child Protective Services, and Juvenile Probation departments may be notified of the violation.

LOSS OF PRIVILEGE TO RIDE A SCHOOL BUS - An administrator may suspend a student from the privilege of riding a school bus in order to correct inappropriate behavior. If bus privileges are denied, the parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from school.

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT - The most effective persons in dealing with a discipline problem are the parents or guardians. Teachers, counselors, and administrators will contact the parents by phone, letter, or visit in an effort to keep parents informed of student conduct.

SCHOOL CONFERENCE WITH PARENT/GUARDIAN - Parents are encouraged to set up an appointment with any teacher, counselor, or administrator to discuss their child's progress or problems. In a time of suspension, a parent may be asked to come to the school to reinstate the student.

SUSPENSION - Three options will be available:

1. Long-term Suspension
The student will be sent home for eleven or more days with proper notification being made to the parent/guardian. The student is considered absent from school during the suspension. A suspended student is not permitted on any Chesapeake Public School property for any reason, including before and after-school activities.
2. Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
The student will be sent home for one to ten days with proper notification being made to the parent/guardian. The student is considered absent from school during the suspension. A suspended student must not return to school premises at any time during the term of suspension. The student is responsible for requesting and completing, in a timely manner determined by his/her teacher, all work missed.
3. In-School Suspension (ISS)
The student will be assigned to a detention room and ISS students will not communicate with other students in any manner. During ISS, a student is not considered absent from classes. The student is responsible for requesting and completing, in a timely manner determined by his/her teacher, all work missed.

Teacher Removal of Students from Class

Teachers shall have the initial authority to remove students from class for disruptive behavior. Disruptive behavior is defined as a violation of School Board regulations governing student conduct that interrupts or obstructs the learning environment. This policy shall not be construed to limit or restrict other School Board policies and regulations for maintaining order in the classroom.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Chesapeake School Board is required by law to provide parents notice of 16.1 - 241.2 & 22.1 - 279.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to parental responsibility and involvement requirements.

“Parent” or “parents” means any parent or guardian, legal custodian, or other person having control or charge of a child.

Each parent or parents, if both parents have legal and physical custody, of a student enrolled in a public school has a duty to assist the school in enforcing the standards of student conduct and attendance in order that education may be conducted in an atmosphere free of disruption and threat to persons and property, and supportive of individual rights.

Parents may, through appropriate channels, express disagreement with the manner in which the school's code of conduct has been implemented. Further, parents may exercise their right to appeal a suspension or expulsion as provided in School Board Policy and the Code of Virginia.

If parents willfully and unreasonably fail to meet, pursuant to the request of the principal, to review the School Board standards of student conduct and the parent's/parents' responsibility; to assist the school in disciplining the student and maintaining order; and to discuss improvement of the child's behavior and educational progress, the School Board is authorized to petition the juvenile and domestic relations court.

The court, under 16.1 - 241.2 of the Code of Virginia, may, upon finding that parents have willfully and unreasonably failed to cooperate, order that parents do the following:

- meet, to fulfill the request of the principal, to review the code of student conduct and discuss their responsibility in that process;
- participate or have their child participate in programs or treatment, or be subject to other limitations and conditions as the court deems appropriate for failure to meet with school officials if their child is to be readmitted after a suspension, or is receiving a second suspension, or is being expelled; or
- pay a \$500 fine for failure to meet with school officials if their child is to be readmitted after a suspension, is receiving a second suspension, or is being expelled.

Chesapeake Public Schools will inform the Commonwealth's Attorney of any violation of the Code of Virginia 22.1-264.1.

22.1-264.1. Misdemeanor to make false statements as to school division or attendance zone residency; penalty;

Any person who knowingly makes a false statement concerning the residency of a child, as determined by 22.1-3 in a particular school division or school attendance zone, for the purposes of (i) avoiding the tuition charges authorized by 22.1-5 or (ii) enrollment in a school outside the attendance zone in which the student resides, shall be guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor.

Punishment for conviction of a misdemeanor. The authorized punishment for conviction of a Class 4 misdemeanor is a fine of not more than \$250.00

Student Activities

Background

In June, 1997, Dr. W. Randolph Nichols, Superintendent, recommended to the School Board that students be required to maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA in order to be eligible to participate in Virginia High School League (VHSL) activities. Following two public hearings, the School Board, in October 1997, passed a motion to require a 2.0 GPA for students to be eligible to participate in VHSL activities.

Initial Eligibility

In order to be eligible, a VHSL-activity participant must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA prior to initial participation, regardless of when initial participation begins. Under this provision, in order to be eligible for the first semester, a ninth-grade participant must have maintained a 2.0 GPA for either the second semester of the eighth-grade or the entire eighth grade year.

Any student entering a VHSL activity and establishing eligibility for the first time must have maintained a 2.0 GPA for the previous semester or have maintained a 2.0 cumulative GPA.

Definition of 2.0

A 2.0 average is defined as a grade point average of 2.0 or better on a scale where an "A" earns 4 (four) points, a "B" earns 3 (three) points, a "C" earns 2 (two) points, a "D" earns 1 (one) point. In determining if a participant met the 2.0 requirements, grades from the previous semester will be evaluated first. If the participant did not maintain a 2.0 for the previous semester, then the cumulative GPA of the student will be used to determine if the student maintained a 2.0 GPA.

Probationary Semester

After meeting the 2.0 GPA requirement for initial participation, the student may have one probationary semester during the period of high school eligibility (grade 9-12). This means that, once participation has begun, the student must receive at least a 2.0 GPA for all except one semester of eligibility. That semester may be used as a probationary semester in which the student is allowed to continue participation in VHSL activities and attend mandatory study hall. Any student participating in a sport while in the probationary semester may not practice or participate unless the study hall is attended.

The probationary period is defined as the semester following a semester in which a participant falls below the 2.0 GPA requirement and meets the VHSL eligibility requirements. A student who does not comply with the VHSL Scholarship Rule or other VHSL eligibility rules as found in section 28 of the Virginia High School League Handbook will be ineligible to participate.

VHSL Eligibility

As well as meeting the requirements established by the Chesapeake School Board, all participants in VHSL-sanctioned activities must also meet all eligibility requirements as set forth by the VHSL and found in Section 28 of the Virginia High School League Handbook. (<http://vhsl.org>)

Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity

The School Board recognizes the importance of extracurricular activities in the educational process and the values that students develop when they have the opportunity to participate in an organized activity outside the traditional classroom.

A primary goal of the Chesapeake Public Schools' extracurricular and co-curricular programs is the promotion of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity. All participants in extra- and co-curricular activities, including athletes and other student-participants, support groups, fans, coaches, and administrators, shall be guided at all times by a philosophy of good sportsmanship, sound ethics, and high integrity. This philosophy emphasizes that extracurricular activities are a part of the total educational process and that the same level of responsibility and behavior is expected at practice and competitions as is expected in the classroom. The school administration supports this philosophy by maintaining positive attitudes that promote good sportsmanship. All high schools and middle schools are required to conduct all their relations with other schools in a spirit of good sportsmanship.

The School Board further encourages the development and promotion of sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity in all phases of the educational process and in all segments of the community, including administrators, participants, adult supervisors, parents, fans, spirit groups, and support/booster groups.

For more information regarding the 2.0 eligibility requirements or the sportsmanship policy of Chesapeake Public Schools, contact your school athletic director or Mr. Jeremiah Gaines, Supervisor, Student Activities at 547-1340.

2007-2008 SCHOOL CALENDAR

				2007	Teaching Days	Non- Teaching Days
AUGUST	20	(M)	Teachers New to Chesapeake Public Schools Report			
	27	(M)	Returning Personnel Report			1
	28-31	(T-F)	Preschool Activities			4
SEPTEMBER	3	(M)	Labor Day – Holiday			
	4	(T)	First Day of School for Students		19	
OCTOBER	4	(Th)	<u>High School Only</u> : Term I – End of First Grading Period		23	
NOVEMBER	2	(F)	Elementary/Middle Schools: End of First Grading Period (44 Days)			
			<u>High School Only</u> : Term I – End of Second Grading Period			
	5	(M)	Teacher Workday – Schools Closed			1
	6	(T)	In-Service Training Day for Personnel (Election Day) – Schools Closed			1
	12	(M)	Veterans Day (Observed) – Holiday			
	21	(W)	Early Release Day			
	22-23	(Th-F)	Thanksgiving Holidays		17	
DECEMBER	12	(W)	<u>High School Only</u> : Term I – End of Third Grading Period			
	20	(Th)	Last Day of School Before Winter Break		14	
				2008		
JANUARY	2	(W)	Schools Reopen			
	21	(M)	Martin Luther King, Jr., Day – Holiday			
	23	(W)	Exams (if appropriate)*			
	24	(Th)	Exams*			
	25	(F)	Exams – Early Release for Students If Last Day of Exams* – Elementary/Middle Schools: End of Second Grading Period (46 Days)			
			<u>High School Only</u> : Term I – End of Fourth Grading Period			
	28	(M)	Teacher Workday – Schools Closed**		20	1
FEBRUARY	18	(M)	Presidents’ Day – Holiday			
	28	(Th)	<u>High School Only</u> : Term II – End of First Grading Period		20	
MARCH	24-28	(M-F)	Spring Break – Schools Closed		16	
APRIL	4	(F)	Elementary/Middle Schools: End of Third Grading Period (43 Days)			
			<u>High School Only</u> : Term II – End of Second Grading Period			
	7	(M)	Teacher Workday – Schools Closed		21	1
MAY	9	(F)	<u>High School Only</u> : Term II – End of Third Grading Period			
	26	(M)	Memorial Day – Holiday		21	
JUNE	10	(T)	Exams (if appropriate)*			
	11	(W)	Exams* – GRADUATION (7:30 p.m. – OSH)			
	12	(Th)	Exams – Early Release for Students If Last Day of Exams* – Last Day of School – GRADUATION (4 p.m. – DCH; 8 p.m. – HHS) – Elementary/Middle Schools: End of Fourth Grading Period (47 Days)			
			<u>High School Only</u> : Term II – End of Fourth Grading Period			
	13	(F)	Teacher Workday – Schools Closed			
			GRADUATION (11 a.m. – WBH; 3 p.m. – GBH; 7:30 p.m. – IRH)			
	14	(S)	GRADUATION (10 a.m. – GFH)		9	1
					180	10

Note: If emergency closings become necessary, days will be made up according to the following schedule:

	<u>Make-Up Day</u>	<u>Rescheduled Teacher Workday</u>	<u>Rescheduled In-Service Training</u>
	1 st Day	Monday, November 5, 2007	Tuesday, November 6, 2007
	2 nd Day	Tuesday, November 6, 2007	Saturday, November 10, 2007
Semester 1	3 rd Day	Banked	Monday, November 12, 2007
	4 th Day	Banked	Monday, November 12, 2007
Semester 2	5 th Day	Monday, February 18, 2008	
	6 th Day	Banked	
	7 th Day	Banked	
	8 th Day	Monday, April 7, 2008	Saturday, April 5, 2008

* In the event of emergency school closings, the superintendent may need to adjust the exam schedule. Please note that the early release for students will be on the last day of exams.

** The purpose of the midyear teacher workday is to permit teachers to grade exams and prepare for the new semester. Therefore, in the event schools are closed due to inclement weather and the exam schedule has to be revised, it may be necessary for the superintendent to adjust the scheduling of the teacher workday.

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