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## SECTION I: Instruction

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## INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Southampton County 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 shall emphasize 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 shall also implement:

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 divisionwide priority that includes 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 specifies 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; the International Baccalaureate Program, and Academic Year Governor's School Programs, the qualifications for enrolling in such classes, programs, experiences, and the availability of financial assistance to low-income and needy students to take the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate 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 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;
- 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; or
- receives reading intervention services. Parents of each student who receives reading intervention services are notified before the services begin.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-23.3, 22.1-215.2, 22.1-253.13:1.

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

## NOTIFICATION OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES

### I. Annual Notice

At the beginning of each school year, each school within the Southampton County Public School Division provides to its students' parents or guardians information on the availability of and source for receiving:

- the learning objectives developed in accordance with the Standards of Accreditation to be achieved at their child's grade level, or, in high school, a copy of the syllabus for each of their child's courses;
- the Standards of Learning (SOLs) applicable to the child's grade or course requirements and the approximate date and potential impact of the child's next SOL testing;
- an annual notice to students in all grade levels of all requirements for Board of Education-approved diplomas; and
- the board's policies on promotion, retention and remediation.

The superintendent certifies to the Department of Education that the notice required by this policy has been given.

### II. Notice of Credits Needed for Graduation and of the Right to a Free Public Education

#### A. The school board notifies the parents of rising eleventh and twelfth grade students of

- the requirements for graduation pursuant to the standards for accreditation and
- the requirements that have yet to be completed by the individual student.

the number and subject area requirements of standard and verified units of credit required for graduation pursuant to the Standards of Accreditation and the remaining number and subject area requirements of such units of credit the individual student requires for graduation.

#### B. The school board notifies the parent of students with disabilities who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and who fail to meet the graduation requirements of the student's right to a free and appropriate education to age 21, inclusive, pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-213 et seq.

#### C. The school board notifies the parent of students who fail to graduate or who fail to achieve graduation requirements as provided in the Standards of Accreditation and who have not reached 20 years of age on or before August 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year of the right to a free public education. If the student who does not graduate or complete such requirements is a student for whom English is a second language, the school board notifies the parent of the student's opportunity for a free public education in accordance with Va. Code § 22.1-5.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:4.

8 VAC 20-131-270.

Cross Refs.: IGBC            Parental Involvement  
                 IKF                The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation  
                                        Requirements



## ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The School Board seeks to educate young people in the democratic tradition, to foster a recognition of individual freedom and social responsibility, and to inspire meaningful awareness of and respect for the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Freedom of individual conscience, association, and expression are encouraged and fairness in procedures is observed both to safeguard the legitimate interests of the schools and to exhibit by appropriate examples the basic objectives of a democratic society as set forth in the Constitutions of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of their submissions. Such home and classroom work is evaluated by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the school.

Adopted:

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-203.3.

Cross Refs.: IKB  
INDC

Homework  
Religion in the Schools

## SCHOOL YEAR/SCHOOL DAY

### School Year

The length of the school year is at least 180 teaching days or 990 teaching hours. Days on which a school or schools or all the schools in the division are closed due to severe weather or other emergencies are made up as provided below if necessary to meet these requirements.

Students are provided a minimum of 680 hours of instructional time in elementary school, except for students in half-day kindergarten, in the four academic disciplines of English, mathematics, science, and history and social science and a minimum of 375 hours of instructional time in half-day kindergarten in the four academic disciplines of English, mathematics, science, and history and social science.

Unstructured recreational time that is intended to develop teamwork, social skills, and overall physical fitness may be included in the calculation of total instructional time or teaching hours for elementary school, provided that such unstructured recreational time does not exceed 15 percent of total instructional time or teaching hours.

### Make Up Days

If severe weather conditions or other emergency situations result in the closing of a school or schools or all the schools in the school division or in an unscheduled remote learning day for a school or schools in the division for

- five or fewer days, all missed days are made up by adding teaching days to the school calendar or extending the length of the school day;
- six days or more, the first five days plus one day for each two days missed in excess of the first five are made up by adding teaching days to the school calendar or extending the length of the school day.

If severe weather conditions or other emergency situations result in the closing of any school in the school division and such school has been unable to meet the 180 teaching day requirement, the school division may make up the missed teaching days by providing its students with instructional hours equivalent to such missed teaching days to meet the minimum 990 teaching hour requirement.

If severe weather conditions or other emergency situations result in the closing of any school in the school division for in-person instruction, the school division may declare an unscheduled remote learning day whereby the school provides instruction and student services that are consistent with guidelines established by the Department of Education to ensure the equitable provision of such services.

The Board of Education may waive the requirement that the school division provide additional teaching days or teaching hours to compensate for school closings resulting from a declared state of emergency or severe weather conditions or other emergency situations under certain circumstances. If the School Board desires a waiver, it will submit a request to the Board of Education. The request will include evidence of efforts

that have been made by the school division to reschedule as many days as possible and certification by the superintendent and chairman of the School Board that every reasonable effort for making up lost teaching days or teaching hours was exhausted before requesting a waiver. If the waiver is denied, the school division will make up the missed instructional time. The Board of Education waives the requirement that school divisions provide additional teaching days or teaching hours to compensate for school closings resulting from an evacuation directed and compelled by the Governor pursuant to Va. Code § 44-146.17 for up to five teaching days. If the School Board desires such a waiver, it notifies the Board of Education and provides evidence of efforts that have been made by the school division to reschedule as many days as possible and certification by the superintendent and chair of the School Board that every reasonable effort for making up lost teaching days or teaching hours was exhausted. After receiving such notification, the Board of Education grants the waiver and there is no proportionate reduction in the amount paid by the Commonwealth from the Basic School Aid Fund. Further, the local appropriations for educational purposes necessary to fund 180 teaching days or 990 teaching hours shall not be proportionally reduced by the local appropriating body due to any reduction in the length of the term of any school or the schools in a school division permitted by such waiver.

### School Calendar

The School Board establishes the division's calendar in accordance with state law. The School Board establishes teaching contracts in accordance with applicable regulations of the Board of Education to include contingencies for making up teaching days and teaching hours missed for emergency situations.

An advisory committee composed of teachers, parents and school administration may be utilized to recommend a proposed calendar to the superintendent. The recommendation of this committee is advisory.

### School Day

The standard school day for students in grades 1 through 12 averages at least 5-1/2 instructional hours excluding breaks for meals and recess. The standard school day for kindergarten is a minimum of three instructional hours.

All students in grades 1 through 12 maintain a full day schedule of classes (5-1/2 hours) unless a waiver is granted in accordance with policies defined by the School Board.

Each elementary school provides students with a daily recess during the regular school year, as determined appropriate by the school.

The secondary school class schedule contains a minimum of 140 clock hours for each unit of credit. When credit is awarded in less than whole units, the increment awarded is no greater than the fractional part of the 140 hours of instruction provided.

The time for opening and closing schools is established by the School Board upon recommendation of the superintendent, provided that the daily program for students in grades 1 through 12 averages at least 5 ½ hours, not including meal intermissions. If the required program length is maintained, the School Board may approve occasional shortened days for staff development, conferences, planning and other activities designed to improve the instructional program, provided that no more than one day in each five-day week may be shortened to no less than four hours. The daily program for kindergarten is at least three hours, not including meal intermissions.

When exceptions in the length of the daily program are necessary, the Board requests approval by the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the exceptions by August 1 preceding the school year for which they are requested.

The length of the work day for employees is determined by the School Board. It is of sufficient length to allow for the daily program for students and additional time as may be necessary for such activities as planning, preparation, meetings, workshops, conferences, meal intermissions or other contractual obligations.

#### Joint or Regional Schools

School boards operating joint or regional high schools, including regional charter schools, offering a specialized curriculum leading to a high school diploma and a postsecondary credential, such as industry certification, career certificate, or degree may, by agreement, establish alternative schedules for the delivery of instruction. Those schedules may include alternatives to standard school day and year requirements, subject to the issuance of any necessary waivers by the Board of Education and relevant Board of Education regulations.

#### Certification

The superintendent and School Board chair certify the total number of teaching days and teaching hours each year as part of the annual report to the Board of Education.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended §§ 22.1-26, 22.1-79.1, 22.1-98, 22.1-200.2.

Acts 2019, cc. 569, 570 and 637.

8 VAC 20-131-150.

8 VAC 20-131-200.

8 VAC 20-490-30.

Cross Ref.:	BCF	Advisory Committees to the School Board
	DL	Payroll Procedures
	GAA	Staff Time Schedules
	IKF	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements
	IKFD	Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit

## MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Southampton County Public School Board recognizes that a moment of silence before each school day prepares students and staff for their respective work or school days. Therefore, each teacher shall observe a moment of silence at the beginning of the first class of each school day.

The teacher responsible for each class shall make sure that each student: (1) remains seated and silent and (2) does not disrupt or distract other students during the moment of silence. The moment may be used for any lawful silent activity, including personal reflection, prayer and meditation. Teachers shall not influence, in any way, students to pray or meditate or not to pray or meditate during the moment of silence.

Adopted:

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-203.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance, as established in 4 U.S.C. § 4, is recited daily in each classroom of the Southampton County Public School Division.

During the recitation of the Pledge, students shall stand and recite the Pledge while facing the flag with their right hands over their hearts or in an appropriate salute if in uniform.

No student is compelled to recite the Pledge if the student or the student's parent or legal guardian objects on religious, philosophical, or other grounds to the student's participation in this exercise. Students who are exempt from reciting the Pledge shall quietly stand or sit at their desks while others recite the Pledge and shall make no display that disrupts or distracts those who are reciting the Pledge.

Appropriate accommodations are made for students who are unable to comply with the procedures described herein due to disability.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs: 4 U.S.C. § 4.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-202.

Cross Refs.: JFC

Student Conduct

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:

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Legal Ref: Acts 2003, c. 902.



BILL OF RIGHTS OF THE  
CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

The Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States shall be posted in a conspicuous place in each school for all students to read.

Adopted:

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Legal Ref: Acts 2003, c. 902.



## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Southampton Public School Board provides career and technical educational programs incorporated into the kindergarten through twelfth grade curricula that include

- knowledge of careers and all types of employment opportunities including, but not limited to, apprenticeships, entrepreneurship and small business ownership, the military, and the teaching profession, and emphasize the advantages of completing school with marketable skills;
- career exploration opportunities in the middle school grades; and
- competency-based career and technical education programs which integrate academic outcomes, career guidance and job-seeking skills for all secondary students based on labor market needs and student interest. Career guidance includes counseling about available employment opportunities and placement services for students exiting school; and
- annual notice on its website to enrolled high school students and their parents of (i) the availability of the postsecondary education and employment data published by the State Council of Higher Education on its website and (ii) the opportunity for such students to obtain a nationally recognized career readiness certificate at a local public high school, comprehensive community college or workforce center.

The School Board develops and implements a plan to ensure compliance with this Policy. This plan is developed with the input of area business and industry representatives and local comprehensive community colleges and is submitted to the Superintendent of Public Instruction in accordance with the timelines established by federal law.

The School Board may establish High School to Work Partnerships or delegate the authority to establish High School to Work Partnerships to the division's career and technical education administrator or the administrator's designee, in collaboration with the school counselor office of each high school in the school division, and educate high school students about opportunities available through High School to Work Partnerships.

The School Board may enter into agreements for postsecondary course credit, credential, certification, or license attainment, referred to as College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships, with comprehensive community colleges or other public institutions of higher education or educational institutions that offer a career and technical education curriculum. College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships specify

- the options for students to take courses as part of the career and technical education curriculum that lead to course credit or an industry-recognized credential, certification, or license concurrent with a high school diploma;
- the credit, credentials, certifications, or licenses available for such courses; and
- available options for students to participate in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs at comprehensive community colleges concurrent with the pursuit of a high school diploma and receive college credit and high school credit for successful completion of any such program.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-227.1, 22.1-253.13:1.

Cross Ref.: IJ      Guidance and Counseling Program

## HEALTH EDUCATION/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students receive health instruction and physical training as prescribed by the Board of Education and approved by the Board of Health.

Such health instruction

- incorporates standards that recognize the multiple dimensions of health by including mental health and the relationship of physical and mental health so as to enhance student understanding, attitudes, and behavior that promote health, well-being and human dignity, and
- may include an age-appropriate program of instruction on the safe use of and risks of abuse of prescription drugs that is consistent with curriculum guidelines developed by the Board of Education and approved by the Board of Health.

The Southampton County Public School Division provides 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 programs may include any combination of physical education classes, extracurricular athletics, recess or other programs and physical activities.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-207, 22.1-253.13:1.

Cross Refs.:	IC/ID	School Year/School Day
	IGAG	Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco
	JHCA	Physical Examinations of Students
	JHCF	Student Wellness
	JO	Student Records

## TEACHING ABOUT DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

Southampton County Public Schools provides instruction concerning

- drugs and drug abuse,
- the public safety hazards and dangers of alcohol abuse, underage drinking, underage marijuana use, and drunk driving, and
- the health and safety risks of using tobacco products, nicotine vapor products, and alternative nicotine products.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §22.1-206

Cross Refs: GBEC/JFCH/KGC Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor Products

## FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (FLE)

### Generally

The Southampton County Public 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. A complete copy of all printed materials not subject to copyright protection and a description of all audio-visual materials is made available through any available parental portal and kept in the school library or office and made available for review to any parent or guardian during school office hours before and during the school year. The audio-visual materials are made available to parents for in-person review, upon request, on the same basis as printed materials are made available.

The School Board develops and distributes to the parents or guardians of students participating in the FLE program and posts for public viewing on the division's website 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:

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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



## CHARACTER EDUCATION

The Southampton County Public School Board provides, within its existing program or as a separate program, a character education program in its schools. The character education program may occur during the regular school year, during the summer in a youth development academy offered by the school division, or both. The purpose of the program is to foster civic virtues and personal character traits so as to improve the learning environment, promote student achievement, reduce disciplinary problems and develop civic-minded students of high character. The program is cooperatively developed with students, parents and the community. Specific character traits emphasized may include trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Character education is interwoven into the school procedures and environment so as to instruct primarily by example, illustration and participation, in such a way as to complement the Standards of Learning. Classroom instruction may also be used to supplement the program. The program also addresses the inappropriateness of bullying, as defined in Va. Code § 22.1-276.01. Parents have the right to review any audio-visual materials that contain graphic sexual or violent content used in any anti-bullying program. Prior to the use of any such material, the parent of a child participating in such a program is provided written notice of the parent's right to review the material and the right to excuse the child from participating in the part of such program utilizing such material.

### The character education program

- specifies those character traits to be taught, selecting from those which are common to diverse social, cultural and religious groups;
- is implemented at the elementary and secondary levels;
- provides for relevant professional development and adequate resources; and
- includes a method for program evaluation.

Character education is intended to educate students regarding those core civic values and virtues which are efficacious to civilized society and are common to the diverse social, cultural, and religious groups of the Commonwealth. It shall not include indoctrination in any particular religious or political belief. Consistent with this purpose, Virginia's civic values, which are the principles articulated in the Bill of Rights (Article I) of the Constitution of Virginia and the ideals reflected in the seal of the Commonwealth, as described in Va. Code § 1-500, may be taught as representative of such civic values.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-23.3, 22.1-207.2:1, 22.1-208.01.

Cross Refs.: IKF

The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements

INB

Teaching About Controversial Issues  
INDC Religion in the Schools

## DRIVER EDUCATION

The Southampton County School Board offers a program of driver education in the high schools in the safe operation of motor vehicles. The program includes instruction concerning alcohol and drug abuse, aggressive driving, motorcycle awareness, the dangers of distracted driving and speeding, organ and tissue donor awareness, fuel-efficient driving practices and traffic stops, including law-enforcement procedures for traffic stops, appropriate actions to be taken by drivers during traffic stops and appropriate interactions with law-enforcement officers who initiate traffic stops.

The School Board establishes fees, that do not exceed the limit established by the Department of Education, for the behind-the-wheel portion of the program. The School Board may waive the fee or surcharge in whole or in part for those students it determines cannot pay the fee or surcharge.

Any student who participates in a driver education program must meet the academic requirements established by the Board of Education. No student is permitted to operate a motor vehicle without a learner's permit or a license. Necessary certification of students' academic standing and compliance with compulsory attendance laws is provided by the administration to the Department of Motor Vehicles upon request, in accordance with state law.

Driver education instructors possess valid driver's licenses and maintain satisfactory driving records. Any teacher of behind-the-wheel instruction who receives six or more demerit points in a 12-month period will be suspended from teaching driver education for 24 months.

At the beginning of each school year and thereafter as necessary, the superintendent reports to the Department of Motor Vehicles the name and driver's license number of all persons providing instruction in driver education for the school division.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-205, 46.2-334, 46.2-340.

8 VAC 20-340-10.

8 VAC 20-720-80.

Cross Ref.: JED Student Absences/Excuses/Dismissals  
JN Student Fees, Fines, and Charges.

## ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL DISSECTION

The **Southampton County Public School** Board provides one or more alternatives to animal dissection for students enrolled in classes that incorporate dissection exercises. The superintendent is responsible for implementing such alternatives. The superintendent considers the Virginia Board of Education Guidelines Alternatives to Animal Dissection in implementing the alternatives.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-200.01.

Virginia Board of Education Guidelines Alternatives to Animal Dissection  
(Attachment to Virginia Department of Education Superintendent's Memo  
#161 (Aug. 6, 2004)).

## PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

### Generally

The Southampton County Public School Board provides a free, appropriate public education for all children and youth with disabilities, ages 2 through 21, inclusive, who are residents of SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS or who are not residents of SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS but are residents of Virginia and who are enrolled in a full-time virtual school program provided by the Board. To the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities are educated with children who are not disabled.

An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed and maintained for each child with a disability served by the Southampton County Public School Board. The program is developed in a meeting of the child's IEP team, which includes the child's teachers, parent(s), the student (when appropriate), a school division representative qualified to provide or supervise the provision of special education services, an individual who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results and other individuals at the discretion of the parents or school division in accordance with State and federal law and regulations. This IEP is reviewed at least annually.

The IEP includes areas specified by state and federal statutes and regulations.

### Explanation of Procedural Safeguards

A copy of the procedural safeguards available to the parent(s) of a child with a disability is given to the parent(s). The procedural safeguards notice includes a full explanation of all the procedural safeguards available.

### Child Find

The Southampton County Public School Board maintains an active and continuing child find program designed to identify, locate and evaluate those children residing in the division who are birth to 21 inclusive who are in need of special education and related services.

The School Board provides all applicable procedural safeguards including written notice to the parents of the scheduled screening and, if the child fails the screening, the results of the screening, confidentiality and maintenance of the student's scholastic record.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.

29 U.S.C. § 701 et seq.

42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-213, 22.1-215.

8 VAC 20-81-50.

8 VAC 20-81-80.

8 VAC 20-81-100.

8 VAC 20-81-110.

8 VAC 20-81-130.

8 VAC 20-81-170.

## PROGRAMS FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

The Southampton County Public School Board shall approve a comprehensive plan for the education of gifted students that includes the components identified in Board of Education regulations. The plan for the education of gifted students shall be accessible through the division's website and the division will ensure that printed copies of the plan are available to citizens who do not have online access.

The school division has uniform procedures for screening, referring, identifying, and serving students in kindergarten through twelfth grade who are gifted in general intellectual or specific academic aptitude.

The school division will provide written notification to and seek written consent from parents and legal guardians to conduct any required assessment to determine a referred student's eligibility for the division's gifted education program, and provide services for an identified gifted student in the division's gifted education program.

The School Board may establish a local advisory committee composed of parents, school personnel, and other community members appointed by the School Board. The committee will reflect the ethnic and geographical composition of the school division. If established, the committee will annually review the division's plan for the education of gifted students, including revisions, and determine the extent to which the plan for the previous year was implemented. The findings of the annual program effectiveness and the recommendations of the committee will be submitted annually in writing to the division superintendent and the School Board.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-18.1, 22.1-253.13:1.D.6.

8 VAC 20-40-40.

8 VAC 20-40-55.

8 VAC 20-40-60.

Cross Refs.: BCF  
IKEB

Advisory Committees to the School Board  
Acceleration

## PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

### Generally

The Southampton County School Board recognizes that the education of each student is a responsibility shared by the school and the student's family. The Southampton County School Board endorses the parent and family engagement goals of Title I (20 U.S.C. § 6318) and encourages the regular participation by parents and family members of all children including those eligible for Title I and English learner programs in all aspects of those programs.

In keeping with these beliefs, the Southampton County School Board cultivates and supports active parent and family engagement in student learning. The Southampton County School Board:

- provides activities that educate parents regarding the intellectual and developmental needs of their children. These activities promote cooperation between the division and other agencies or school/community groups (such as parent-teacher groups, the Head Start program, the Reading First program, Early Reading First program, Even Start program, and Parents as Teachers program) to furnish learning opportunities and disseminate information regarding parenting skills and child/adolescent development
- implements strategies to involve parents in the educational process, including:
  - keeping families informed of opportunities for involvement and encouraging participation in various programs
  - providing access to educational resources for parents and families to use with their children
  - keeping families informed of the objectives of division educational programs as well as of their child's participation and progress with these programs
- enables families to participate in the education of their children through a variety of roles. For example, family members may
  - provide input into division policies
  - volunteer time within the classroom and school program
- provides professional development opportunities for teachers and staff to enhance their understanding of effective parent involvement strategies
- performs regular evaluations of parent involvement at each school and in the division
- provides access, upon request, to any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum
- if practicable, provides information in a language understandable to parents

In addition, for parents of students eligible for English learner programs, the School Board informs such parents of how they can be active participants in assisting their children



- to learn English;
- to achieve at high levels in core academic subjects; and
- to meet the same challenging academic content and student academic achievement standards as all children are expected to meet.

#### Parental Involvement in Title I Plan

The Southampton County School Board encourages parents of children eligible to participate in Title I, Part A, programs to participate in the development of the Board's Title I plan. Parents may participate by

The Southampton County School Board encourages parents of children eligible to participate in Title I, Part A, programs to participate in the development of the Board's Title I plan. Parents may participate by:

Parents are involved in the development of the Title I, Part A plan at both the school and division levels.

Each elementary school has Family Reading Nights at least twice a year.

At the school level, each of the four Title I schools has a parent advisory committee. This committee works with the building principal, teachers (including Special Education), and reading specialist to provide input into the Title I plan. They are asked to advise the committee of the needs of families, our children and communities as it relates to their children's education and to evaluate the effectiveness of the Title I program.

At the division level, at least 2 parent representatives from each of the Title I schools meet with the LEA, forming the District Advisory Committee (DAC). This committee serves to provide input into the Title I plan. They meet a minimum of twice a year, Fall and Spring. They review required documents and make comments and recommendations in relation to the Title I, Part A program/plan.

In addition, all parents are sent a parent survey in early Spring to assess the effectiveness of the Title I, Part A Program and ask for suggestions as to how the Title I, Part A program/plan can better serve the needs of their children.

The Title I Community Liaison frequently visits the under-resourced neighborhoods in Southampton County to give a voice to more parents. They are heard and their needs are considered in the development of the plan.

The LEA incorporates parent recommendations into the plan when practical and in adherence to ESEA, legislation, regulation and guidance.

#### Parental Involvement in School Review and Improvement

The Southampton County Public School Division encourages parents of children eligible to participate in Title I, Part A, and English learner programs to participate in the process of school review and, if applicable, the development of support and improvement plans under 20 U.S.C. § 6311(d)(1) and (2). Parents may participate by

The Southampton County School Division encourages parents of children eligible to participate in Title I, Part A, and English learner programs to participate in the process of school review and, if applicable, the development of support and improvement plans under 20 U.S.C. § 6311(d)(1) and (2). Parents may participate by:

All parents are informed of the availability of the *School Quality Profile* for their child's school and the availability of their School-wide Plan on the school's website

Each school's Parent Advisory Committee participates in the development/review/revision of their School-wide Plan. The committee is provided with all available school data for review in order to make data based decisions in review/revision of best practices for their child's school.

#### Division Responsibilities

The Southampton County Public School Division, and each school which receives Title I, Part A, funds:

- provides assistance to parents of children served by the school or division, as applicable, in understanding topics such as Virginia's challenging academic standards, state and local academic assessments and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children
- provides materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement
- educates teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the school
- to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinates and integrates parental involvement programs and activities with other federal, state and local programs, including public preschool and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children
- ensures that information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand

- provides such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request

The Southampton County Public School Division, and each school which receives Title I, Part A, funds, **MAY**:

- involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training
- provide necessary literacy training from Title I funds if the division has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training
- pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
- train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents
- arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school in order to maximize parental involvement and participation
- adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement
- establish a divisionwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported by Title I
- develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities

### School Parent and Family Engagement Policies

Each school served under Title I, Part A, jointly develops with and distributes to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents, that describes the means for carrying out the following:

- convening an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children are invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation in Title I, Part A, and to explain the requirements of Title I, Part A, and the rights of parents to be involved
- offering a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening. Schools may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement
- involving parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I, Part A, programs including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school wide program plan under 20 U.S.C. § 6314(b), except that if a school has in place a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the

school's programs, the school may use that process, if such process includes an adequate representation of parents of participating children

- providing parents of participating children:
  - timely information about Title I, Part A, programs;
  - a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging state academic standards; and
  - if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and responding to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible
- if the school wide program plan under 20 U.S.C. § 6314(b) is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submitting any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the School Board

#### Parent and Family Involvement in Allocation of Funding

Parents and family members of children receiving services under Title I, Part A, are involved in the decisions regarding how funds provided under Title I, Part A, are allotted for parental involvement activities.

#### Policy Review

The School Board conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under Title 1, Part A, including identifying

- barriers to greater participation by parents (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy or are of any racial or ethnic minority background);
- the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
- strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: 20 U.S.C. §§ 6312, 6318.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-23.3, 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.: AD  
BCF

Educational Philosophy  
Advisory Committees to the School Board

IAA  
IKA

Notification of Learning Objectives  
Parental Assistance with Instruction

## REMEDIAL AND SUMMER INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

### Generally

The School Board develops and implements programs of prevention, intervention, or remediation for students who are educationally at risk, including but not limited to those who fail to achieve a passing score on any Standards of Learning assessment in grades three through eight, or who fail an end-of-course test required for the award of a verified unit of credit. Such programs shall include components that are research based.

Any student who achieves a passing score on one or more, but not all, of the Standards of Learning assessments for the relevant grade level in grades three through eight may be required to attend a remediation program.

Any student who fails to achieve a passing score on all of the Standards of Learning assessments for the relevant grade level in grades three through eight or who fails an end-of-course test required for the award of a verified unit of credit is required to attend a remediation program or to participate in another form of remediation. The superintendent requires such students to take special programs of prevention, intervention, or remediation, which may include attendance in public summer school programs.

Remediation programs include, when applicable, a procedure for early identification of students who are at risk of failing the Standards of Learning assessments in grades three through eight or who fail an end-of-course test required for the award of a verified unit of credit. Such programs may also include summer school for all elementary and middle school grades and for all high school academic courses, as defined by regulations promulgated by the Board of Education, or other forms of remediation. Summer school remediation programs or other forms of remediation are chosen by the superintendent to be appropriate to the academic needs of the student.

Students who are required to attend such summer school programs or to participate in another form of remediation are not charged tuition.

The requirement for remediation may, however, be satisfied by the student's attendance in a program of prevention, intervention or remediation which has been selected by his parent, in consultation with the superintendent or superintendent's designee, and is either (i) conducted by an accredited private school or (ii) a special program which has been determined to be comparable to the required public school remediation program by the superintendent. The costs of such private school remediation program or other special remediation program are borne by the student's parent.

Targeted mathematics remediation and intervention are provided to students in grades six through eight who show computational deficiencies as demonstrated by their individual performance on any diagnostic test or grade-level Standards of Learning mathematics test that measures non-calculator computational skills.

The School Board annually evaluates and modifies, as appropriate, the remediation plan based on an analysis of the percentage of students meeting their remediation goals and consideration of the pass rate on the Standards of Learning assessments.

#### Summer School

The courses offered and the quality of instruction in the summer school program shall be comparable to that offered during the regular school term. Students must meet the requirements for SOL testing if appropriate.

Summer school instruction at any level which is provided as part of a state-funded remedial program is designed to improve specific identified student deficiencies.

#### Compulsory Attendance

When a student is required to participate in a remediation program pursuant to this policy, the superintendent may seek immediate compliance with the compulsory school attendance laws if a reasonable effort to seek the student's attendance, including direct notification of the parents of such student of the attendance requirement and failure of the parents to secure the student's attendance, have failed and the superintendent determines that remediation of the student's poor academic performance, passage of the Standards of Learning Assessment in grades three through eight, or promotion is related directly to the student's attendance in the remediation program.

Adopted:

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:3, 22.1-254, 22.1-254.01.

8 VAC 20-131-120.

8 VAC 20-630-40.

Cross Refs.: BCF  
IKG

Advisory Committees To The School Board  
Remediation Recovery Program

## ENGLISH LEARNERS

### Generally

The Southampton County Public School Board provides programs to improve the education of English learners by assisting the children to learn English and meet Virginia's challenging academic content and student academic achievement standards.

The School Board accepts and provides programs for students for whom English is a second language who entered school in Virginia for the first time after reaching their 12th birthday, and who have not reached age 22 on or before August 1 of the school year. No tuition is charged such students, if state funding is provided for such programs.

### Assessments

The School Board annually assesses the English proficiency of all English learners.

### Notification of Programs for English Learners

The School Board, not later than 30 days after the beginning of the school year, informs a parent or the parents of an English learner identified for participation in, or participating in, a program for English learners, of

- the reasons for the identification of their child as an English learner and in need of placement in a language instruction education program;
- the child's level of English proficiency, how that level was assessed and the status of the child's academic achievement;
- the method of instruction used in the program in which their child is, or will be, participating, and the methods of instruction used in other available programs, including how such programs differ in content, instruction goals, and use of English and a native language in instruction;
- how the program in which their child is, or will be, participating will meet the educational strengths and needs of the child;
- how such program will specifically help their child learn English, and meet age appropriate academic achievement standards for grade promotion and graduation;
- the specific exit requirements for such program, the expected rate of transition from such program into classrooms that are not tailored for English learners, and the expected rate of graduation from high school (including four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates and extended-year adjusted cohort graduation rates for such program);
- in the case of a child with a disability, how such program meets the objectives of the individualized education program of the child; and
- information pertaining to parental rights that includes written guidance
  - detailing the right that parents have to have their child immediately removed from such program upon their request and the options that parents have to decline to enroll their child in such program or to choose another program or method of instruction, if available, and



- assisting parents in selecting among various programs and methods of instruction, if more than one program or method is offered by the school division.

For a child who has not been identified as an English learner prior to the beginning of the school year but is identified as an English learner during the school year, the School Board provides the notice detailed above within 2 weeks of the child being placed in the program.

The information described above is provided to parents in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that the parent can understand.

#### Notification of Availability of Testing Accommodations

Each high school principal or principal's designee notifies each English learner of the availability of testing accommodations available for industry certifications, state licensure examinations, national occupational competency assessments, the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and the Virginia workplace readiness skills assessment prior to the student's participation in any such certification, examination, assessment, or battery.

Adopted:

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Legal Ref.: 20 U.S.C. §§ 6311, 6312, 6825.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-5, 22.1-253.13:4.

Cross Ref.: IA Instructional Goals and Objectives  
IGBC Parent and Family Engagement

## OFF-SITE INSTRUCTION AND VIRTUAL COURSES

### Homebound Instruction

The School Board maintains a program of homebound instruction for students who are confined at home or in a healthcare facility for periods that would prevent normal school attendance based upon certification of need by a licensed physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical psychologist.

Credit for the work is awarded when it is done under the supervision of a licensed teacher qualified in the relevant subject areas and employed by the School Board, and there is evidence that the instructional time requirements or alternative means of awarding credit adopted by the School Board have been met.

### Virtual Courses

Students may enroll in and receive a standard and verified unit of credit for supervised virtual courses with prior approval of the principal. The superintendent is responsible for developing regulations governing this method of delivery of instruction that include the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-110 and the administration of required Standards of Learning tests prescribed by 8 VAC 20-131-30. For courses offered for possible high school credit, standard units of credit are awarded for successful completion of such courses when the course is equivalent to that offered in the regular school program and the work is done under the supervision of a licensed teacher qualified in the relevant subject areas. A verified unit of credit may be earned when the student has successfully completed the requirements specified in 8 VAC 20-131-110.

Adopted:

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:3, 54.1-2952.2, 54.1-2957.02.

8 VAC 20-131-180.

Cross Ref.: IGBGA                      Online Courses and Virtual School Programs  
IKFD                                Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit

## ONLINE COURSES AND VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Southampton County Public School Board may enter into contracts, consistent with the criteria approved by the Board of Education, with approved private or nonprofit organizations to provide multidivision online courses and virtual school programs. Such contracts are exempt from the Virginia Public Procurement Act.

Information regarding online courses and programs that are available through the school division is posted on the division's website. The information includes the types of online courses and programs available to students through the division, when the division will pay course fees and other costs for nonresident students, and the granting of high school credit.

Any student enrolled in any online course or virtual program offered by the school division must be enrolled in a public school in Virginia as provided in Va. Code § 22.1-3.1. The student's parent or guardian must give written permission prior to the enrollment of the student in any full-time virtual program offered by the school division.

A student who resides in Southampton County Public School division is not charged tuition for enrolling in any online course or virtual program offered by the school division. However, tuition may be charged to students, except children with disabilities who are enrolled in the division's full-time virtual school program, who do not reside within the boundaries of the school division.

Teachers who deliver instruction to students through online courses or virtual school programs must be licensed by the Board of Education and are subject to the requirements of Policy GCDA Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect.

The administrator of a virtual school program must hold an advanced degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education with educational and work experience in administering educational programs.

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply.

"Multidivision online provider" means (i) a private or nonprofit organization that enters into a contract with a local school board to provide online courses or programs through that school board to students who reside in Virginia both within and outside the geographical boundaries of that school division; (ii) a private or nonprofit organization that enters into contracts with multiple local school boards to provide online courses or programs to students in kindergarten through grade 12 through those school boards; or (iii) a local school board that provides online courses or programs to students who reside in Virginia but outside the geographical boundaries of that school division. However, "multidivision online provider" shall not include (a) a local school board's online learning program in which fewer than 10 percent of the students enrolled reside outside the geographical boundaries of that school division; (b) multiple local school boards that establish joint online courses or programs in which fewer than 10 percent of the students enrolled reside outside the geographical boundaries of those school divisions; (c) local school boards that provide online learning courses or programs for

their students through an arrangement with a public or private institution of higher education; or (d) local school boards providing online courses or programs through a private or nonprofit organization that has been approved as a multidivision online provider.

"Online course" means a course or grade-level subject instruction that (i) is delivered by a multidivision online provider primarily electronically using the Internet or other computer-based methods and (ii) is taught by a teacher primarily from a remote location, with student access to the teacher given synchronously, asynchronously, or both.

"Virtual school program" means a series of online courses with instructional content that (i) is delivered by a multidivision online provider primarily electronically using the Internet or other computer-based methods; (ii) is taught by a teacher primarily from a remote location, with student access to the teacher given synchronously, asynchronously, or both; (iii) is delivered as a part-time or full-time program; and (iv) has an online component with online lessons and tools for student and data management.

Adopted:

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-212.24, 22.1-212.25, 22.1-212.26, 22.1-212.27, 22.1-215, 22.1-296.1, 22.1-296.2, and 22.1-296.4.

Cross Refs.:	DJF	Purchasing Procedures
	GCDA	Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect
	IGBA	Programs for Students with Disabilities
	IGBG	Off-Site Instruction and Virtual Courses

## ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Southampton County Public School Board establishes alternative educational programs within existing schools or at separate sites as needed. No person of school age meeting the residency requirements of Va. Code § 22.1-3 is charged tuition for enrollment in an alternative program offered as a regional or divisionwide initiative by the School Board.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-5, 22.1-253.13:1.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT CLASSES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Students and their parents are notified 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; the International Baccalaureate program and 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 and International Baccalaureate examinations. Students and their parents are also notified of the program with a community college to enable students to complete an associate's degree or a one-year Uniform Certificate of General Studies concurrent with a high school diploma. The superintendent promulgates regulations to implement this policy, which ensure the provision of timely and adequate notice to students and their parents.

Adopted:

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

Cross Ref.:	IGAD	Career and Technical Education
	LEB	Advanced/Alternative Courses for Credit

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

### Generally

Public school facilities are devoted primarily to instructional programs and school-sponsored activities. Curriculum-related student organizations are an extension of the regular school program. Their function is to enhance the participants' educational experience and supplement course materials. The activities of these organizations should bear a clear relationship to the regular curriculum.

Secondary school students may organize and conduct meetings of noncurriculum-related groups. Any secondary school which permits one or more noncurriculum-related student group to meet on school premises during noninstructional time will provide equal access to any students who wish to conduct a meeting without discrimination on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings.

Noncurriculum-related student groups may use school facilities provided that

- the group's meetings are voluntary and student-initiated;
- the group is not sponsored by the school, the government, or any government agent or employee;
- agents or employees of the school or government are present at religious meetings only in a nonparticipatory capacity;
- meetings do not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities at the school; and
- nonschool persons do not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of the group.

### Meetings of Student Organizations

The principal of each school will determine the times and places which are available for the meetings of student organizations. The principal will also develop procedures for scheduling meetings of student organizations. Meeting times will be limited to non-instructional time.

### Faculty Involvement

Curriculum-related student organizations must be sponsored and supervised by one or more school faculty members and approved by the principal. Faculty sponsors will participate in the supervision and direction of all activities of the organization and will attend all meetings and activities.

Noncurriculum-related student organizations do not have a faculty sponsor. However, a member of the school's staff shall attend every meeting or activity of such organizations in a nonparticipatory capacity for purposes of general supervision. The organization is responsible for assuring the presence of a staff member for its meetings.

No school employee will be compelled to attend a meeting of any student organization if the content of such meeting is contrary to the beliefs of that school employee.

#### Compliance with Law and Policy

Student organizations shall not engage in any activity which is contrary to law, division policy or school rules; which disrupts or clearly threatens to disrupt the orderly operation of the school; or which would adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of any students or staff members. Failure to comply with these provisions shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

Adopted:

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Legal Ref.: 20 U.S.C. § 4071.

Cross Refs.: KF  
KG

Distribution of Information/Materials  
Community Use of School Facilities



## ADULT EDUCATION

Adult education programs are offered to those residents of the school division over the age of compulsory school attendance who are not enrolled in the regular public school program, including adult basic education, credit programs, cultural adult education, external diploma programs, general adult education, and high school equivalency programs, and who are functioning below the high school completion level. The School Board seeks to ensure that every individual participating in such a program has the opportunity to earn a high school diploma or pass a high school equivalency examination approved by the Board of Education. Such programs may be conducted solely by the School Board or through a collaborative arrangement between the School Board and other school boards or agencies. Credits and diplomas are awarded in accordance with regulations established by the Board of Education. Additional educational programs for individuals over the age of compulsory attendance also may be offered. Tuition and fees are established by the School Board.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-210, 22.1-223, 22.1-225, 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:4.

8 VAC 20-30-20.

Cross Refs.:	JEA	Compulsory Attendance
	JEG	Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
	JN	Student Fines, Fees and Charges
	IKF	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements

## CLASS SIZE

The Southampton County Public School Board assigns licensed instructional personnel in a manner that produces divisionwide ratios of students in average daily membership to full-time equivalent teaching positions, excluding special education teachers, principals, assistant principals, counselors and librarians, that are not greater than the following ratios:

- 24 to one in kindergarten with no class being larger than 29 students; if the average daily membership in any kindergarten class exceeds 24 pupils, a full-time teacher's aide will be assigned to the class;
- 24 to one in grades one, two and three with no class being larger than 30 students;
- 25 to one in grades four through six with no class being larger than 35 students; and
- 24 to one in English classes in grades six through 12.

After September 30 of any school year, anytime the number of students in a class exceeds the class size limit established by this policy, the school division will notify the parent of each student in such class of such fact no later than 10 days after the date on which the class exceeded the class size limit. The notification shall state the reason that the class size exceeds the class size limit and describe the measures that the school division will take to reduce the class size to comply with this policy.

In addition, the Southampton County Public School Board assigns instructional personnel in a manner that produces schoolwide ratios of students in average daily memberships to full-time equivalent teaching positions of 21 to one in middle schools and high schools.

When determining the assignment of instructional and other licensed personnel for purposes of this policy, full-time students of approved virtual school programs are not included.

Adopted:

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:2.

## INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Southampton County Public School Board is responsible for the selection and use of instructional materials.

The superintendent or superintendent's designee creates and updates, as necessary, guidelines and procedures for the selection of instructional materials. The guidelines and procedures are designed to ensure that appropriate instructional materials are selected and provide an opportunity for the professional staff and community to participate and be informed on the selection and use of instructional materials.

Parents may inspect, on request, any instructional material used as part of their student's curriculum.<sup>1</sup>

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: 20 U.S.C. § 1232h.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-16.

8 VAC 20-720-160.

Cross Ref.:	IGAH	Family Life Education
	IIAA	Textbook Adoption, Selection and Purchase
	IIBAB	Supplementary Materials Selection and Adoption
	KLB	Public Complaints About Learning Resources
	INB	Teaching About Controversial Issues

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<sup>1</sup>

## TEXTBOOK SELECTION, ADOPTION AND PURCHASE

### Selection of Textbooks

The School Board may adopt textbooks, including print or electronic media, for student use that serve as the primary curriculum basis for a grade-level subject or course from the list of textbooks approved by the Board of Education. The School Board may also adopt books which are not on the state-adopted list in accordance with the Board of Education regulations.

In approving textbooks, the School Board

- appoints evaluation committees to review and evaluate textbooks,
- gives notice to parents that textbooks under consideration will be listed on the division's website and made available at designated locations for review by any interested citizens,
- creates opportunities for persons reviewing such textbooks to present their comments and observations to the School Board,
- creates procedures to ensure appropriate consideration of citizen comments and observations and
- establishes and makes known selection criteria.

### Textbooks Approved by the Board of Education

The Southampton County Public School Board may either enter into written term contracts or issue purchase orders with publishers of textbooks approved by the Board of Education. Such written contracts or purchase orders are exempt from the Virginia Public Procurement Act (Va. Code § 2.2-4300 et seq.) The contract price shall not exceed the lowest wholesale price at which the textbook or textbooks involved in the contract are currently bid under contract anywhere in the United States. If, subsequent to the date of any contract entered into by the School Board, the prices of textbooks named in the contract are reduced or the terms of the contract are made more favorable to purchase anywhere in the United States or a special or other edition of any book named in the contract is sold outside of Virginia at a lower price than contracted in Virginia, the publisher shall grant the same reduction or terms to the School Board and give the School Board the option of using such special or other edition adapted for use in Virginia and at the lowest price at which such special edition is sold elsewhere and the contract shall so state.

Contracts and purchase orders with publishers of textbooks approved by the Board of Education shall require the publisher to furnish an electronic file of the textbook in the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standards (NIMAS) format that will then be deposited in the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) from which accessible versions of the particular textbook may be produced for students with print disabilities, as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1474. Publishers shall deliver the NIMAS file of the textbook on or before the date of delivery of the regular text version.

Contracts and purchase orders with publishers of textbooks approved by the Board of Education for use in grades 6-12 shall allow for the purchase of printed textbooks, printed textbooks with electronic files, or electronic textbooks separate and

apart from printed versions of the same textbook. The School Board may purchase an assortment of textbooks in any of the three forms listed above.

The School Board shall order directly from the respective publishers the textbooks needed to supply the public schools in the school division. The publishers shall ship the textbooks to the School Board. The purchase price of such textbooks shall be paid directly to the publishers by the School Board.

#### Locally-Approved Textbooks

In approving textbooks that have not been approved by the Board of Education, the School Board will also include a correlation of the content to the Virginia Standards of Learning in the content area and an analysis of strengths and weaknesses of the textbook in terms of instructional planning and support when the textbooks pertain to Virginia Standards of Learning subjects.

The publishers of such textbooks shall

- provide the School Board with certification that the content of the textbook is accurate and
- sign an agreement with the School Board to correct all factual and editing errors found at its own expense.

The purchase of textbooks other than those approved by the Board of Education is not exempt from the Virginia Public Procurement Act.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-238, 22.1-241.

8 VAC 20-720-170.

Cross Refs.:	DJF	Purchasing Procedures
	IIA	Instructional Materials
	KQ	Commercial, Promotional, and Corporate
		Sponsorships and Partnerships

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS SELECTION AND ADOPTION

Materials used by students under the guidance of teachers to extend, expand, and supplement basal materials constitute an integral part of the instructional program. Supplemental materials are those items which are used to assist the teaching and learning process and include such items as magazines, newspapers, charts, pictures, certain workbooks, kits, videos, film strips, and games. Materials selected for supplemental use must relate directly to the established objectives of the course or content area in which they are used.

The school board delegates the responsibility for the selection and use of supplemental materials to the individual schools. Teachers must carefully review materials prior to use and exercise a high degree of professional judgment in their selection and use of supplemental materials to ensure that the use of such materials serves to both support and complement the basic educational objectives within the specific subject areas and classrooms.

Adopted:

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-16, 22.1-78.

8 VAC 20-720-160.

Cross Refs.:	IIA	Instructional Materials
	IIAA	Textbook Selection, Adoption and Purchase
	KLB	Public Complaints About Learning Resources
	KQ	Commercial, Promotional, and Corporate Sponsorships and Partnerships

## INNOVATIVE OR EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMS

Experimental and innovative programs that are not consistent with accreditation standards or other regulations promulgated by the Board of Education are submitted to the Board of Education for approval prior to implementation.

Adopted:

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

8 VAC 20-131-420.

Cross Ref.: IKF                      The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements

## SCHOOL LIBRARIES/MEDIA CENTERS

Each school shall maintain an organized library media center as the resource center of the school and provide a unified program of media services and activities for students and teachers before, during and after school. The library media center shall contain hard copy, electronic technological resources, materials, and equipment that are sufficient to meet research, inquiry, and reading requirements of the instructional program and general student interest.

Each school provides a variety of materials, resources and equipment to support the instructional program.

Adopted:

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Legal Ref.: 8 VAC 20-131-190.



## ACCEPTABLE COMPUTER SYSTEM USE

The School Board provides a computer system, including the internet, to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication. The term computer system includes, but is not limited to, hardware, software, data, communication lines and devices, terminals, display devices, printers, CD, DVD and other media devices, tape or flash drives, storage devices, servers, mainframe and personal computers, tablets, laptops, telephones, cameras, projectors, multimedia devices, workstations, the internet and other electronic services and internal or external networks. This includes any device that may be connected to or used to connect to the school division's network or electronically stored division material.

All use of the division's computer system must be (1) in support of education and/or research, or (2) for legitimate school business. Use of the computer system is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use may result in cancellation of those privileges, disciplinary action, and/or legal action. Any communication or material generated using the computer system, including electronic mail, social media posts, instant or text messages, tweets, and other files, including communications and materials deleted from a user's account, may be monitored, read, and/or archived by division staff.

This policy applies to all users of the division's computer system. By using or accessing the computer system, the user agrees to abide by this policy and the Technology Use Guidelines established by the superintendent.

The superintendent is responsible for establishing Technology Use Guidelines, containing the appropriate uses, ethics and protocols for use of the computer system. The superintendent is also responsible for reviewing and updating, as necessary, the Guidelines at least every two years. It is the user's responsibility to know and follow this policy and the Technology Use Guidelines.

The Guidelines include:

- (1) a prohibition against use by division employees and students of the division's computer equipment and communications services for sending, receiving, viewing or downloading illegal material via the internet;
- (2) provisions, including the selection and operation of a technology protection measure for the division's computers having internet access to filter or block Internet access through such computers, that seek to prevent access to:
  - (a) child pornography as set out in Va. Code § 18.2-374.1:1 or as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256;
  - (b) obscenity as defined by Va. Code § 18.2-372 or 18 U.S.C. § 1460; and
  - (c) material that the school division deems to be harmful to juveniles as defined in Va. Code § 18.2-390, material that is harmful to minors as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(7)(G), and material that is otherwise inappropriate for minors;

- (3) provisions establishing that the technology protection measure is enforced during any use of the division's computers;
- (4) provisions establishing that all usage of the computer system may be monitored;
- (5) provisions designed to educate students and employees about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with students and other individuals on social networking websites, blogs, in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response;
- (6) provisions designed to prevent unauthorized online access by minors, including "hacking" and other unlawful online activities.;
- (7) provisions requiring every user to protect the security of information necessary to access the computer system, such as usernames and passwords, and prohibiting the sharing of passwords;
- (8) provisions prohibiting the unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of photographs and/or personal information of or regarding minors; and
- (9) a component of internet safety for students that is integrated in the division's instructional program.

Use of the school division's computer system shall be consistent with the educational or instructional mission or administrative function of the division as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels of students.

The division's computer system is not a public forum.

Users of the division's computer system have no expectation of privacy for use of the division's resources or electronic devices including non-division owned devices while connected to division networks or computer resources.

Software and/or services may not be installed or downloaded on the division's computer system without the prior approval of the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

The failure of any user to follow the terms of the Agreement, this policy or the Technology Use Guidelines may result in loss of computer system privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

The School Board is not responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged or unavailable when using the computer system or for any information retrieved via the Internet. Furthermore, the School Board is not responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the computer system.

The School Board reviews and amends, if necessary, this policy every two years.  
Adopted:

Legal Refs: 18 U.S.C. §§ 1460, 2256.  
47 U.S.C. § 254.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 18.2-372, 18.2-374.1:1, 18.2-390, 22.1-70.2, and 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.:	EGAA	Reproduction and Use of Copyrighted Materials
	GAB-R/IIBEA-R	Acceptable Computer System Use Social Media Policy
	GBA/JHFA	Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation
	GCPD	Professional Staff Discipline
	GCQB	Staff Research and Publishing
	JFC	Student Conduct

## ACCEPTABLE COMPUTER SYSTEM USE REGULATION SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

### Scope

This social media policy applies to all SCPS employees, teachers, students, Board Members and auxiliary personnel. This policy covers all social media and media platforms, social networks, blogs, photo sharing, wikis, online forums and video sharing.

### Faculty and Staff Guidelines

#### Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts, Digital Images & Video

#### Personal Responsibility

- Southampton County Public Schools employees are personally responsible for the hosted content they publish online. Be mindful that what you publish on social media channels will be public for a long time—protect your privacy.
- When posting online, please remember that you are an employee of the Southampton County Public Schools and representative of your colleagues, students, parents and the school community.
- Your online behavior should reflect the same standards of honesty, respect and consideration that you use face-to-face.
- Do not insult others online or use questionable language – Whether it is your boss, co-worker, a student’s parent or your next door neighbor, do not use your social media sites to vent about specific people. The use of ethnic slurs, obscenities, innuendos, inappropriate content or other questionable language could find its way to the very audience you would least want to see it. While every employee is entitled to his/her First Amendment rights, you should still carefully consider the ramifications of every post, comment, status update or email. When in doubt, leave it out.
- Blogs, wikis, and podcasts are an extension of your classroom and considered official content. What is inappropriate in the classroom should be deemed inappropriate online.
- Do not post photos or movies of fellow employees without their permission. Do not use photos or movies taken at school without permission. Do not post photos or movies that contain students without parental consent.
- There are many websites that allow users to share personally created movies. You are responsible for all you do, say and post online including videos. Anything posted online should represent you in a professional manner as others will see you as connected to SCPS. It disrupts learning when teachers, employees and staff post videos with questionable content.
- When posting online be sure not to post confidential student information.
- Cyberbullying is not to be tolerated. Any incidence of cyberbullying should be reported to the school Principal immediately. All cyberbullying incidents are to be taken seriously.

Personal use of social networking site, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

- Southampton County Public Schools staff and employees are personally responsible for all comments/information and hosted content they publish online. Be mindful that things such as Tweets and Status Updates will be visible and public for a long time.
- By posting comments, having online conversations, etc. on social media sites you are broadcasting to the world, be aware that even with the strictest privacy settings, what you 'say' online should be within the bounds of professional discretion. Comments expressed via social networking pages under the impression of a 'private conversation' may still end up being shared into a more public domain, even with privacy settings on maximum.
- Comments related to SCPS, its employees, staff and/events related to SCPS, should always meet the highest standards of professional discretion. When posting, even on the strictest settings, staff should act on the assumption that all postings are in the public domain.
- Before posting photographs and videos, permission should be sought from the subject where possible. This is especially the case where photographs of professional colleagues are concerned.
- Before posting personal photographs, thought should be given as to whether the images reflect on your professionalism.
- Photographs relating to alcohol or tobacco use may be deemed inappropriate. Remember, your social networking site is an extension of your personality, and an extension of your professional life and classroom. If it would seem inappropriate to put a certain photograph on the wall, then it should be considered inappropriate to post online.
- Microblogging (Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, Instagram, etc.) comments made using such media are not protected by privacy settings. Employees should be aware of the public and widespread nature of such media and refrain from any comment and/or #hashtags that could be deemed unprofessional. #(Hashtags) that tag students and provide personal financial gain are prohibited. SCPS students are not to be used a promotional audiences.
- SCPS employees are not permitted to solicit or accept "Friend" Requests from enrolled SCPS students on any personal Social Media Account. This includes student's accounts and SCPS employee personal accounts.
- SCPS employees are not permitted to encourage students (K-12) enrolled at SCPS to create Social Media Accounts of any kind.
- All SCPS employees who choose to utilize Facebook, Twitter or Instagram or any other Social Media Platform to provide classroom information to students and parents must create a "teacher" page. Posts must be exclusively about classroom or school activities. Parents must be provided notice of Social Media Platforms used as part of a classroom. Parents must give permission for students to participate in such media platforms.

## Staff-Student Relations

Employees are prohibited from establishing personal relationships with students that are unprofessional and thereby inappropriate. Examples of unprofessional relationships include, but are not limited to: employees fraternizing or communicating with students as if employees and students were peers such as writing personal letters or emails; "texting" students; calling students on cell phones or allowing students to

make personal calls to them unrelated to homework or class work; sending inappropriate pictures to students; discussing or revealing to students personal matters about their private lives or inviting students to do the same (other than professional counseling by a school counselor); and engaging in sexualized dialogue, whether in person, by phone, via the Internet or in writing.

Employees who post information on Facebook, Twitter or other similar websites that include inappropriate personal information such as, but not limited to: provocative photographs, sexually explicit messages, use of alcohol, drugs or anything students are prohibited from doing must understand that if students, parents or other employees obtain access to such information, their case will be investigated by school and division officials and if warranted, will be disciplined up to and including termination, depending on the severity of the offense, and may have their case forwarded to the appropriate state department for review and possible further sanctions. If inappropriate use of computers and websites is discovered, the offensive material will be downloaded and promptly brought to the attention of the Superintendent.

Adopted: October 8, 2018

## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are off-campus instructional activities. Field trips can provide excellent educational experiences for students by enriching the curriculum and by making classroom learning experiences more meaningful. To be educationally beneficial, a field trip requires thoughtful selection, careful advance preparation, and opportunities to assimilate the experience during and after the trip. Teachers plan advance activities that prepare students for the trip and follow-up activities that assist students in summarizing, applying, and evaluating information learned on the trip.

The following factors should be considered in proposing and approving field trips:

- The value of the trip to the particular class
- The relationship of the field trip to a particular aspect of the curriculum
- The distance travelled
- The time away from the regular instructional program
- The availability of transportation

No student is denied the opportunity to participate in a field trip because of a lack of funds.

Trips are approved by the superintendent or superintendent's designee pursuant to regulations developed by the superintendent. Approval must be obtained before commitments are made to students, parents, or commercial establishments. The superintendent makes an annual report to the School Board on field trips taken.

Trips for activities governed by the Virginia High School League do not require approval on a trip-by-trip basis. Parental permission for such trips may be obtained for the entire athletic season or school year.

The Southampton County School Board does not endorse or accept responsibility for any privately sponsored trips for students or any student trips which are not part of the instructional program. Employees are not permitted to solicit students for such trips. Employees who are involved with such trips must emphasize to any interested student/parent that such trips are strictly private enterprises.

Adopted:

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-176.

8 VAC 20-70-190.

8 VAC 20-720-80.

Cross Ref.: JFCB

Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity



## COMMUNITY RESOURCE PERSONS/SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

The Southampton County Public School Board supports and encourages the active participation of parents and members of the community in providing and extending educational opportunities for children. The involvement of parents, volunteers and others in the community who can serve as a resource to schools is a fundamentally important component of successful school programs. The administration of each school directs the activities of parents, volunteers and other community resources at the building level.

Adopted:

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

8 VAC 20-131-270.

Cross Ref.:	AD	Educational Philosophy
	IGBC	Parent and Family Engagement
	KA	Goals for School-Community Relations
	KN	Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry
		Information
	KQ	Commercial, Promotional, and Corporate
		Sponsorships and Partnerships

## GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAM

### School Guidance and Counseling Services

Each school provides the following guidance and counseling services to all students:

- Academic guidance which assists students and their parents to acquire knowledge of the curricula choices available to students, to plan a program of studies, to arrange and interpret academic testing and to seek post-secondary academic opportunities.
- Career guidance which helps students to acquire information and plan action about work, jobs, apprenticeships and post-secondary educational and career opportunities.
- Personal/social counseling which assists a student to develop an understanding of themselves, the rights and needs of others, how to resolve conflict and to define individual goals, reflecting their interests, abilities and aptitudes. Information and records of personal/social counseling will be kept confidential and separate from a student's educational records and not disclosed to third parties without prior parental consent or as otherwise provided by law. Parents may elect, by notifying their child's school in writing, to have their child not participate in personal/social counseling.

No student is required to participate in any counseling program to which the student's parents object.

The guidance and counseling program does not include the use of counseling techniques which are beyond the scope of the professional certification or training of counselors, including hypnosis, or other psychotherapeutic techniques that are normally employed in medical or clinical settings and focus on mental illness or psychopathology.

Parents are notified annually about the counseling programs which are available to their children. The notification will include the purpose and general description of the programs, information regarding ways parents may review materials to be used in guidance and counseling programs at their child's school and information about the procedures by which parents may limit their child's participation in such programs.

### Employment Counseling and Placement Services

The School Board provides to secondary students employment counseling and placement services to furnish information relating to the employment opportunities available to students graduating from or leaving the schools in the school division. Such information includes all types of employment opportunities, including, but not limited to, apprenticeships, the military, career education schools and the teaching profession. In providing such services, the School Board consults and cooperates with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Department of Labor and Industry, local business and labor organizations and career schools.

If the School Board provides access to one or more of its high schools and contact with such high school's student body or other contact with its high school

students during a school or school division-sponsored activity to persons or groups for occupational, professional or educational recruitment, it provides equal access on the same basis to official recruiting representatives of the military forces of the Commonwealth and the United States.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-23.3, 22.1-130.1, 22.1-209.

8 VAC 20-620-10.

Cross Ref.:	IGAD	Career and Technical Education
	IJD	College and Career Readiness
	JO	Student Records

## 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:

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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

## PARENTAL ASSISTANCE WITH INSTRUCTION

The Southampton County Public School Board encourages parents to provide instructional assistance to their children in the home. The school division may offer a voluntary training program to the parents of children in kindergarten through third grade to assist them in developing the skills necessary to provide effective instructional assistance to their children.

Adopted:

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:7.C.5.

Cross Ref.: IGBC Parent and Family Engagement  
IKB Homework

## HOMework

Homework provides an essential communication link between the school and the home. One measure of a program or course is the quality of the work done at home by the student. A strong home-school partnership, with many lasting benefits for the individual student and the student's family, can be greatly enhanced by a sound program of homework. In addition, homework should be an important tool in developing independent thought, self-direction and self-discipline. It assists the student in developing good work habits and in the wise use of time.

Guidelines for homework include:

- Homework should be assigned after introduction and thorough explanation of the skills necessary to successfully complete the assignment.
- Homework should be assigned in such a manner that it will be clearly understood by all students.
- Homework should serve a valid purpose and be closely related to classroom activities.
- A student's access to resource materials should be considered when making assignments.
- Homework should be evaluated promptly and returned to the student. Appropriate rewards should be given to those students who successfully complete assigned work. Effort and competency should be recognized and rewarded.
- Teachers should seek to determine the cause if a student regularly fails to complete assigned work. Teachers should not avoid giving homework because they believe students will not do the work.
- Excessive homework, like the absence of homework, should be avoided.
- Homework should not be used for disciplinary purposes
- Teachers and administrators should take appropriate steps to communicate with parents regarding the division's homework policy and to solicit their support.

Adopted:

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

Cross Ref.:	IB	Academic Freedom
	IGBC	Parent and Family Engagement
	IKA	Parental Assistance with Instruction

## ACCELERATION

The curriculum and schedule of elementary, middle and high schools provides flexibility in placing certain students in programs or subjects normally considered above their grade level. Scheduling eighth grade students into subjects above the normal grade level is done with counseling based on evidence of ability, past scholastic achievement and cooperation of the individual student and his parents or guardian.

When students below the ninth grade successfully complete courses offered for credit in grades 9 through 12, credit is counted toward meeting the standard units required for graduation provided the courses are equivalent in content and academic rigor as those courses offered at the secondary level. To earn a verified unit of credit for these courses, students below ninth grade level must meet the same requirements applicable to other students.

In any high school credit-bearing course taken in middle school, a parent may request that the grade be omitted from the student's transcript and the student not earn high school credit for the course. Such request shall be made in the format and by the deadline set forth in regulations developed by the superintendent.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78. 22.1-253.13:3.

8 VAC 20-131-50.

8 VAC 20-131-51.

8 VAC 20-131-90.

Cross Ref.:	IGBB	Programs for Gifted Students
	JO	Student Records
	JOA	Student Transcripts



## THE VIRGINIA ASSESSMENT PROGRAM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### Generally

The Board of Education has established educational objectives known as the Standards of Learning (SOLs), which form the core of Virginia's educational program, and other education objectives, which together are designed to ensure the development of the skills that are necessary for success in school and in preparation for life in the years beyond.

The Southampton County Public School Board has developed and implemented a program of instruction that is aligned to the Standards of Learning and that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Board of Education. It awards diplomas to all secondary school students, including students who transfer from nonpublic schools or from home instruction, who meet the requirements prescribed by the Board of Education and meet such other requirements as are prescribed by the School Board and approved by the Board of Education.

Southampton County Public School Board awards diplomas and certificates in accordance with state laws and regulations. The requirements for a student to earn a diploma and graduate from high school are those in effect when the student enters ninth grade for the first time.

### Virginia Assessment Program

In kindergarten through eighth grade, where the administration of Virginia Assessment Program tests are required by the Board of Education, each student is expected to take the tests following instruction. Students who are accelerated take the test aligned with the highest grade level, following instruction in the content. No student takes more than one test in any content area in each year, except in the case of expedited retakes as provided for in 8 VAC 20-131-30. Schools use the test results in kindergarten through eighth grade as part of a set of multiple criteria for determining the promotion or retention of students.

Each student in middle and secondary school takes all applicable end-of-course SOL tests following course instruction. The superintendent certifies to the Department of Education that the division's policy for dropping courses ensures that students' course schedules are not changed to avoid end-of-course SOL tests. Students who achieve a passing score on an end-of-course SOL test will be awarded a verified unit of credit in that course in accordance with 8 VAC 20-131-110. Students may earn verified credits in any courses for which end-of-course SOL tests are available. Students are not required to take an end-of-course SOL test in an academic subject after they have earned the number of verified credits required for that academic content area for graduation unless such test is necessary in order for the school to meet federal accountability requirements. Middle and secondary schools may consider the student's end-of-course SOL test score in determining the student's final course grade.

Participation in the Virginia Assessment Program by students with disabilities is prescribed by provisions of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan. All students with disabilities are assessed with appropriate accommodations and alternate assessments where necessary.

Any student identified as an English Learner (EL) participates in the Virginia Assessment Program. A school-based committee convenes and makes determinations regarding the participation level of EL students in the Virginia Assessment Program. In kindergarten through eighth grade, EL students may be granted a one-time exemption from SOL testing in the areas of writing, and history and social science.

## Definitions

### Authentic Performance Assessment

An “Authentic Performance Assessment” is a test that complies with guidelines adopted by the Board of Education that requires students to perform a task or create a product that is typically scored using a rubric.

### Standard Unit of Credit

A “standard unit of credit” or “standard credit” is a credit awarded for a course in which the student successfully completes 140 clock hours of instruction and the requirements of the course. A standard unit of credit may be awarded based on a waiver of the 140 clock hour requirement as provided in Policy IKFD Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit.

### Verified Unit of Credit

A “verified unit of credit” or “verified credit” is a credit awarded for a course in which a student earns a standard unit of credit and completes one of the following:

1. Achieves a passing score on a corresponding end-of-course SOL test.
2. Achieves a passing score on an additional test, as defined in 8 VAC 20-131-5, as a part of the Virginia Assessment Program.
3. Meets the criteria for the receipt of a locally awarded verified credit when the student has not passed a corresponding SOL test.
4. Meets the criteria for the receipt of a verified credit in history and social science by demonstrating mastery of the content of the associated course on an authentic performance assessment that complies with guidelines adopted by the Board of Education.
5. Meets the criteria for the receipt of a verified credit for English (writing) by demonstrating mastery of the content of the associated course on an authentic performance assessment that complies with guidelines adopted by the Board of Education.

Students may also earn verified credits by taking alternative tests to the SOL assessment. Such tests may only be those approved by the Virginia Board of Education, and the student may earn verified credits only by achieving that score established by the Board of Education.

### Virginia Assessment Program

The “Virginia Assessment Program” is a system used to evaluate student achievement that includes SOL tests and additional tests that may be approved from time to time by the Board of Education.

Adopted:

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:4.

8 VAC 20-131-5.

8 VAC 20-131-30.

8 VAC 20-131-50.

8 VAC 20-131-51.

8 VAC 20-131-110.

Guidelines for Graduation Requirements; Local Alternative Paths to Standard Units of Credit (Virginia Board of Education Oct. 2015).

Cross Refs.:	IAA	Notification of Learning Objectives
	IKFA	Locally Awarded Verified Credits
	IKFD	Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit
	IKH	Retaking SOL Assessments

## LOCALLY AWARDED VERIFIED CREDITS

### Generally

The Southampton County Public School Board awards verified credits in accordance with Virginia law and Virginia Board of Education regulations.

To be eligible for locally awarded verified credits as credit accommodations, students with disabilities must meet all criteria established by Virginia law or regulation and eligibility for such credit accommodations must be established in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan.

### Review Panels

The Southampton County Public School Board appoints review panels comprised of at least three educators to consider evidence of the student's achievement. Different panels may be appointed for individual schools or groups of schools.

The review panel reviews information which provides evidence of the student's achievement of adequate knowledge of the Standards of Learning content. The panel has discretion in determining the information it considers. That information may include, but is not limited to, results of classroom assessments, divisionwide exams, course grades and additional academic assignments (e.g. papers, projects, essays or written questions) as the panel deems appropriate.

Based on the evidence it reviews, the review panel may:

- award the verified credit;
- deny the verified credit;
- suggest participation in a remedial program and retesting; or
- make additional academic assignments prior to determining whether to award the verified credit.

### **The school board must choose one of the following statements:**

The decision of the review panel is final.

OR

The decision of the review panel may be appealed to the school board in accordance with regulations developed by the board.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:3.  
8 VAC 20-131-110.

Revised Guidance Governing the Use of Locally-Awarded Verified Credits (Virginia Department of Education May 11, 2018) (attachment to Virginia Department of Education Superintendent's Memo No. 130-18 (May 11, 2018)).

## ALTERNATIVE PATHS TO ATTAINING STANDARD UNITS OF CREDIT

Students who enroll in high school as freshmen before July 1, 2018, as sophomores before July 1, 2019, as juniors before July 1, 2020 or as seniors before July 1, 2021 are required to earn standard and verified units of credit as specified in the regulations of the Board of Education. A “standard unit of credit” or “standard credit” is a credit awarded for a course in which the student successfully completes 140 clock hours of instruction and the requirements of the course. The Southampton County Public School Board recognizes that instruction, learning and outcomes equivalent to those achieved in 140 clock hours of instruction can be attained in a variety of ways. Therefore, the School Board waives the requirement that a student receive 140 clock hours of instruction to earn a standard unit of credit as provided below. The total number of standard credits that can be achieved via the waiver option is 2. Students may earn fractional credits via waiver.

Waivers are available for all secondary courses including Board of Education approved courses, Career and Technical education courses and local elective courses. Elective courses must be approved by the School Board, be explicitly described in the division’s secondary course of study and have clearly defined and publicly available learning objectives commensurate in scope and detail with state learning standards and competencies.

In order to attain a standard unit of credit by means of a waiver of the 140 clock hour requirement

- the outcomes of the work for which standard credit is awarded must be equal to progress and learning achieved in 140 clock hours of instruction;
- upon completion of the assigned work for the course, a student must have demonstrated mastery by meeting specific objectives and performance requirements of the course that match or exceed the expectations of students who have received 140 clock hours of instruction with similar standards, competencies or objectives; and
- the evidence of mastery of the pertinent content and skills for a student receiving a waiver must be fully documented, retained securely by the school division and available for review by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) on request.

### Procedures

Criteria for awarding a waiver of the 140 clock hour requirement for the course must be clear, objective and clearly communicated to the student and the student’s parents prior to a student embarking on the effort.

The consequences of standard credits achieved by waiver with regard to class rank, grade point average and extracurricular eligibility must also be clearly defined and communicated to students and parents before a student embarks on the effort.

A student must receive approval from the school principal before pursuing the work, task or assessment that is required to meet the waiver criteria.

Students who meet the following criteria are eligible to seek standard units of credit via waiver of the 140 clock hour requirement before pursuing the work, task or assessment that is required to meet the waiver criteria.

#### Miscellaneous

The superintendent will identify a process for developing accommodations for students with limited English proficiency.

Pursuit of credit by waiver by students with disabilities will be prescribed by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan.

Students who attain credit by waiver of the 140 clock hour requirement will receive a grade for the course. The fact that a student has received credit via waiver will be reflected on the student's transcript.

A student who is pursuing credit via waiver is enrolled in the relevant course for purposes of determining eligibility for extracurricular activities.

#### Waiver Pathway Options

Waivers are available by three pathways.

1. Courses that award a standard credit and have less than 140 clock hours of instruction

For students attaining standard units of credit by this waiver method, the school division maintains documentation based on this policy that defines its rationale for the reduction of instructional time and substantive evidence that it provides equivalent instruction with equivalent outcomes in the reduced clock hours.

2. Independent study, work sample portfolio, demonstrated performance and locally developed or Standards of Learning assessment

Evidence of the student's learning must encompass a comprehensive assemblage of media products, artifacts, and performance that demonstrates the student has mastered academically rigorous material and meets or exceeds approved learning standards, competencies or objectives for the course.

The required content and evaluative criteria for the products must be defined prior to the advent of student work and based on the same objectives as the standard course.

The assemblage of evidence and overall process must be managed by a licensed and endorsed teacher in the area of the coursework with a series of program checkpoints throughout a specified timeline for the study. The checkpoints and timeline must be clearly articulated and communicated to the student.

The managing teacher must determine whether the work is of commensurate depth and quality as work performed in the traditional secondary classroom and meets predefined evaluative criteria communicated to the student.

The student must meet a predefined performance level on a locally-developed assessment for the coursework. This may be an oral examination, performance (e.g., recital/concert), written test or some other objective tool or process developed by the school division. Applicable Standards of Learning assessments may also be used for this purpose.

### 3. Demonstrated achievement via national or international assessments

The assessment must:

- have a standardized administration;
- be determined to be valid and reliable by an external body;
- be used in other states or internationally; and
- be scored independently of the school division.

Before a waiver may be granted under this option, the division must have completed a rigorous review of the assessment, in accordance with this policy, and determined that it is aligned with the course objectives for which the waiver is being requested. The division determines a qualifying score for awarding a standard credit that equates with mastery of the course content and skills and communicates that score to the student.

The student must provide evidence to the school principal or the principal's designee through performance, product, interview and/or school staff professional judgment that the student has some command of the course content and should be allowed to demonstrate mastery-level performance for a standard credit.

The superintendent will develop a process for determining a qualifying score for awarding a standard credit that equates with mastery of the course content and skills.

A student may attempt to achieve the qualifying score 2 times per Semester.

If the division selects an assessment that has a monetary cost, it will ensure equitable access to this option for all students.

### Appeal Process

The superintendent shall appoint a review panel comprised of at least three educators to resolve disputes regarding the attainment of standard units of credit via waivers in accordance with this policy. Different panels may be appointed for individual schools or groups of schools.



The panel may review whether a student was properly denied permission to seek a standard unit of credit via waiver and whether a student was properly denied a standard unit of credit after having been determined to be eligible to seek the standard unit of credit via waiver

Based on the evidence it reviews, the review panel may:

- award the standard credit
- deny the standard credit
- make additional assignments prior to determining whether to award the standard credit

The decision of the review panel will be final.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:4.

8 VAC 20-131-110.

Guidelines for Graduation Requirements; Local Alternative Paths to Standard Units of Credit, Virginia Board of Education (Oct. 2015).

Cross Refs:	IAA	Notification of Learning Objectives
	IGBG	Homebound, Correspondence and Alternative Means of Instruction
	IGBGA	Online Courses and Virtual School Programs
	IGBF	English Learners
	IKEB	Acceleration
	IKF	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements
	IKFA	Locally Awarded Verified Credits
	JO	Student Records

## REMEDATION RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Southampton County Public School Board supports efforts to provide instructional support to those students who have demonstrated a need for such support by their failure to pass certain Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments. Therefore, in kindergarten through grade 12, students may participate in a remediation recovery program as established by the Board of Education in English (reading) or mathematics or both.

Adopted:

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

8 VAC 20-131-30.

Cross Refs.:	IKF	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements
	IKH	Retaking SOL Assessments
	IL	Testing Programs

## RETAKING SOL ASSESSMENTS

Students in kindergarten through grade 8 are not required to retake Virginia Assessment Program tests unless they are retained in grade and have not previously passed the related tests or as otherwise permitted by the Board of Education. Students in high school are required to retake end-of-course SOL tests as determined by the Board of Education.

Adopted:

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

8 VAC 20-131-30.

8 VAC 20-131-110.

Cross Refs.:	IKF	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements
	IKG	Remediation Recovery Program
	IL	Testing Programs

## TESTING PROGRAMS

A program of standardized testing prescribed by the Virginia Department of Education is administered annually. Standardized tests are administered according to state and local directives.

In administering tests or other assessment instruments, School Board employees do not require any public school students being tested to disclose their race or ethnicity on such tests. School division personnel, however, may obtain such information from a student's permanent record and place the information on the test or assessment.

No student or his parent is required to disclose information related to the student's race or ethnicity unless (i) the student or his parent is given an option to designate "other" for the students race or ethnicity or (ii) such disclosure is required by federal law.

Adopted:

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-4.2, 22.1-253.13:3.



## RELIGION IN THE SCHOOLS

The Southampton County Public School Board is neutral in matters of religion. This means that the Southampton County Public Schools

- assume no role or responsibility for the religious training of any student and
- do not become involved in the religious belief, disbelief or doubt of any student.

This neutrality does not preclude or hinder the Southampton County Public School Division in fulfilling its responsibility to educate students to be tolerant and respectful of religious diversity. The division recognizes that one of its educational responsibilities is to advance the students' knowledge and appreciation of the role that religion has played in the social, cultural and historical development of civilization.

Therefore, the division approaches religion from an objective, curriculum-related perspective, encouraging all students and staff members to be aware of the diversity of beliefs and respectful of each other's religious and/or non-religious views. In that spirit of respect, students and staff members may be excused from participating in activities that are contrary to their religious beliefs.

The School Board may authorize, as an elective in grades nine through 12 with appropriate credits toward graduation, a comparative religion class that focuses on the basic tenets, history, and religious observances and rites of world religions.

Adopted:

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Legal Refs.: U.S. Const. amend. I.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-202.1.