

## STUDENT CONDUCT

The standards of student conduct are designed to define the basic rules and major expectations of students in the public schools of Alexandria City. It is the responsibility of the Alexandria City School Board to adopt policy and regulations and the administration to issue regulations establishing rules of conduct for student behavior in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its students and staff and to maintain an orderly safe and scholarly learning environment. The local school principal has the responsibility and authority to exercise reasonable judgment in enforcing this Code of Conduct. Principals are responsible for ensuring that all students, staff members, and parents are provided the opportunity to become familiar with this policy. The principals of each school will present to the Superintendent for approval each year a behavior plan for that particular school.

The Superintendent shall issue a Student Code of Conduct and a list of possible corrective actions for violation of the Code. Each parent/guardian of a student enrolled in a public school has a duty to assist the school in enforcing the student Code of Conduct and compulsory school attendance in order that education may be conducted in an atmosphere free from disruption and threat to persons or property, and supportive of individual rights. The Student Code of Conduct and a notice of the requirements of Va. Code [§ 22.1-279.3](#), as amended, shall be sent to all parents within one calendar month of the opening of schools simultaneously with any other materials customarily distributed at that time. A statement for the signature of the parent/guardian acknowledging the receipt of the Student Code of Conduct, the requirements of Va. Code [§ 22.1-279.3](#), and the compulsory school attendance law shall be also sent. The statement shall also acknowledge the receipt of state law concerning parental assistance in maintaining discipline and order. Parents/guardians shall be notified that by signing the statement of receipt, they are not deemed to waive, but expressly reserve, their rights protected by the constitution or laws of the United States or Virginia. Each school shall maintain records of the signed statements.

The school principal may request the student's parent/guardian or parents, if both have legal and physical custody, to meet with the principal or principal's designee to review the School Board's Student Code of Conduct and the parent's/guardian's or parents' responsibility to participate with the school in disciplining the student and maintaining order, and to discuss improvement of the child's behavior and educational progress. The administrator of the building should exercise reasonable judgment and consider the circumstances in determining the disciplinary action to be administered.

The Superintendent shall publish annually the Student Code of Conduct described above and the notice required under Section [22.1-279.3](#) of the Code of Virginia. This publication shall also contain the attendance regulations, the bus regulations, information on search and seizure, the procedure for suspension and expulsion, and all required notifications including Title IX non-discrimination and Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act notice. All employees who are in contact with students shall receive a copy of the Student Code of Conduct.

Each student has the right to expect an educational environment in which he or she can strive to achieve his or her intellectual potential. The student is expected to attend school regularly, be

diligent in his or her studies and conduct him/herself in such a way that the rights and privileges of others are not violated. The student is expected to accept and demonstrate the obligation of good citizenship to help prevent problems from happening and help solve problems if they occur.

All parents/guardians are expected to assume responsibility for the student's behavior and assist the school in enforcing the Student Code of Conduct. Parents/guardians are also expected to maintain regular communication with school authorities, monitor and require daily attendance, and bring to the attention of the school authorities any problem that affects the student or other children in the school. It is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to notify the school of any unusual behavior pattern or medical problem that might lead to serious difficulties.

The school principal shall notify the parents/guardians of any student who violates a School Board policy when such violation could result in the student's suspension, whether or not the school administration has imposed such disciplinary action. The notice shall state (1) the date and particulars of the violation; (2) the obligation of the parent to take actions to assist the school in improving the student's behavior; and (3) that, if the student is suspended, the parent may be required to accompany the student to meet with school officials; and (4) that a petition with the juvenile and domestic relations court may be filed under certain circumstances to declare the student a child in need of supervision.

The principal or principal's designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student involved in an incident required to be reported to the Superintendent and the Virginia Board of Education.

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

If the parent/guardian fails to comply with this requirement, the School Board may ask the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court to proceed against the parent in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Virginia.

Students are subject to corrective action for any misconduct that occurs:

- In school or on school property
- On a school vehicle
- While participating in or attending any school-sponsored activity or trip;
- On the way to and from school; and
- Off school property, when the act leads to: (1) notification pursuant to Va. Code § 16.1-305.1 or a conviction for an offense listed in Va. Code § 16.1-260 or (2) a charge that would be a felony if committed by an adult, or (3) disruption of the learning environment.

Unlawful acts which will lead to police notification and may lead to suspension from classes, exclusion from activities or expulsion include but are not limited to:

- possession or use of alcohol, illegal drugs, including marijuana, and anabolic

- steroids, or drug paraphernalia
- selling drugs
- assault/battery
- sexual assault
- arson
- intentional injury (bullying, fighting)
- theft
- bomb threats, including false threats, against school personnel or school property
- use or possession of explosives (see Policy JFCD Weapons in Schools)
- possession of weapons or firearms (see Policy JFCD Weapons in Schools)
- extortion, blackmail, or coercion
- driving without a license on school property
- homicide
- burglary
- sex offenses (indecent exposure, obscene phone calls, and child molestation)
- malicious mischief
- shooting
- any illegal conduct involving firebombs, explosives or incendiary devices or materials, hoax explosive devices or chemical bombs
- stabbing, cutting or wounding
- unlawful interference with school authorities including threats
- other unlawful acts including being an accessory to any of these or other unlawful acts.

Any student involved in a drug or violent incident which must be reported shall participate in prevention and intervention activities outlined in the school division's drug and violence prevention plan. Further, any student who has been found in possession of or under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school property or at a school sponsored activity may be required to (1) undergo evaluation for drug or alcohol abuse and (2) participate in drug and/or alcohol treatment program if recommended by the evaluator and if the parent consents.

The Superintendent shall issue regulations listing additional actions which may be cause for corrective action and if serious enough or exhibited repeatedly may lead to suspension or expulsion.

The School Board shall biennially review the model student conduct code developed by the Virginia Board of Education to incorporate into policy a range of discipline options and alternatives to preserve a safe and non-disruptive environment for effective learning and teaching.

Adopted: December 5, 1996

Amended: July 10, 1997

Amended: July 9, 1998

Amended: July 6, 2000

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Amended: June 18, 2015

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§[16.1-260](#), [18.2-308](#), [18.2-308.7](#), [22.1-78](#), [22.1-200.1](#), [22.1-253.13:7.C.3](#); [22.1-254](#), [22.1-276.3](#), [22.1-277](#), [22.1-277.08](#), [22.1-277.2](#), [22.1-279.1](#), [22.1.279.3](#), [22.1-279.3:1](#), [22.1-279.6](#).

Cross Refs.:	CLA	Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse
	ECAB	Vandalism
	IIBEA/GAB	Responsible Computer System Use
	IIBEA-R	Responsible Computer System Use
	JFCF	Drugs in School
	JFHA/GBA	Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation
	JGA	Corporal Punishment
	JGD/JGE	Student Suspension/Expulsion
	JGDA	Suspension of Disabled Students
	JGDB	Discipline of Students with Disabilities for Infliction of Serious Bodily Injury
	JN	Student Fees, Fines, and Charges