

## **COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE:** **~~AGES OF CHILDREN REQUIRED TO ATTEND~~**

Every parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of any child who will ~~has have~~ reached the his fifth birthday on or before September 30 of any school year and who has not passed ~~the his/her~~ eighteenth birthday shall send such child to a public school or otherwise provide the child with an education in accordance with state law unless the child is exempt from the state's compulsory attendance requirement. ~~attend a public, private, denominational, parochial school, be taught by a tutor or teacher meeting the qualifications of the Board of Education and approved by the Superintendent, be provided home instruction in accordance with state law and Board policy, or be granted an exemption from school attendance under the provisions of state law and Board policy.~~

Further, in the case of any five-year-old child, the requirements of this policy may be alternatively satisfied by sending the child to any public educational pre-kindergarten program, including a Head Start program, or in a private, denominational, or parochial educational pre-kindergarten program.

The requirements of this policy apply to

- any child in the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice or the Department of Corrections who has not passed the eighteenth birthday, and
- any child who the division superintendent has required to take a special program of prevention, intervention, or remediation as provided in Va. Code §§22.1-253.13:1.C and 22.1-254.01.

The requirements of this policy do not apply to

- any person 16 through 18 years of age who is housed in an adult correctional facility when such person is actively pursuing a general educational development (GED) certificate but is not enrolled in an individual student alternative education plan, and
- any child who has obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent, a certificate of completion, or a GED certificate, or who has otherwise complied with compulsory school attendance requirements.

### Individual Student Alternative Education Plan (ISAEP)

The School Board may allow the compulsory attendance requirements to be met pursuant to an individual student alternative education plan developed in conformity with guidelines prescribed by the Board of Education under the following conditions:

1. The student must be at least sixteen years of age
2. There shall be a meeting of the student, the student's parents, and the principal or principal's designee of the school in which the student is enrolled to develop the

plan, which must include the following:

- Career guidance counseling
- Mandatory enrollment and attendance in a general education development preparatory program or other alternative education program approved by the School Board, with attendance reported to the principal or principal's designee
- Mandatory enrollment in a program to earn a Board of Education – approved career and technical education credential, such as the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness skills assessment
- Successful completion of the course in economics and personal finance required to earn a Board of Education –approved high school diploma
- Counseling on the economic impact of failing to complete high school; and
- Procedures for re-enrollment

3. A student for who such an individual student alternative education plan has been granted but who fails to comply with the conditions of the plan shall be in violation of the compulsory attendance law, and the superintendent or attendance officer shall seek immediate compliance with such law.

### Alternative Education Programs

The School Board may, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Va. Code §22.1-276.01 et. Seq. and upon a finding that a school-age child has been

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

require a student to attend an alternative education program as provided by Va. Code § 22.1-209.1:2 or 22.1-277.2:1.

Whenever a court orders any pupil into an alternative education program, including a program in general educational development, offered in the public schools, the School Board will determine the appropriate alternative education placement of the pupil regardless of whether the pupil attends the public schools it supervises or resident within its school division.

~~Notification by parents of the intent to provide home instruction shall be processed in accordance with the requirements of state law and regulations established by the administration.~~

~~The requirements of this policy shall not apply to any child who has obtained a high school diploma, its equivalent, or a certificate of completion.~~

Adopted: July 1, 1993

Amended: July 10, 2003

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Sections 22.1-254, ~~22.1-254.1, 22.1-255, 22.1-258, and 22.1-261 through 22.1-265~~

Cross Ref.: JEG, *Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance*