

~~NEWS~~ MEDIA RELATIONS

~~The news media have an important role in informing the people about the public schools. Whenever an opportunity arises, the Superintendent and staff members shall use all available media to inform the public. Matters representing the official position of the Board prepared for release by any of its employees shall be approved by the Superintendent and Chairperson of the Board prior to release to the public press.~~

School Related Information

~~No interviews or pictures of students or staff will be permitted without the permission of the principal and, where appropriate, the parent(s) or guardian(s) if students are involved.~~

~~Principals shall furnish timely and accurate information about activities and developments in their schools.~~

~~News releases by the schools shall be encouraged as a means of informing the public of programs, activities, and accomplishments. Routine news and information concerning school events, personnel, students, and programs shall be released to the press only with the approval of the principal.~~

A well-informed and engaged public is essential to the achievement of the school division's vision, mission and strategic goals.

Members of print, electronic and social media companies are important sources of information about school division programs, operations, budgets, departments, policies, school staff and students and the school board.

Therefore, it is the policy of Albemarle County Public Schools that the division develop, implement and maintain a media relations program that:

- • Informs the media of division programs, achievements, and needs;
- • Maintains a web site with current, relevant and accurate information about important developments that affect the school division, its employees and students;
- • Keep students, parents and guardians and staff members informed of Board policies and procedures through the use of the media;
- • Ensure that all school division information provided to internal and external audiences is current, relevant and factual;
- • Respond to inquiries from the public and the media in a timely and effective manner.

Adopted: July 1, 1993

Amended: February 26, 2004; September 6, 2007, December 11, 2008

Legal Refs: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ ~~22.1-70, 22.1-253.13:7.C.4,~~ 22.1-287, 22.1-287.1

MEDIA RELATIONS-ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

- 1) No interviews, videos or photos of students are permitted for use by the media without the permission of that student's parent or guardian and without the approval of the building principal or the division's strategic communications officer.
- 2) Employees shall refer all inquiries and requests from the media to their building principal or department supervisor for review with the division's strategic communications officer.
- 3) Requests by outside organizations for information from or interviews with school personnel that are intended for public distribution should be reviewed with the division's strategic communications officer.
- 4) All employees are encouraged to offer ideas or story suggestions that highlight an event, program or accomplishment within their school or department. Suggestions should be made to the building principal or department supervisor for review with the division strategic communications officer.
- 5) Employees also may submit ideas for media coverage through use of the media coverage form on the Communications Department web site.
- 6) Each school and department shall designate an employee who will be responsible for the content of that school or department's web page. The building principal or department supervisor shall establish a review process to ensure that the web page content for their school or department is current and accurate. School web page content coordinators or department web managers are encouraged to relay significant items of interest to the division web team or strategic communications officer for inclusion on the division web site.