

STUDENT SERVICES

File: JFC

STUDENT CONDUCT

The standards of student conduct are designed to define the basic rules and major expectations of students in the public schools of Charlottesville City. It is the responsibility of the Charlottesville City School Board to adopt policies 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. 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 superintendent shall issue the Code of Student Conduct, and a list of possible corrective actions for violation of the Standards of Conduct. Each parent of a student enrolled in a public school has a duty to assist the school in enforcing the standards of student conduct and compulsory attendance in order that education may be conducted in an atmosphere free of disruption and threat to persons or property, and supportive of individual rights. The Code of Student Conduct, a notice of the requirements of section 22.1-279.3 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and a copy of the compulsory attendance law 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 parent's signature acknowledging the requirements of the Code of Student Conduct shall be sent. A statement for the parent's signature acknowledging the receipt of the Code of Student Conduct, section 22.1-279.3 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and a copy of the compulsory attendance law shall be sent. Parents shall be notified that by signing the statement of receipt, parents 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 Mutual Accountability Agreement (MAA) form will be sent to each parent with the Code of Student Conduct. This agreement describes the responsibility of the school division, each student's school, parents and students. Each party will sign the agreement to indicate willingness to accept the responsibility for the student's success both in academics and behavior.

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

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Each student has the right to expect an educational environment in which he or she can strive to achieve his/her intellectual potential. The student is expected to attend school regularly, be diligent in his/her studies and conduct himself/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 to help solve problems if they occur.

All parents are expected to assume responsibility for the student's behavior and assist the school in enforcing the Code of Student Conduct. Parents 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' 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 of any student who violates a School Board policy or the compulsory attendance requirements when such violation will result in the student's suspension or the filing of a court petition. 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 his designee shall notify the parent of any student involved in an incident required to be reported to the superintendent and Virginia Board of Education.

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

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

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

- in school
- 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
- off school property, when the acts lead to: (1) an adjudication of delinquency 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.

Unlawful acts identified in the Code of Student Conduct 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, synthetic cannabinoids as defined in Va. Code §18.2-248 1:1, 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 File JFCD)
- possession of weapons or firearms (see File JFCD)
- extortion, blackmail, or coercion
- driving without a license on school property
- homicide
- burglary
- sex offenses (indecent exposure, obscene phone calls, sodomy 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
- unlawful intimidation of school authorities

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- other unlawful acts including being an accessory to any of these or other unlawful acts

Any student involved in a reportable drug or violent incident shall participate in prevention and intervention activities deemed appropriate by the Superintendent or his/her designee. Further, any student who has been found to be 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 a 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.

Students may possess a beeper, cellular phone, Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) or other communications device on school property, including school buses, provided that the device must remain off and out of sight during instructional time. If a student possesses such a device other than as permitted in this policy, in addition to other disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed, the device may be confiscated from the student and returned only to the student's parent/guardian.

The School Board shall biennially review the model student conduct code developed by the 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: July 16, 1998
Revised: April 15, 1999
Revised: April 15, 2004
Revised: June 19, 2008
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Legal References: 20 U.S.C. 1145g, 3224a; 20 U.S.C. section 3351

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, sections 16.1-260, 22.1-78, 22.1-253.13:7 C, 22.1-200.1, 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, 18.2-308.1, 18.2-308.7,

Cross References:	CLA	Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse
	ECAB	Vandalism
	IIBEA/GAB	Acceptable Computer System Use
	JFHA/GBA	Sexual Harassment/Harassment Based on Race, National Origin, Disability and Religion
	JGA	Corporal Punishment
	JGD/JGE	Student Suspension/Expulsion
	JGDA	Disciplining Students With Disabilities
	JGDB	Discipline of Students With Disabilities for Infliction of Serious Bodily Injury
	JN	Student Fees, Fines and Charges