

EXCLUSIONS AND EXEMPTIONS FROM SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The School Board shall excuse from attendance at school:

1. Any student who, together with his/her parents, by reason of bona fide religious training or belief is conscientiously opposed to attendance at school.
2. On the recommendation of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court of the city or county in which the student resides, and for such period of time as the court determines appropriate, any student who, together with his/her parents, is opposed to attendance at a school by reason of concern for the student's health as verified by competent medical evidence, or by reason of such pupil's specific case is determined by the court, upon consideration of the recommendation of the principal and division superintendent, to be justified.

The School Board may excuse from attendance at school:

1. On recommendation of the principal and the Division Superintendent and with the written consent of the parent or guardian, any student who the School Board determines, in accordance with regulations of the Board of Education, cannot benefit from education at school; or
2. On recommendation of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court of the city or county in which the student resides, any student who, in the judgment of the court, cannot benefit from education at school.

Any request for exemption from attendance shall be presented annually in writing to the Superintendent or his/her designee.

The compulsory education requirements do not apply to:

1. Children suffering from contagious or infectious diseases as established by the certificate of a reputable practicing physician in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board of Education;
2. Children whose immunizations against communicable diseases have not been completed;
3. Children under 10 years of age who live more than two miles from a public school unless public transportation is provided within one mile of the place where such children live; and
4. Children between the ages of 10 and 17, inclusive, who live more than 2.5 miles from a public school unless public transportation is provided within 1.5 miles of the place where such children live.

The distances specified in subdivisions 3 and 4 above shall be measured or determined from the child's residence to the entrance to the school grounds or to the school bus stop nearest the entrance to the residence of such children by the nearest practical routes which are usable for walking or riding.

In addition, any child who will not have reached his/her sixth birthday on or before September 30 of each school year whose parent or guardian notifies the School Board that he/she does not wish the child to attend school until the following year because the child, in the opinion of the parent or guardian, is not mentally, physically or emotionally prepared to attend school, may delay the child's attendance.

Adopted: November 20, 2003
Amended: January 10, 2013

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §22.1-254

Cross Refs.: JEA Compulsory Attendance
JGD/JGE Student Suspension /Expulsion
JHCB Immunization of Students
JHCC Communicable Diseases
IGBI Home Instruction