

<p>Subject: Continuous Improvement for Curriculum and Student Conduct with Respect to Alcohol and Substance Abuse</p> <p>Policy Reference: <u>JFC, JFCI, IGAG, IGAJ</u></p> <p>Strategic Plan Goal <u>Reference Goal 1, Priority 1.2</u></p>	<p>Date: July 13, 2006</p> <p>Enclosures: 4</p> <p>REASON FOR CONSIDERATION:</p> <p>Action _____ Information <u>X</u></p>
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**Background (Purpose)**

On June 8, 2006, the Board received information from staff regarding the current code of conduct in regards to athletics and other extracurricular activities (enclosure 1, Policy JFC). During the meeting, the Board also received information from the School Board attorney regarding Virginia’s legal codes that govern behavior of students on and off school grounds and the conditions under which the Board can take action regarding violations of the student code of conduct.

Policy JFCI (enclosure 2) also clearly states that “The primary responsibility for helping students who are involved with substance abuse lies with the students and their parents. However, the potential for lasting personal damage exists unless educators and parents work together to help students understand the complex nature of chemical dependency. A supportive school environment is necessary for students who have been harmfully involved with substance use/abuse.” To that end, the Division has partnered high school staff, particularly guidance counselors and administrators, to work closely with a school-based substance abuse counselor supported through Region Ten Services. Attention to individual students occurs when a substance abuse concern is brought to their attention through parents, students, or staff.

Currently, students receive instruction in substance abuse (alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse) through health class from elementary school through grade 10. At the high school level, students in Health I apply health knowledge and skills to the development and analysis of personal goals to achieve and maintain long-term health and well-being. Key concepts/skills include the application of personal standards regarding the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other controlled substances and as specifically stated in Policy IGAG (see attached enclosure 3), “Each student shall receive instruction concerning the public safety hazards and dangers of alcohol abuse, underage drinking, and drunk driving.”

In the Health II curriculum, a major component on drinking and driving is included as part of the 36-hour classroom portion of Drivers’ Education (attachment Policy IGAJ, enclosure 4). Students analyze and describe the physiological and psychological effects of alcohol and other drugs and their impact on a driver’s awareness of risks and involvement in collisions. Key concepts include the effects of alcohol and other drugs on vision and space management. In addition, students identify and analyze the legal, health, and economic consequences associated with alcohol and other drug use and driving. Key concepts/skills include positive and negative peer pressure, refusal skills, Implied Consent, Zero Tolerance, and Use and Lose laws.

The combination of curriculum and instructional focus on substance abuse prevention and driver’s education, intervention services available through Region 10 on site, and disciplinary actions specified at the school level through extracurricular program guidelines as well as in Board Policy governing conduct all are designed as prevention and intervention services related to substance abuse.

**Administrative Consideration (Rationale)**

After much discussion at the June 8, 2006 meeting, the Board expressed interest in expanding the education of students about the dangers of drinking and substance abuse as well as determining if changes in student conduct policies are warranted to address underage drinking that occurs off school grounds and not during school-sponsored functions. It was noted by the Board that underage drinking is not limited to athletes and increased efforts should be made to improve our focus on both prevention and intervention issues that are educational in nature for all students. It also was noted by the Board that the specific responsibilities of parents, public school staff, and law enforcement authorities do differ in regards to the scope of their roles in supervising and disciplining juveniles. Lastly, the Board also clearly stated that formal partnerships are critical to the work of parents, school staff, and organizations that have a common mission to ensure that children know, understand and use safe behaviors.

Continuous improvement requires that we take a look at our current state and work towards a desired state. In order to facilitate and improve prevention and intervention services, setting clear expectations of students regarding underage drinking the following actions are recommended:

1. Review, and revise in 2006-07 as necessary, our existing curriculum for alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse and, identify and use resources and strategies that extend relevant substance abuse instruction beyond the tenth grade, addressing all students in grades 11 and 12.
2. Identify and partner in 2006-07 with organizations that share with us a mission of eliminating underage drinking so that we can better use their services to further engage students in learning activities that more systemically educate parents and students about the dangers and implications of underage drinking (MADD, etc.) use of partners and their resources should occur through drivers' education, health education, and required drivers' education parent workshops.
3. Review *Sports Done Right*, a University of Maine Sport and Coaching Initiative, and other instructional resources designed to support coaches to engage in consistent best practices for implementation across all three high schools. This includes improvements in student and parent participation agreements with focus on using these beginning in the 2006-07 School Year. A review of and possible revision of current practices for communicating with and educating parents and student-athletes through parent/student athlete educational programming required in each school.
4. Review best practices associated with other school divisions' training and extracurricular participation rules and change as appropriate so that Albemarle County Training rules and extracurricular activity participation guidelines ensure consistency across schools and clearly address consequences for underage drinking on or off school grounds and during or not during school activities. Consider the possibility of requiring students participating in other extracurricular activities to sign participation agreements.
5. Discuss and take action upon proposed modifications to policy JFC that would align it to legal code so that disciplinary action can be taken by the Board for off-grounds misconduct that meets the criteria established in the code.
6. Consider requesting local delegates to amend state code so that students under 18 years of age who have been charged with underage drinking are reported to school authorities per prior Board discussion.

### **Budget Implications (Short and Long Term)**

Money has been included in the 2006-07 budget for coaches' education. A component of this will be to address the expectations of the superintendent regarding actions taken to address substance abuse including underage drinking among athletes. Other funds may be redirected pending Board direction on the above recommendations.

**Recommendation/Future Direction/Time Line**

Receive for information and direction.

PREPARED:

REVIEWED: \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM NUMBER:

RECOMMENDED:

## STUDENT CONDUCT

Every student has a right to a quality education in an environment that is conducive to learning and free of disruption. Conversely, every student has the responsibility not to deny that right to others. Accordingly, the School Board has adopted policies and regulations designed to encourage good citizenship, reasonable standards of behavior, and a favorable atmosphere for learning and to discourage conduct that adversely affects the health and welfare of the students and staff.

Standards of student conduct are designed to define the basic rules and major expectations of students in the public schools of Albemarle County. It is the responsibility of the Albemarle County School Board and the administration to provide rules of conduct for student behavior in order to protect the health, safety, welfare, and individual rights of its students. The local school principal has the responsibility and authority to exercise reasonable judgment in enforcing this policy and the regulation. Principals are responsible for insuring that all students, staff members, and parents are provided the opportunity to become familiar with this policy and the regulation.

### Parent Responsibility

The Superintendent shall issue Standards of Student Conduct and a list of possible corrective actions for violation of the Standards of Conduct. The Standards of Student Conduct and a notice of the requirements of Section 22.1-279.3 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, 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 parent's signature acknowledging the requirements of the Standards of Student Conduct shall be sent. The statement shall also acknowledge the parent's duty to assist in maintaining discipline and order, and failure to participate could result in court action against the student and parent. Each school shall maintain records for the signed statements. The school principal may request the student's parent to meet with the principal or his designee to review the School Board's Standards of Student Conduct and the parent's 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 school principal shall notify the parents 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 any 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. 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 for willful and unreasonable refusal to participate in efforts to improve the student's behavior in accordance with the Code of Virginia.

### Expectations

Each student has the right to expect an educational environment in which he can strive to achieve his intellectual potential. The most important student responsibility is to avoid disruptive conduct which infringes on the rights of others. Students, parents and school personnel are expected to cooperate in efforts to insure a learning environment free of disruption.

- I. The student is expected to be diligent in his studies and conduct himself in such a way that the rights and privileges of others are not violated. The student is required to know and conform to the rules and regulations of the school, to conform to the direction of the school staff, and to comply with provisions of law.
- II. Parents are expected to teach their children conduct that does not infringe on the rights of others, to cooperate with school authorities, and to support necessary disciplinary measures. It is the parent's responsibility to notify the school of any unusual behavior pattern or medical problem that might lead to serious difficulties.
- III. The teacher has primary responsibility for all matters of conduct and discipline in the classroom, in the school building, and on the school grounds. Teachers have the authority to use such reasonable measures as may be necessary to maintain discipline in the classroom.
- IV. The principal/designee has the following responsibilities:
  - A. to establish and implement rules and regulations for student conduct in school that are not covered by this policy;
  - B. to make these policies, rules, and regulations readily available to students and parents;
  - C. to supervise and support teachers in their obligation to maintain discipline and create an atmosphere conducive to student self-regulation;
  - D. to impose necessary corrective measures including but not limited to imposing suspension or recommending expulsion to the Superintendent; and
  - E. to defend every individual within the school against arbitrary and unfair treatment.

- V. All persons associated with the school have a responsibility in the maintenance of proper school discipline.

### Enforcement

The Albemarle County School Board supports the school administration and staff in enforcing the policies and regulations and insuring that all students have a sound, non-disruptive educational environment in which to learn. Principals have the final responsibility for discipline of the students in their jurisdiction.

The administration and staff shall take all reasonable steps to prevent and eliminate restricted substances in the schools. The schools shall cooperate freely with agencies involved in such programs to the extent that the Superintendent deems advisable and shall implement appropriate educational programs.

To maintain control of restricted substances within the schools and to insure the health and welfare of the students, the School Board requires any student who is taking a prescription or nonprescription medicine for illness or other medical needs during the school day to report this fact to the principal or other designated staff member. If the student so requests, this information will be held in professional confidence. Such medication will be placed in the care of the principal or their designee. (See JHCD, *Administering Medicines to Students*.)

Note: The term "restricted substance" includes alcoholic drinks, marijuana, narcotic drugs, hallucinogens, stimulants, depressants, and anything else covered by the Drug Control Act referenced below, as well as any abusable glue, paint and similar materials, anabolic steroids, and both prescription and non-prescription drugs if they are not taken according to the prescription or directions on the package. The term "restricted substance" also includes anything that a student represents to be a restricted substance or which a student believes is a restricted substance.

Any student involved in a reportable drug or violent incident shall participate in prevention and intervention activities deemed appropriate by the Superintendent/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.

### School's Jurisdiction and Standards of Behavior

Students are subject to corrective action for any misconduct that occurs under the following circumstances:

- in school during school hours
- 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
- at other times as permitted by law

Coaches, teachers, and sponsors responsible for athletic teams, co-curricular activities, or other student groups may set additional standards related to dress, behavior, and training. Such standards must be appropriate to the purpose of the team or activity. Students must be given prior notice of the requirements.

Any behavior is unacceptable if it

- interferes with rights of others
- endangers the welfare and safety of the child or others
- is unlawful
- interferes with orderly conduct of any phase of the school program
- defies the reasonable exercise of authority
- results in destruction of property.

**Students may also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion, for misconduct that occurs at any time off-school grounds where (1) there is a nexus between the conduct and school operations; (2) where the conduct has been shown to have a detrimental or harmful effect on the welfare or safety of the school and its students; or (3) where the conduct has caused substantial or material disruption to the school's operations.**

#### Conduct Resulting in Corrective Action

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

- possessing, using, or being under the influence of "restricted substances" (legal intoxication not required)
- assault/battery
- arson
- theft
- bomb threats
- use or possession of explosives
- possession of weapons
- extortion, blackmail, or coercion
- driving without a license on school property
- malicious mischief
- selling restricted substances
- smoking or possession of tobacco for students under the age of eighteen
- gambling
- sexual harassment, regardless of sexual orientation \*

- sexual acts
- interference with school authorities
- intimidation of school authorities
- bullying or harassment
- hazing
- other unlawful acts including being an accessory to any of these or other unlawful acts.

Additional acts which will be grounds for corrective action (including suspension or expulsion) include but are not limited to:

- smoking or otherwise using tobacco on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored activity
- possession of tobacco substances or related paraphernalia
- unauthorized use of beepers, cellular telephones or other portable communications devices on school property and during the school day; however, this shall not be construed to prohibit use of such devices after school hours or at school functions or activities occurring after the school day
- possession of a laser pointer
- fighting
- threatening or verbal abuse
- profanity or obscene language
- disobedience or defiance
- refusal to identify self to school personnel
- truancy (see attendance policy)
- school parking or school driving violations
- defacing or destroying property
- inappropriate dress or appearance (dress or appearance must not present health or safety problems or cause disruption)
- possession of alcohol or drug related paraphernalia
- unauthorized sales
- plagiarism, honor code violations

### Standards of Student Conduct

The Standards of Student Conduct are listed in the regulation which follows. Also included within the regulation is a list of possible corrective actions for violation of the Standards of Conduct. The administrator should exercise reasonable judgment and consider the circumstances in determining the level of punishment to be used. In all cases, the rights of students will be protected, and in appropriate cases, parents or guardians will be informed as soon as possible.

### Administrative Responsibility

Since it would be impossible for this policy to take into account the severity of each offense, the principal or designee will have the authority to determine disciplinary actions. In

each case, the school administrator should use reasonable judgment to insure that students who violate the Standards of Conduct will be given appropriate attention, such as counseling, to encourage future compliance with the Standards of Student Conduct and school rules.

In addition to the disciplinary action outlined in the regulation, any known violation of the criminal code will be referred to the legal authorities.

Adopted: July 1, 1993  
 Amended: November 13, 1995; July 28, 1997; October 11, 1999; December 13, 2001; February 14, 2002; December 11, 2003

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Sections 16.1-305.1, 22.1-78, 22.1-277, 18.2-310, 18.2-308.7, 18.2-322.1, 22.1-200.1, 22.1-253.13.7(D.3), 22.1-277.02, 22.1-277.2, 22.1-279.1, 22.1-279.3

Cross Refs.: ECAB, *Vandalism*  
 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*  
 JN, *Student Fees, Fines and Charges*

\* Definition of Sexual Orientation: One's attraction to the same sex, opposite sex or both sexes, real or perceived. This definition is intended to describe the status of persons and does not render lawful any conduct prohibited by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## STUDENT CONDUCT

These regulations are promulgated to help parents, students, and school personnel to know some of the more obvious types of misconduct and understand disciplinary consequences which may be imposed upon the student as a result of such misconduct. The list of types of misconduct is not exclusive nor a limitation upon the authority of the School Board or school officials to deal with conduct which interferes with the proper functioning of the schools.

While adopting these regulations, the Board reserves to itself, and when appropriate, the Superintendent/Designee, the authority to determine appropriate disciplinary consequences of any conduct, listed or otherwise, which interferes with the proper functioning of the schools. All disciplinary action shall be determined on the basis of the facts and evidence presented.

### Standards of Student Conduct

The following section constitutes the Standards of Student Conduct for the Albemarle County Public Schools. The following acts by students in the Albemarle County Public Schools are not acceptable. Students found violating the Standards of Student Conduct will be subject to reasonable and appropriate consequences as outlined in the section on corrective measures.

- A. A student shall not take another's property under duress or threat or by any other unlawful means.
- B. A student shall not use or have in his possession or on his person any pistol, shotgun, rifle or other firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, operative or inoperative, or any object similar in appearance to a firearm, whether capable of being fired or not. Pellet guns, BB guns, and CO2 air pistols are considered to be firearms. A student also shall not use or have in his possession or on his person any knife, razor, slingshot, brass or metal knuckles, blackjacks, explosives, or other dangerous articles. A student further shall not misuse an acceptable object (such as a pencil, baseball bat, etc.) in a manner which endangers a person's safety or health. Possession includes storage in a vehicle, locker, or other receptacle. Any weapon possessed in violation of this policy shall be forfeited to the Commonwealth. The provisions of this section shall not apply to persons who carry such weapon or weapons as part of the curriculum or other programs sponsored by the school or any organization permitted by the school to use its premises.
- C. A student shall not use profanity or abusive language under any circumstances.
- D. A student shall not fight or display aggressive behavior that may reasonably cause a breach of peace.
- E. A student shall not intentionally threaten, strike, physically harm, or verbally abuse any teacher, school employee, student, or other person. Neither self-defense nor action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary

to protect some other person is to be considered an intentional act prohibited under this regulation.

- F. A student shall not deface or cause destruction to school property. (See JN-R.)
- G. No student shall enter upon any school property at night without authorized consent. Any student directed to leave or refrain from entering school property and who fails to do so shall be subject to disciplinary action.
- H. A student shall not give or receive unauthorized help, plagiarize or knowingly make false statements with respect to any school work or tests.
- I. A student shall not dress in a manner that is distracting or interferes with the orderly process of instruction. The following are examples and are not an exclusive list: halters, tank/tube tops, bare midriffs, no shoes, no shirts, etc.
- J. A student shall not behave in a manner which interferes with the orderly transportation of pupils on a school bus.
- K. A student shall not interfere with the orderly process of instruction.
- L. A student shall comply with the directions of a teacher or other school employee.
- M. A student is prohibited from leaving the school campus during the school day without authorization of designated school authorities.
- N. A student who acts as an accessory or accomplice to another in violation of any provision of the Standards of Student Conduct will be subject to corrective action as outlined in the Standards of Student Conduct.
- O. A student shall not sell, supply, or give or attempt to sell, supply, or give to any person any of the restricted substances listed in this policy or what the student represents or believes to be any of the restricted substances listed in this policy.
- P. A student shall not possess, procure, or purchase or attempt to possess, procure, or purchase or be under the influence of (legal intoxication not required) or use or consume or attempt to use or consume any of the restricted substances listed in this policy. This includes substances represented by or to the student to be any of the restricted substances listed in this policy or what the student believes are any of the restricted substances listed in this policy.
- Q. Any student whose parent or guardian requests that he be allowed to take any prescription or non-prescription medicine, drug, or vitamin shall bring such request in writing to the principal or a designee for approval. Items shall be left in

possession of an authorized adult. (See JHCD, *Administering Medicines to Students*.)

- R. A student, either individually or as a part of a group, shall not harass or bully others. Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to, physical intimidation, taunting, name-calling, and insults and any combination of prohibited activities.
- S. Students shall not recklessly or intentionally endanger the health or safety of a student or students or inflict bodily harm on a student or students in connection with or for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with or as a condition for continued membership in a club, organization, association, or student body regardless of whether the student or students so endangered or injured participated voluntarily in the relevant activity. The principal of any school at which hazing which causes bodily injury occurs shall report the hazing to the local Commonwealth Attorney.
- T. A student shall not assault or commit battery upon another person. Voluntary fighting resulting in physical injury to another person shall be considered assault and battery. Physical Assault includes any physical confrontation that may result in no injury, minor injury, or serious injury that includes, but may not be limited to, kicking, biting, shoving, pushing, hitting and fighting.
- U. A student shall not sexually harass another student or any school employee, volunteer, student teacher or any other person present in school facilities or at school functions. Sexual harassment includes any unwelcome sexual advances regardless of sexual orientation \*, requests for sexual favors, and other inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

#### Procedural Statement Concerning Restricted Substances

When an employee of the Board suspects a student of the illegal possession, use, or distribution of any controlled or illegal or restricted substance on the premises of any Albemarle County public school, it is the duty of the employee to notify the school principal immediately. Acting in accordance with the Board's policies in this manual and related policies and regulations, the principal should take possession of the suspect substance with the consent of the suspect student, if possible, or through a search procedure.

Minimum due process must be afforded the student prior to suspension. If the student admits the accusation when confronted, the student shall be suspended immediately. If the student denies the accusation, the student shall not be suspended unless there is evidence that he is in possession of, under the influence of, or distributing a restricted substance. In this case, the student shall be given into the custody of the parent or guardian and shall be suspended immediately. In any case, every effort should be made to have the parent or guardian come to the school before action is taken beyond the preliminary phase of the principal's investigation.

If an illegal substance is found in the student's possession, it will be turned over to law enforcement personnel. Drug violations will lead to disciplinary action, regardless of whether criminal charges are filed, or whether a criminal conviction is obtained. If it is determined through subsequent judicial proceedings that the student is guilty of a misdemeanor or a felony for the illegal possession, use, or distribution of a restricted substance or of an illegal or controlled substance as defined in the Code of Virginia, action shall be taken in accordance with the following provisions:

- A. The first offense of illegal possession, use, or distribution of restricted substances or of illegal or controlled substances that fall into the misdemeanor category as defined in the Code of Virginia will result in suspension from school for a period of not less than three (3) school days and not more than thirty (30) school days. If the parent or guardian has appeared at school to confer with the principal, the student may be readmitted to school after the third day of suspension.
- B. The second offense will result in expulsion for a period determined by the School Board.
- C. Any offense involving illegal substances that falls into the felony category as defined in the Code of Virginia will result in the expulsion for a period determined by the School Board.
- D. If a student under indictment for a felony is permitted to remain in the school, the student's involvement in school activities shall be limited to the formal instructional program conducted in the classroom. The student will not be allowed on the premises of an Albemarle County public school except for regularly scheduled classes or assigned library work.
- E. A student convicted of a felony committed outside the school will be expelled for a period determined by the School Board.

A student for whom the Superintendent has received a report pursuant to Section 16.1-305.1 of the Code of Virginia of an adjudication of delinquency or a conviction for an offense involving the manufacture, sale, gift, distribution, or possession of marijuana or other controlled substances may be suspended or expelled from school, regardless of whether the adjudication or conviction resulted from an off-campus incident.

### Corrective Action

The goal of student corrective action shall be to encourage self-control and orderly conduct.

Each teacher is expected to establish satisfactory student behavior with positive and constructive methods. If the discipline problem continues after a teacher attempts to correct student behavior, it shall be referred to the appropriate building administrator.

The following corrective actions are among those available to the school administration for violation of the Standards of Student Conduct. This list is not to be considered as exhaustive or to be delimiting to school administrators or staff. Each offense will be considered fully in determining reasonable corrective actions.

Administrators should use judgment in selecting the consequence(s) depending on the severity of the offenses. The following consequences are not listed in any particular order.

- A. Counseling
- B. Admonition
- C. Reprimand
- D. Loss of privileges
- E. Parental conferences
- F. Tasks or restrictions assigned by the principal/designee
- G. Detention hall after school or before school
- H. Suspension from school-sponsored activities or events prior to, during, or after the regular school day
- I. In-school supervision
- J. Out-of-school suspension
- K. Referral for an alternative to the regular education program
- L. Notifying legal authority where appropriate
- M. Recommendation for expulsion
- N. Legal action where appropriate

Students and/or the parent or guardian may appeal through proper channels from the principal to the Superintendent to the School Board.

If an expelled student under this section of the regulation is under eighteen years of age, the authorities of the juvenile court shall be notified.

Expelled students may apply to the School Board for readmission to the School Division at the beginning of the next school year.

Any special education student recommended for expulsion shall be reviewed by a Child Study Committee.

#### Enrollment of Suspended/Expelled Students

Any student who has been suspended from a school of this division is not eligible to attend any other school within the division until eligible to return to his regular school. Any student who has been suspended/expelled from another division will not be permitted to enroll in this division until eligible to re-enroll in his former division or until the Board or Superintendent

has reviewed the prior suspension and determines that the suspension was illegal or improperly given.

Adopted: July 1, 1993

Amended: July 28, 1997; December 13, 2001; December 11, 2003

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Sections 18.2-56, 18.2-87.1, 18.2-83, 18.2-308.1, 18.2-308.7, 18.2-310, 18.2-322.1, 18.2-308, 18.2-433.1, 19.2-85, 22.1-70.2, 22.1-78, 22.1-202, 22.1-253.13.7(D)(3), 22.1-277, 22.1-277.1, 22.1-277.2, 22.1-279.1

Cross Ref.: *CLA, Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse*  
*ECAB, Vandalism*  
*JFC, Student Conduct*  
*JFCD, Weapons in School*  
*JFCE, Gang Activity or Association*  
*JGA, Corporal Punishment*  
*JGD/JGE, Student Suspension/Expulsion*  
*JGDA, Disciplining Students With Disabilities*  
*JHCD, Administering Medicines to Students*  
*JGDA, Suspension of Disabled Students*  
*JBA, Bullying and Harassment*  
*GBAA, Harassment*

\* Definition of Sexual Orientation: One's attraction to the same sex, opposite sex or both sexes, real or perceived. This definition is intended to describe the status of persons and does not render lawful any conduct prohibited by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE - STUDENT ASSISTANCE**

The primary responsibility for helping students who are involved with substance abuse lies with the students and their parents. However, the potential for lasting personal damage exists unless educators and parents work together to help students understand the complex nature of chemical dependency. A supportive school environment is necessary for students who have been harmfully involved with substance use/abuse.

The School Board supports substance abuse programs that can vary in scope according to individual needs. Included among these would be programs for persons who desire more information, and for those who need help with intervention activities and programs.

The School Board supports division efforts to help students during the school day as well as to reinforce programs offered through other agencies. To that end individual school substance abuse programs should provide group experiences, individual counseling and such other devices as are judged to be necessary by school personnel and other involved agencies.

While the School Board recognizes the need to assist students with substance abuse problems, it shall remain the policy of the School Board that the use or abuse of alcohol and illegal drugs shall be prohibited in compliance with federal and state laws and regulations. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary and/or other legal action pursuant to School Board policy and applicable laws.

Adopted: July 1, 1993  
Amended: September 12, 1994; November 20, 2003

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, 22.1-78, 16.1-305.1



## **DRUGS AND ALCOHOL: PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AFTERCARE**

### **I. PREVENTION**

The purpose of the drug and alcohol prevention program of the Albemarle County school division is to provide students with information and activities which will prevent them from using alcohol and drugs in a manner harmful to themselves and others. The division's prevention program shall focus on classroom instruction, parent education, guidance and counseling, and the school climate. Involvement of parents and other community members is essential for the success of division prevention activities.

#### **A. Instructional Program**

1. All schools, elementary and secondary, will have instructional programs which assist students in making responsible decisions about the use of alcohol and drugs. Current and accurate information about alcohol and drugs and their effects upon the body is one component of an instructional prevention program. Other components include instruction and skill development related to self-esteem, goal-setting, decision-making, understanding feelings, conflict management and problem-solving, refusal skills, and the development of communication skills.

Health education programs will have responsibility for providing instruction about the prevention of drug and alcohol use/abuse. Other areas of the curriculum will reinforce the prevention concepts taught in the health program. Instruction will be provided about student responsibilities and rights as they relate to use of drugs and alcohol in the school and community.

2. Staff will be provided training in new curricula used to teach prevention strategies. Instructional materials will be available for each school to implement the program.

#### **B. Guidance and Counseling Program**

Guidance and counseling personnel will assist teachers with the implementation of classroom drug and alcohol prevention activities. Counselors will work with students, individually and in small groups, to supplement drug and alcohol prevention instruction and skill development. Counselors will also work with staff and parents to maximize the prevention efforts of the school.

### C. School Climate

School climate is an important element in the prevention of drug and alcohol use/abuse. The effects of drug and alcohol use/abuse may manifest themselves in poor school achievement; truancy; dropping out; poor relationships with family, peers and school personnel; delinquency and other behavioral problems.

All building staff will receive training in how to deal with problems associated with drug and alcohol use. Building-level prevention activities will be initiated under the leadership of the building administrator and supported by staff, students and parents. Community organizations will be encouraged to support school prevention activities.

The division will encourage programs which foster student advocacy of drug and alcohol prevention in secondary schools. These programs may include, but not be limited to, the formation of natural helper groups; development of Students Against Drunk Drivers (SADD) groups; a building-wide focus day; and student support groups. Student support groups assist students concerned about their own use of drugs/alcohol, students living in families suffering from drug/alcohol abuse or dependency, and students concerned about the drug/alcohol use of someone else.

## II. Intervention

- A. Secondary schools will establish and maintain an intervention program. The goal of the program shall be to eliminate drug/alcohol use and abuse by students.
- B. Ongoing inservice will be provided for faculty and staff. Important aspects of inservice training will include dimensions of the family illness and dynamics of the addiction process; enabling behaviors; intervention techniques; children in chemically dependent families; student experimentation, abuse and dependency; parental involvement and community resources; prevention issues and strategies; treatment and aftercare support; and implementation of the program into the classroom/building.
- C. Procedures will be established for student, parent, and staff involvement in the identification of high risk students, and for the development and implementation of student treatment plans.

## III. AFTERCARE

It is important that students returning to school from a community inpatient or outpatient treatment program be given aftercare support. Primary aftercare responsibility for

students returning from a community treatment program rests with the student, parent and community treatment program personnel. School staff, the student, parent(s) and community treatment personnel will work cooperatively to facilitate the aftercare plan.

Adopted: July 1, 1993

Reviewed: November 20, 2003

## **TEACHING ABOUT DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO**

Each student shall receive instruction concerning health issues associated with the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the State Board of Education and the Albemarle County School Board.

Each student shall receive instruction concerning the public safety hazards and dangers of alcohol abuse, underage drinking, and drunk driving.

Adopted: July 1, 1993  
Amended: February 22, 1999; August 23, 2001  
Reviewed: September 9, 2004

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 22.1-206  
SOA 8 VAC 20-310-10

Cross Ref.: JFCH, *Tobacco-Free School and Grounds for Students, Staff, and Community*

## DRIVER EDUCATION

A program of driver education in the safe operation of motor vehicles and knowledge of rules, regulations, and laws will be offered. The program will consist of classroom training and “behind-the-wheel training.” The Board may establish fees for the “behind-the-wheel” portion of the program that do not exceed the limit established by the Virginia Department of Education. The program will include instruction concerning alcohol and drug abuse, aggressive driving and motorcycle awareness.

No student will be permitted to operate a motor vehicle without a learner's permit or a license. Necessary certification of students’ academic standing and compliance with compulsory attendance laws shall be provided by the administration to the Department of Motor Vehicles upon request, in accordance with state law.

At the beginning of each school year and thereafter as necessary, the Superintendent shall report to the Department of Motor Vehicles the name and driver’s license number of all persons providing instruction in driver education for the school division.

Adopted: July 1, 1993  
 Amended: February 22, 1999; October 11, 1999; November 30, 2000  
 Reviewed: September 9, 2004

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Sections 22.1-204, 22.1-205, 46.2-335, 46.2-325, 46.3-334, 46.2-340

Virginia Board of Education Regulations Governing Driver Education, 8VAC20-340-10

Cross Ref.: JN, *Student Fees, Fines, and Charges*