

Albemarle County Public Schools
Parental Responsibility and Involvement Requirements
2006-07

Dear Parents:

The 1996 Virginia General Assembly passed a bill which describes the responsibility of parents to work with school administrators in managing their children's conduct. The bill requires that we send parents information about their responsibility, a form to sign and return to school acknowledging their responsibility, and a copy of Albemarle County's Code of Student Conduct. These items are included in this handout. Please sign this form and return it to your child's school. The attached sheet is for your information.

Every student has the right to a quality education in an environment that is free of disruption, and no student may deny that right to others. I ask that students, parents, and school personnel work together to create the best possible learning environment for all.

Pamela R. Moran, Superintendent

***PARENTAL STATEMENT OF RECEIPT OF NOTICE OF
REQUIREMENTS OF VA CODE 22.1-279.3 AND ALBEMARLE COUNTY
SCHOOL BOARD'S STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT***

I am the parent of the below named child and, by my signature, I acknowledge that I have received a copy of Section 22.1-279.3 of the *Code of Virginia* entitled "Parental Responsibility and Involvement Requirements," and a copy of the Albemarle County School Board's Standards of Student Conduct.

By signing this Statement of Receipt, I do not waive or abdicate, but do expressly reserve, any rights protected by the constitutions or laws of the United States or the Commonwealth of Virginia. I further understand that I have the right to express disagreement with the school's or school division's policies or decisions.

Date: _____

Name of Child _____

Signature of Child _____

Signature of Parent _____

Notice to Parents

By signing the above statement of receipt, you shall not be deemed to waive, and you expressly reserve, your rights protected by the constitutions or laws of the United States or the Commonwealth, and you have the right to express disagreement with the school's or school division's policies or decisions.

Albemarle County Public Schools

Student Conduct

The Albemarle County School Board has adopted policies to encourage good citizenship, reasonable standards of behavior, and a favorable atmosphere for learning. The standards are published here to help parents, students, and school personnel to know some of the more obvious types of 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. At certain times as permitted by law, students may also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion, for misconduct that occurs off-school grounds.

While adopting these regulations, the Board reserves to itself, and when appropriate, to its designated committees and school officials, 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 presented.

The following acts by students in the Albemarle County Schools are not acceptable. Students found violating the Standards of Student Conduct will be subject to reasonable and appropriate consequences.

1. A student shall not take another's property under duress, threat, or by any other unlawful means.
2. 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.
3. A student shall not use profanity or abusive language under any circumstances.
4. A student shall not fight nor display aggressive behavior that may reasonably cause a breach of peace.
5. 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.
6. A student shall not deface or cause destruction to school property.
7. 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.
8. A student shall not give or receive unauthorized help on his school work.
9. 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.
10. A student shall not behave in a manner which interferes with the orderly transportation of pupils on a school bus.
11. A student shall not interfere with the orderly process of instruction.
12. A student shall comply with the directions of a teacher or other school employee.
13. A student is prohibited from leaving the school campus during the school day without authorization of designated school authorities.
14. 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.
15. Smoking, chewing or any other use of tobacco products by students, staff and community members shall be prohibited on all school property.
- 16.* 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.

- 17.* 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.
18. 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.

* NOTE: The term "restricted substance" includes alcoholic drinks, marijuana, narcotic drugs, hallucinogens, stimulants, depressants, and anything else covered by the Drug Control Act, 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.

Parental Responsibility

*Excerpted from the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended
22.1-279.3. Parental responsibility and involvement requirements.*

- A. 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 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.
- B. A school board shall provide opportunities for parental and community involvement in every school in the school division.
- C. Within one calendar month of the opening of school, each school board shall, simultaneously with any other materials customarily distributed at that time, send to the parents of each enrolled student (I) a notice of the requirements of this section and (ii) a copy of the school board's standards of student conduct. These materials shall include a notice to the parents that by signing the statement of receipt, parents shall not be deemed to waive, but to expressly reserve, their rights protected by the constitutions or laws of the United States or the Commonwealth and that a parent shall have the right to express disagreement with a school's or school division's policies or decisions.
Each parent of a student shall sign and return to the school in which the student is enrolled a statement acknowledging the receipt of the school board's standards of student conduct and the notice of the requirements of this section. Each school shall maintain records of such signed statements.
- D. 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.
- E. In accordance with 22.1-277 and the guidelines required by 22.1-278, the school principal may 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 such disciplinary action. The notice shall state* (I) the date and particulars of the violation; (ii) the obligation of the parent to take actions to assist the school in improving the student's behavior; and (iii) that, if the student is suspended, the parent may be required to accompany the student to meet with school officials.
- F. 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.
- G. Upon the failure of a parent to comply with the provisions of this section, the school board may, by petition to the juvenile and domestic relations court, proceed against such parent for willful and unreasonable refusal to participate in efforts to improve the student's behavior, as follows:
1. If the court finds that the parent has willfully and unreasonably failed to meet, pursuant to a request of the principal as set forth in subsection D of this section, to review the school board's standards of student conduct and the parent's responsibility to assist the school in disciplining the student and maintaining order, and to discuss improvement of the child's behavior and educational progress, it may order the parent to so meet; or
 2. If the court finds that the parent has willfully and unreasonably failed to accompany a suspended student to meet with school officials pursuant to subsection F, or upon the student's receiving a second suspension or being expelled, it may order (I) the student or his parent to participate in such programs or such treatment as the court deems appropriate to improve the student's behavior or (ii) the student or his parent to be subject to such conditions and limitations as the court deems appropriate for the supervision, care, and rehabilitation of the student or his parent. In addition, the court may order the parent to pay a civil penalty not to exceed \$500.
- H. The civil penalties established pursuant to this section shall be enforceable in the juvenile and domestic relations court in which the student's school is located and shall be paid into a fund maintained by the appropriate local governing body to support programs or treatments designed to improve the behavior of students as described in subdivision 3 of subsection G. Upon the failure to pay the civil penalties imposed by this section, the attorney for the appropriate county, city, or town shall enforce the collection of such civil penalties.
- I. All references in this section to the juvenile and domestic relations court shall be also deemed to mean any successor in interest of such court.