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The goal of the employment policies and practices of the Rappahannock County School Board is to promote the employment and retention of highly qualified personnel to effectively serve the educational needs of students.

No employee, contractor or agent of the Rappahannock County School Board may assist a school board employee, contractor or agent in obtaining a new job, apart from the routine transmission of administrative and personnel files, if the employee, contractor or agent knows, or has probable cause to believe, that such school employee, contractor or agent engaged in sexual misconduct regarding a minor or student in violation of law. This prohibition does not apply if the information giving rise to probable cause

1. A. has been properly reported to a law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the alleged misconduct and
 - B. has been properly reported to any other authorities as required by federal or state law, including title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.) and the regulations implementing it and
2. A. the matter has been officially closed or the prosecutor or police with jurisdiction over the alleged misconduct has investigated the allegations and notified school officials that there is insufficient information to establish probable cause that the school employee, contractor or agent engaged in sexual misconduct regarding a minor in violation of law;
 - B. the school employee, contractor or agent has been charged with, and acquitted or otherwise exonerated of the alleged misconduct; or
 - C. the case or investigation remains open and there have been no charges filed against, or indictment of, the school employee, contractor or agent within 4 years of the date on which the information was reported to a law enforcement agency.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Reviewed: March 16, 1999

Revised: November 12, 2002, October 10, 2006, December 11, 2013, June 13, 2017, September 11, 2018, June 11, 2019

Legal Ref.: 20 U.S.C. § 7926.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-79.8, 22.1-295.

Cross Refs.:	AC	Nondiscrimination
	GAE	Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
	GB	Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination
	GBL	Personnel Records
	GBN	Staff Hiring Procedure

STAFF TIME SCHEDULES

Work Schedules

The workday for full-time licensed and professional staff is a minimum of seven hours and thirty minutes and continues until professional responsibilities to the students and school division are completed. Administrative meetings, curriculum development, pupil supervision, assigned duties, parent conferences, group or individual planning and extra-curricular activities may require hours beyond the stated minimum. Elementary school classroom teachers are provided at least an average of thirty minutes per day during the students' school week as planning time. Each full-time middle and secondary classroom teacher is provided one planning period per day, or the equivalent, as defined by the Board of Education, unencumbered of any teaching or supervisory duties. If a middle or secondary school classroom teacher teaches more than the standard load of students or class periods per week, as defined by the Board of Education, an appropriate contractual arrangement and compensation is provided.

Work schedules for other employees are defined by the superintendent or superintendent's designee consistent with the Fair Labor Standards Act and the provisions of this policy.

Workweek Defined

For purposes of compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act, the workweek for employees of Rappahannock County School Board is 12:00 a.m. Saturday until 11:59 p.m. Friday.

Overtime and Compensatory Time

Working hours for all employees not classified as exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act, including secretaries, bus drivers, cafeteria, janitorial and maintenance personnel, conform to federal and state regulations. The superintendent ensures that job positions are classified as exempt or non-exempt and that employees are made aware of such classifications. Supervisors make every effort to avoid circumstances which require non-exempt employees to work more than 40 hours each week. The Rappahannock County School Board discourages overtime work by non-exempt employees. A non-exempt employee will not work overtime without the express approval of the employee's supervisor. All overtime work must be expressly approved in writing by the superintendent or superintendent's designee. All supervisory personnel must monitor overtime on a weekly basis and report such time to the superintendent or superintendent's designee. Principals and supervisors monitor employees' work, ensure that overtime provisions of this policy and the Fair Labor Standards Act are followed and ensure that all employees are compensated for any overtime worked. Principals or supervisors may need to adjust daily schedules to prevent non-exempt employees from working more than 40 hours in a workweek. Accurate and complete time sheets of actual hours worked during the workweek must be signed by each employee and submitted to the finance officer. The finance officer reviews work records of employees on a regular basis to make an assessment of overtime use.

In lieu of overtime compensation, non-exempt employees may receive compensatory time off at a rate of not less than one and one-half (1.5) hours for each one hour of overtime worked, if such compensatory time

- (1) is pursuant to an agreement between the employer and employee reached before overtime work is performed, and
- (2) is authorized by the immediate supervisor.

Employees will be allowed to use compensatory time within a reasonable period after requesting such use if the requested use of the compensatory time does not unduly disrupt the operation of the school division. Employees may accrue a maximum of 240 compensatory time hours before they will be provided overtime pay at the rate earned by the employee at the time the employee receives such payment. In addition, upon leaving the school division, an employee will be paid for any unused compensatory time at the rate of not less than the higher of

- (1) the average regular rate received by the employee during the employee's last three years of employment, or
- (2) the final regular rate received by the employee.

Non-exempt employees whose workweek is less than 40 hours are paid at the regular rate of pay for time worked up to 40 hours. Such employees are provided overtime pay as provided above for working more than 40 hours in a workweek.

Employees are provided with a copy of this policy and are required to sign this policy to acknowledge their understanding of overtime and compensatory time provisions. Such signed policy constitutes the written agreement required in this section.

Attendance Expectations

All employees are expected to be present during all work hours. Absence without prior approval, chronic absences, habitual tardiness or abuses of designated working hours are all considered neglect of duty and will result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

Adopted: March 9, 2004

Reviewed: July 20, 2009

Revised: December 11, 2013, March 12, 2019, July 13, 2021, September 14, 2021

Legal Refs.: 29 U.S.C. 29 U.S.C. §§ 203, 207.

29 C.F.R § 516.1 et seq.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:2, 22.1-253.13:3, 22.1-291.1, 40.1-29.2.

8 VAC 20-131-240.

Cross Ref.: GCBD Staff Leaves and Absences
 IC/ID School Year/School Day

ACCEPTABLE COMPUTER SYSTEM USE

The School Board provides a computer system, including the internet, to promote educational excellence by facilitating learning, resource sharing, innovation and communication. The term computer system includes, but is not limited to, hardware, software, data, communication lines and devices, terminals, display devices, printers, CD, DVD and other media devices, tape or flash drives, storage devices, servers, mainframe and personal computers, tablets, laptops, telephones, cameras, projectors, interactive whiteboards/panels, audio-visual equipment, multimedia devices, workstations, remote network access, cloud services, the internet and other electronic services and internal or external networks. This includes any device that may be connected to or used to connect to the school division's network or electronically stored division material.

All use of the division's computer system must be (1) in support of education and/or research, or (2) for legitimate division business. Use of the computer system is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use may result in cancellation of those privileges, disciplinary action, and/or legal action. Any communication or material generated using the computer system, including electronic mail, social media posts, instant or text messages, tweets, and other files, including communications and materials deleted from a user's account, may be monitored, read, and/or archived by division staff.

This policy applies to all users of the division's computer system. By using or accessing the computer system, the user agrees to abide by this policy and the Technology Use Guidelines established by the superintendent.

The superintendent is responsible for establishing Technology Use Guidelines, containing the appropriate uses, ethics and protocols for use of the computer system. The superintendent is also responsible for reviewing and updating, as necessary, the Guidelines at least every two years. It is the user's responsibility to know and follow this policy and the Technology Use Guidelines.

The Guidelines include:

- (1) a prohibition against use of the division's computer equipment and communications services for sending, receiving, viewing or downloading illegal material via the internet;
- (2) provisions, including the selection and operation of a technology protection measure for the division's computers having internet access to filter or block internet access through such computers, that seek to prevent access to:
 - (a) child pornography as set out in Va. Code § 18.2-374.1:1 or as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256;
 - (b) obscenity as defined by Va. Code § 18.2-372 or 18 U.S.C. § 1460; and
 - (c) material that the school division deems to be harmful to juveniles as defined in Va. Code § 18.2-390, material that is harmful to minors as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(7)(G), and material that is otherwise inappropriate for minors;

- (3) provisions establishing that the technology protection measure is enforced during any use of the division's computers;
- (4) provisions establishing that all usage of the computer system may be monitored;
- (5) provisions designed to educate students and employees about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with students and other individuals on social networking websites, blogs, in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response;
- (6) provisions designed to prevent unauthorized online access by minors, including "hacking" and other unlawful online activities;
- (7) provisions requiring every user to protect the security of information necessary to access the computer system, such as usernames and passwords, and prohibiting the sharing of passwords;
- (8) provisions prohibiting the unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of photographs and/or personal information of or regarding minors; and
- (9) a component of internet safety for students that is integrated in the division's instructional program.

Use of the school division's computer system must be consistent with the educational or instructional mission or administrative function of the division as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels of students.

The division's computer system is not a public forum.

Users of the division's computer system have no expectation of privacy for use of the division's resources or electronic devices including non-division owned devices while connected to division networks or computer resources.

Software and/or services may not be installed or downloaded on the division's computer system without the prior approval of the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

No employee or agent of the School Board or person or entity contracting with the School Board may download or use any application, including TikTok or WeChat, or access any website developed by ByteDance Ltd. or Tencent Holdings Ltd. (i) on any device or equipment issued, owned, or leased by the School Board, including mobile phones, desktop computers, laptop computers, tablets, or other devices capable of connecting to the Internet.

The failure of any user to follow the terms of this policy or the Technology Use Guidelines may result in loss of computer system privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action. Users of the system agree to indemnify the School Board for any losses, costs, or damages relating to or arising out of any violation of this policy or the Technology Use Guidelines.

The School Board is not responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged or unavailable when using the computer system or for any information retrieved via the internet. Furthermore, the School Board is not responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the computer system.

The School Board reviews and amends, if necessary, this policy every two years.

Adopted: June 14, 2005

Revised: October 10, 2006, November 10, 2009, December 11, 2013, March 12, 2019, June 11, 2019, July 13, 2021, April 11, 2023, July 11, 2023

Legal Refs: 18 U.S.C. §§ 1460, 2256.
47 U.S.C. § 254.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.2-5514.1, 18.2-372, 18.2-374.1:1, 18.2-390, 22.1-23.3, 22.1-70.2, and 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.: ECAB	Vandalism
EGAA	Reproduction and Use of Copyrighted Materials
GBA/JHFA	Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation
GCPD	Professional Staff Discipline
GCQB	Staff Research and Publishing
JFC	Student Conduct

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING

Reporting Requirement

Every employee of Rappahannock County School Board who, in his professional or official capacity, has reason to suspect that a child is an abused or neglected child, in compliance with the Code of Virginia § 63.2-1509 et seq. shall immediately report the matter to

- the local department of social services where the child resides or where the abuse or neglect is believed to have occurred;
- to the Virginia Department of Social Services' toll-free child abuse and neglect hotline; or
- to the person in charge of the school or department, or his designee, who shall make the report forthwith to the local or state agency. The person making the report to the local or state agency must notify the person making the initial report when the report of suspected abuse or neglect is made to the local or state agency, and of the name of the individual receiving the report, and must forward any communication resulting from the report, including any information about any actions taken regarding the report, to the person who made the initial report.

Notice of Reporting Requirement

The School Board posts in each school a notice that

- any teacher or other person employed there who has reason to suspect that a child is an abused or neglected child, including any child who may be abandoned, is required to report such suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to local or state social services agencies or the person in charge of the relevant school or his designee; and
- all persons required to report cases of suspected child abuse or neglect are immune from civil or criminal liability or administrative penalty or sanction on account of such reports unless such person has acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose. The notice shall also include the Virginia Department of Social Services' toll-free child abuse and neglect hotline.

Complaints of Abuse and Neglect

The School Board and the local department of social services have adopted a written interagency agreement as a protocol for investigating child abuse and neglect reports, including reports of sexual abuse of a student. The interagency agreement is based on recommended procedures for conducting investigations developed by the Departments of Education and Social Services. The School Board reports substantial modifications of the agreement to the Board of Education.

Adopted: October 11, 2016
Revised: June 11, 2019

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:7, 22.1-291.3, 63.2-1509, 63.2-1511.

Cross Refs.:	EFB	Food Services
	JFHA/GBA	Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation
	GA	Personnel Policies Goals
	GBLA	Third Party Complaints Against Employees

SCHOOL EMPLOYEE CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

A. Purpose

The State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act (the Act), applies to public school employees and officials. The Act creates uniform standards of conduct for all public employees and officials. The Act also defines and prohibits inappropriate conflicts of interest and requires disclosure of economic interests in some circumstances. The purpose of this policy is to provide an introduction to the Act for employees. Additional information regarding the Act may be obtained from Policy BBFA Conflict of Interests and Disclosure of Economic Interests and from the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council (the Ethics Council) which assists with compliance with the Act.

B. Compliance

School board employees are required to read and be familiar with the Act. The superintendent provides employees with information regarding how to access the Act and how to contact the Ethics Council.

The Act's provisions are complex and their application is fact-specific. A violation of the Act could result in civil or criminal penalties. Therefore, if an employee has any question whether an interest the employee has in a contract or transaction involving the school division is prohibited under the Act, the employee should contact the superintendent's office or the Ethics Council for assistance.

C. Areas of Regulation

The Act prohibits school employees from having a "personal interest," as that term is defined by the Act, in certain contracts and transactions that involve the division and from engaging in other specified conduct related to the schools. The prohibited personal interest also may be that of the school employee's immediate family (a spouse or any other person who resides in the same household as the employee and who is a dependent of the employee).

Under the Act, an employee may be considered to have a prohibited conflict arising from:

- a personal interest in a contract;
- a personal interest in a transaction;
- business opportunities tied to official acts;
- misuse of confidential information; or
- receipt or solicitation of certain gifts.

Examples of prohibited conduct include:

- soliciting or accepting money or other thing of value for services performed within the scope of the employee's official duties, except for the employee's compensation, expenses or other remuneration paid by the division;

- using for the employee's own economic benefit or that of another party, confidential information that the employee has acquired by reason of the employee's public position and which is not available to the public;
- accepting any money, loan, gift, favor, service or business or professional opportunity that reasonably tends to influence the employee in the performance of the employee's official duties;
- accepting any business or professional opportunity when the employee knows that there is a reasonable likelihood that the opportunity is being afforded to influence the employee in the performance of the employee's official duties;
- entering into contracts with the school division under certain circumstances;
- accepting a gift from a person who has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance of the employee's official duties under circumstances where the timing and nature of the gift would cause a reasonable person to question the employee's impartiality in the matter affecting the donor; and
- accepting gifts from sources on a basis so frequent as to raise an appearance of the use of the employee's position for private gain.

D. Awards to Employees for Exceptional Service

The Act does not prohibit or apply to the acceptance by a teacher or other employee of Rappahannock County School Board of an award or payment in honor of meritorious or exceptional services performed by the teacher or employee and made by an organization exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

E. Advisory Opinions

Employees may seek written opinions regarding application of the Act from the local Commonwealth's Attorney, the local county attorney or the Ethics Council. Good faith reliance on a written opinion of the Commonwealth's Attorney or a formal opinion or written informal advice of the Ethics Council made in response to a written request for such opinion or advice regardless of whether such opinion or advice is later withdrawn, provided that the alleged violation occurred prior to the withdrawal of the opinion or advice, bars prosecution for a knowing violation of the Act provided the opinion or advice was made after a full disclosure of the facts. If the employee relies on written informal advice given by the Ethics Council in a prosecution for a knowing violation of the Act, the record of the request and the written informal advice given shall be a public record and released upon request. An opinion of the local county attorney may be introduced at trial as evidence that the employee did not knowingly violate the Act.

Adopted: June 13, 2017
Revised: October 10, 2017

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.2-3101, 2.2-3102, 2.2-3103, 2.2-3103.2, 2.2-3104.1, 2.2-3109, 2.2-3110, 2.2-3112, 2.2-3121, 2.2-3124 and 30-356.

Cross Ref.:	BBFA	Conflict of Interests and Disclosure Requirements
	CBCA	Disclosure Statement Required of Superintendent
	DJG	Vendor Relations
	GCCB	Employment of Family Members
	GCQA	Nonschool Employment by Staff Members
	KGA	Sales and Solicitations in Schools
	KJ	Advertising in the Schools

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY/ NONDISCRIMINATION

I. Policy Statement

The Rappahannock County School Board is an equal opportunity employer, committed to nondiscrimination in recruitment, selection, hiring, pay, promotion, retention and other personnel actions affecting employees or candidates for employment. Therefore, discrimination in employment against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, marital status, military status, genetic information or disability is prohibited. Personnel decisions are based on merit and the ability to perform the essential functions of the job, with or without reasonable accommodation.

The statement, "Rappahannock County School Board is an equal opportunity employer," is placed on all employment application forms.

II. Notice of Policy/Prevention

This policy is (1) posted in prominent areas of each school division building, (2) included in employee handbooks and (3) provided to any employee or candidate for employment upon request. Training to prevent prohibited discrimination is included in employee in-service training.

III. Complaint Procedure

A. File Report

Any person who believes he has not received equal employment opportunities should report the alleged discrimination to one of the Compliance Officers designated in this policy. The alleged discrimination should be reported as soon as possible, and the report generally should be made within fifteen (15) school days of the occurrence. Any employee who has knowledge of conduct which may constitute prohibited discrimination shall immediately report such conduct to one of the Compliance Officers designated in this policy.

The reporting party should use the form, Report of Discrimination, GB-F, to make complaints of discrimination. However, oral reports and other written reports will also be accepted. The complaint must be filed with one of the Compliance Officers designated in this policy. Any complaint that involves the Compliance Officer shall be reported to the superintendent.

The complaint and the identity of the complainant and the person or persons allegedly responsible for the discrimination will be disclosed only to the extent necessary to fully investigate the complaint and only when such disclosure is required or permitted by law. A complainant who wishes to remain anonymous

will be advised that anonymity may limit the school division's ability to fully respond to the complaint.

B. Investigation

Upon receipt of a report of alleged discrimination, the Compliance Officer shall immediately authorize or undertake an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by school personnel or a third party designated by the school division. The investigation shall be completed as soon as practicable, which generally should be not later than 14 school days after receipt of the report by the Compliance Officer. Upon receiving the complaint, the Compliance Officer will acknowledge receipt of the complaint by giving written notice that the complaint has been received to both the complainant and the superintendent. If the Compliance Officer determines that more than 14 school days will be required to investigate the complaint, the complainant and the superintendent will be notified of the reason for the extended investigation and the date by which the investigation will be concluded.

The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the person(s) alleged to have violated the policy and any others who may have knowledge of the alleged discrimination or the circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation will consider witnesses and evidence from both the complainant and the person(s) responsible for the alleged discrimination. The investigation may also include the inspection of any documents or information deemed relevant by the investigator. The school division shall take necessary steps to protect the complainant and others pending the investigation.

Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a case by case determination based on all of the facts and circumstances revealed by a complete and thorough investigation.

The Compliance Officer shall issue a written report to the superintendent upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint alleges the superintendent has violated this policy, then the report shall be sent to the School Board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations are substantiated, whether this policy was violated and recommendations for corrective action, if any.

All employees shall cooperate with any investigation of alleged discrimination conducted under this policy or by an appropriate state or federal agency.

C. Action by Superintendent

Within 5 school days of receiving the Compliance Officer's report, the superintendent or superintendent's designee shall issue a written decision regarding (1) whether this policy was violated and (2) what action, if any, should be taken.

If the complaint alleges that the superintendent has violated this policy, the School Board's standing Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination Committee shall make the decision and determine what action should be taken. If the School Board does not have such a standing committee, at its next scheduled meeting it shall appoint a committee consisting of three of its members to handle the matter. The committee shall issue a written decision within 14 calendar days of the time the School Board receives the Compliance Officer's report or the time a committee is appointed, if there is no standing committee. The written decision shall state (1) whether this policy was violated and (2) what action, if any, should be taken.

The written decision must be mailed to or personally delivered to the complainant within 5 calendar days of the issuance of the decision. If the superintendent, superintendent's designee or committee concludes that prohibited discrimination occurred, the Rappahannock County School Division shall take prompt, appropriate action to address and remedy the violation as well as prevent any recurrence. Such action may include discipline up to and including dismissal.

D. Appeal

If the superintendent, superintendent's designee or committee determines that no prohibited discrimination occurred, the person who was allegedly subjected to discrimination may appeal this finding to the School Board within 5 school days of receiving the decision. Notice of appeal must be filed with the superintendent, or with a member of the committee which issued the written decision, who shall forward the record to the School Board. The School Board shall make a decision within 30 calendar days of receiving the record. The School Board may ask for oral or written argument from the aggrieved party and the superintendent, superintendent's designee or the committee, whichever issued the written decision, and any other individual the School Board deems relevant. Written notice of the School Board's decision will be given to the complainant.

Employees may choose to pursue their complaints arising under this policy through the relevant employee grievance procedure instead of the complaint procedure in this policy.

E. Compliance Officer and Alternate Compliance Officer

The School Board designates a Compliance Officer responsible for identifying, preventing and remedying discrimination as well as receiving complaints under this Policy. The name and contact information for the Compliance Officer is posted on the Division's website at all times. The Compliance Officer may be contacted at 6 Schoolhouse Road, Washington, VA 22747, 540-227-0023. Complaints of discrimination may also be made to the Alternate Compliance Officer at 6 Schoolhouse Road, Washington, VA 22747, 540-227-0023.

The Compliance Officer

- receives reports or complaints of discrimination;

- conducts or oversees the investigation of any alleged discrimination;
- assesses the training needs of the school division in connection with this policy;
- arranges necessary training to achieve compliance with this policy; and
- ensures that any discrimination investigation is conducted by an impartial investigator who is trained in the requirements of equal employment opportunity and has the authority to protect the alleged victim and others during the investigation.

IV. Retaliation

Retaliation against employees who report discrimination or participate in the related proceedings is prohibited. The school division appropriate action against any employee who retaliates against another employee or candidate for employment who reports alleged discrimination or participates in related proceedings. The Compliance Officer informs persons who make complaints, who are the subject of complaints and who participate in investigations of how to report any subsequent problems.

V. Right to Alternative Complaint Procedure

Nothing in this policy denies the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse to address concerns relating to prohibited discrimination including initiating civil action, filing a complaint with outside agencies or seeking redress under state or federal law.

VI. Prevention and Notice of Policy

Training to prevent discrimination is included in employee orientations and in-service training.

This policy is (1) displayed in prominent areas of each division building in a location accessible to school personnel and (2) included in employee handbooks. All employees are notified annually of the names and contact information of the Compliance Officers.

VII. False Charges

Employees who knowingly make false charges of discrimination are subject to disciplinary action.

Adopted: April 11, 2000

Revised: July 10, 2001, June 14, 2005, October 10, 2006, August 14, 2007, November 9, 2010, July 12, 2011, December 11, 2012, January 8, 2013, July 31, 2013, December 11, 2013, August 11, 2020, July 13, 2021

Legal Refs.: 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.
29 U.S.C. § 701.

42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq., 2000e-2 et seq., 2000ff-1(a) and 12101 et seq.

Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, §§ 2.2-3900, 2.2-3901, 2.2-3902, 2.2-3905.1, 22.1-23.3, 22.1-295.2, 22.1-306.

Cross Refs:	AC	Nondiscrimination
	AD	Educational Philosophy
	BCE	School Board Committees
	GB-F	Report of Discrimination
	GBA/JFHA	Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation
	GBM	Professional Staff Grievances
	GBMA	Support Staff Grievances
	GCPD	Professional Staff Discipline
	JB	Equal Educational Opportunities/Nondiscrimination
	KKA	Service Animals in Public Schools

REPORT OF DISCRIMINATION

Name of Complainant:

For Employees, Position:

For Applicants, Position Applied For:

Address, Phone Number

and Email Address:

Date(s) of Alleged Discrimination:

Name(s) of person(s) you believe discriminated against you or others:

Please describe in detail the incident(s) of alleged discrimination, including where and when the incident(s) occurred. Please name any witnesses that may have observed the incident(s). Please include a description of any past incidents that may be related to this complaint. Attach additional pages if necessary.

I certify that the information provided in this report is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Complainant

Date

Complaint Received By:

Compliance Officer

Date

PROHIBITION AGAINST HARASSMENT AND RETALIATION

I. Policy Statement

The Rappahannock County School Board is committed to maintaining an educational environment and workplace that is free from harassment. In accordance with law, the Board prohibits harassment against students, employees, or others on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, military status, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law or based on a belief that such characteristic exists, hereinafter referred to as protected group status, at school or any school sponsored activity.

It is a violation of this policy for any student or school personnel to harass a student or school personnel based on protected group status at school or any school sponsored activity. Further, it is a violation of this policy for any school personnel to tolerate harassment based on a student's or employee's protected group status at school or any school sponsored activity, by students, school personnel or third parties participating in, observing or otherwise engaged in school sponsored activities.

For the purpose of this policy, school personnel includes School Board members, school employees, agents, volunteers, contractors or other persons subject to the supervision and control of the school division.

The school division

- promptly investigates all complaints, written or verbal, of harassment based on protected group status at school or any school sponsored activity;
- promptly takes appropriate action to stop any harassment;
- takes appropriate action against any student or school personnel who violates this policy; and
- takes any other action reasonably calculated to end and prevent further harassment of school personnel or students.

II. Definitions

The Compliance Officer is the person designated by the School Board to receive complaints of harassment referred by the Title IX Coordinator and oversee investigation of those complaints as described below.

“Consent” is clear, unambiguous, and voluntary agreement between the participants to engage in specific sexual activity.

Prohibited Conduct

Harassment Based on Sex

Harassment based on sex consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication, which may include use of cell phones or the internet, of a sexual nature when submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining or retaining employment or education; submission to or rejection of the conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's employment or education; or that conduct or communication substantially or unreasonably interferes with an individual's employment or education, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive employment or educational environment (i.e. the conduct is sufficiently serious to limit a student's or employee's ability to participate in or benefit from the educational program or work environment).

Examples of conduct which may constitute harassment based on sex if it meets the immediately preceding definition include:

- unwelcome sexual physical contact
- unwelcome ongoing or repeated sexual flirtation or propositions, or remarks
- sexual slurs, leering, epithets, threats, verbal abuse, derogatory comments or sexually degrading descriptions
- graphic comments about an individual's body
- sexual jokes, notes, stories, drawings, gestures or pictures
- spreading sexual rumors
- touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way
- displaying sexual objects, pictures, cartoons or posters
- impeding or blocking movement in a sexually intimidating manner
- sexual violence
- display of written materials, pictures, or electronic images
- unwelcome acts of verbal, nonverbal, written, graphic, or physical conduct based on sex or sex stereotyping

"Sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX" means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- an employee of the School Board conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the School Board on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
- unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the School Board's education program or activity; or
- "sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(30).

Harassment Based on Race, National Origin, Disability or Religion

Harassment based on race, national origin, disability or religion consists of physical or verbal conduct, which may include use of cell phones or the internet, relating to an individual's race, national origin, disability or religion when the conduct

- creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or educational environment;
- substantially or unreasonably interferes with an individual's work or education; or
- otherwise is sufficiently serious to limit an individual's employment opportunities or to limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the education program.

Examples of conduct which may constitute harassment based on race, national origin, disability or religion if it meets the immediately preceding definition include:

- graffiti containing racially offensive language
- name calling, jokes or rumors
- physical acts of aggression against a person or his property because of that person's race, national origin, disability or religion
- hostile acts which are based on another's race, national origin, religion or disability
- written or graphic material which is posted or circulated and which intimidates or threatens individuals based on their race, national origin, disability or religion

Additional Prohibited Behavior

Behavior that is not unlawful may nevertheless be unacceptable for the educational environment or the workplace. Demeaning or otherwise harmful actions are prohibited, particularly if directed at personal characteristics including socioeconomic level regardless of whether the personal characteristic is protected by law.

"Title IX" means 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688 and the implementing regulations.

"Title IX Coordinator" means the person designated by the School Board to coordinate its efforts to comply with its responsibilities under this policy and Title IX.

The Title IX Coordinator, Dr. Carol Johnson, may be contacted at 6 Schoolhouse Road, Washington, VA 22747, 540-227-0023.

III. Complaint Procedures

Report

Any student or school personnel who believes he or she has been the victim of harassment prohibited by law or by this policy by a student, school personnel or a third party should report the alleged harassment to the Title IX Coordinator or to any school personnel. The alleged harassment should be reported as soon as possible, and the report generally should be made within fifteen (15) school days of the occurrence. Further, any student who has knowledge of conduct which may constitute prohibited harassment should report such conduct to the Title IX Coordinator or to any school personnel. Any school personnel who has notice that a student or other school

personnel may have been a victim of prohibited harassment shall immediately report the alleged harassment to the Title IX Coordinator. Any complaint that involves the Title IX Coordinator should be reported to the superintendent.

The reporting party should use the form, Report of Harassment, GBA-F/JFHA-F, to make complaints of harassment. However, oral reports and other written reports are also accepted.

The complaint, and identity of the person allegedly harassed and alleged harasser, will be disclosed only to the extent necessary to fully investigate the complaint and only when such disclosure is required or permitted by law. Additionally, a person allegedly harassed who wishes to remain anonymous shall be advised that such confidentiality may limit the School Division's ability to fully respond to the complaint.

After receiving a complaint, the Title IX Coordinator makes an initial determination whether the allegations may be sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX. If they may be, the Title IX Grievance Process below is followed. If they cannot be sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX, then the complaint is referred to the Compliance Officer who follows the procedures below.

The Title IX Coordinator also determines whether the alleged harassment may also constitute criminal conduct and ensures that law enforcement officials are notified if necessary.

If the alleged harassment may also constitute child abuse, then it must be reported to the Department of Social Services in accordance with Policy GAE Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting.

Investigation by Compliance Officer

Generally

The Compliance Officer

- receives complaints of harassment referred by the Title IX Coordinator;
- conducts or oversees the investigation of any alleged harassment referred by the Title IX Coordinator;
- assesses the training needs of the school division in connection with complaints referred by the Title IX Coordinator;
- arranges necessary training; and
- ensures that any harassment investigation is conducted by an impartial investigator who is trained in the requirements of equal employment/education opportunity and has the authority to protect the alleged victim and others during the investigation.

Compliance Officer Formal Procedure

Upon receiving a referral of a complaint of alleged prohibited harassment from the Title IX Coordinator, the Compliance Officer shall immediately authorize or undertake an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by school personnel or

a third party designated by the school division. The investigation shall be completed as soon as practicable, which generally should be not later than 14 school days after referral of the complaint to the Compliance Officer. Upon receiving the complaint, the Compliance Officer shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint by giving written notice that the complaint has been received to both the person complaining of harassment and the person accused of harassment. Also upon receiving the complaint, the Compliance Officer shall determine whether interim measures should be taken pending the outcome of the investigation. Such interim measures may include, but are not limited to, separating the alleged harasser and the person allegedly harassed. If the Compliance Officer determines that more than 14 school days will be required to investigate the complaint, the person allegedly harassed and the alleged harasser shall be notified of the reason for the extended investigation and of the date by which the investigation will be concluded.

The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the person allegedly harassed, the alleged harasser and any others who may have knowledge of the alleged harassment or the circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation will consider witnesses and evidence from both the alleged harasser and the person allegedly harassed. The investigation may also consist of the inspection of any other documents or information deemed relevant by the investigator. The school division shall take necessary steps to protect the person allegedly harassed and others pending the completion of the investigation.

In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, the division shall consider, at a minimum: (1) the surrounding circumstances; (2) the nature of the behavior; (3) past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior; (4) the relationship between the parties; (5) how often the conduct occurred; (6) the identity of the alleged perpetrator in relation to the alleged victim (i.e. whether the alleged perpetrator was in a position of power over the alleged victim); (7) the location of the alleged harassment; (8) the ages of the parties and (9) the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a case by case determination based on all of the facts and circumstances revealed after a complete and thorough investigation.

The Compliance Officer shall issue a written report to the superintendent upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the superintendent, then the report shall be sent to the School Board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations are substantiated, whether this policy was violated and recommendations for corrective action, if any.

All employees shall cooperate with any investigation of alleged harassment conducted under this policy or by an appropriate state or federal agency.

Action by Superintendent

Within 5 school days of receiving the Compliance Officer's report, the superintendent or superintendent's designee shall issue a decision regarding whether this policy was violated. This decision must be provided in writing to the person

allegedly harassed and the alleged harasser. If the superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that it is more likely than not that prohibited harassment occurred, the Rappahannock County School Division shall take prompt, appropriate action to address and remedy the violation as well as prevent any recurrence. Such action may include discipline up to and including expulsion or discharge. Whether or not the superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that prohibited harassment occurred, the superintendent or superintendent's designee may determine that school-wide or division-wide training be conducted or that the person allegedly harassed receives counseling.

Appeal

If the superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that no prohibited harassment occurred, the employee or student who was allegedly subjected to harassment may appeal this finding to the School Board within 5 school days of receiving the decision. Notice of appeal must be filed with the superintendent who shall forward the record to the School Board. The School Board shall make a decision within 30 calendar days of receiving the record. The School Board may ask for oral or written argument from the aggrieved party, the superintendent and any other individual the School Board deems relevant. Written notice of the School Board's decision will be given to both the alleged harasser and the person allegedly harassed.

If the superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that prohibited harassment occurred and discipline is imposed, the disciplined person may appeal the disciplinary sanction in the same manner as any other such sanction would be appealed.

Employees may choose to pursue their complaints under this policy through the relevant employee grievance procedure instead of the complaint procedure in this policy.

Compliance Officer Informal Procedure

If the person allegedly harassed and the person accused of harassment agree, the person allegedly harassed' s principal or principal's designee or supervisor may arrange for them to resolve the complaint informally with the help of a counselor, teacher or administrator.

If the person allegedly harassed and the person accused of harassment agree to resolve the complaint informally, they shall each be informed that they have the right to abandon the informal procedure at any time in favor of the initiation of the Compliance Officer Formal Procedures set forth herein. The principal or principal's designee or supervisor shall notify the person allegedly harassed and the person accused of harassment in writing when the complaint has been resolved. The written notice shall state whether prohibited harassment occurred.

Sexual Harassment Prohibited by Title IX

Definitions

“Actual knowledge” means notice of sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX or allegations of sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX to the Title IX Coordinator or any official of the school division who has authority to institute corrective measures or to any employee of an elementary or secondary school.

“Complainant” means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX.

“Formal complaint” means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX against a respondent and requesting that the allegation be investigated. A formal complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, or by electronic mail. When the Title IX Coordinator signs a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator is not a complainant or otherwise a party. The allegations in a formal complaint must be investigated. In response to a formal complaint, the Title IX Grievance Process below is followed.

“Program or activity” includes locations, events or circumstances over which the School Board exercises substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs.

“Respondent” means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX.

“Supportive measures” means non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the School Board’s education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the educational environment, or deter sexual harassment. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work locations, leaves of absence, increased security or monitoring of parts of campus, and other similar measures. Any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent are maintained as confidential, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality does not impair the ability to provide supportive measures. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures.

Title IX Grievance Process

Generally

Any person may report sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX, including sexual harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim

of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report. The reporting party may use the form, Report of Harassment, GBA-F/JFHA-F, to make a complaint. Such a report may be made at any time, including non-business hours, by using the telephone number or electronic mail address, or by mail to the office address listed for the Title IX Coordinator.

Complainants and respondents are treated equitably by offering supportive measures to a complainant and by following this grievance process before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a respondent.

The Title IX Coordinator promptly contacts the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and explain the process for filing a formal complaint.

Applicants for admission and employment, students, parents or legal guardians, employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the School Board are notified

- of the name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number of the Title IX Coordinator; and
- that the School Board does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education program or activity and that it is required by Title IX not to discriminate in such a manner. The notification states that the requirement not to discriminate extends to admission and employment and that inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education, or both.

The School Board prominently displays the contact information for the Title IX Coordinator and this policy on its website and in each handbook or catalog it makes available to persons listed above who are entitled to notifications.

Nothing herein precludes a respondent from being removed from the School Board's education program or activity on an emergency basis, provided that an individualized safety and risk analysis determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal, and that the respondent is provided with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.

Nothing herein precludes a non-student employee respondent from being placed on administrative leave during the pendency of a grievance process

This grievance process treats complainants and respondents equitably by providing remedies to a complainant where a determination of responsibility for sexual

harassment has been made against the respondent, and by following this process before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a respondent. Remedies are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the School Board's education program or activity.

The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

All relevant evidence is evaluated objectively, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations are not based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.

Any Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or any person who facilitates an informal resolution process may not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent.

Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process receives training on the definition of sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX, the scope of the School Board's education program or activity, how to conduct an investigation and grievance process including appeals, and informal resolution processes, and how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias. Decision-makers receive training on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant. Investigators receive training on issues of relevance in order to create investigative reports that fairly summarize relevant evidence.

A finding of responsibility may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for students or dismissal of employees.

The standard of evidence used to determine responsibility is preponderance of the evidence.

This grievance process does not allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege.

Notice of Allegations

On receipt of a formal complaint, the Title IX coordinator gives the following written notice to the parties who are known:

- notice of the grievance process, including any informal resolution process, and
- notice of the allegations of sexual harassment potentially constituting sexual harassment prohibited by title IX, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview.

Sufficient details include the identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known.

The written notice

- includes a statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process;
- informs the parties that they may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and may inspect and review evidence; and
- informs the parties of any provisions in the School Board's code of conduct or the superintendent's Standards of Student Conduct that prohibit knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

If, in the course of an investigation, the investigator decides to investigate allegations about the complainant or respondent that are not included in the notice previously provided, notice of the additional allegations is provided to the parties whose identities are known.

Dismissal of formal complaints

A formal complaint or any allegations therein must be dismissed if the conduct alleged in the complaint

- would not constitute sexual harassment prohibited by title IX even if proved,
- did not occur in the School Board's education program or activity, or
- did not occur against a person in the United States.

Such a dismissal does not preclude action under another provision of the School Board's code of conduct or the superintendent's Standards of Student Conduct.

A formal complaint or any allegations therein may be dismissed if at any time during the investigation:

- a complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations therein;
- the respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the School Board; or
- specific circumstances prevent the School Board from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations therein.

Investigation of formal complaint

When investigating a formal complaint and throughout the grievance process, the burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rests on the School Board and not on the parties provided that a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the

professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party are not accessed, considered, disclosed or otherwise used without the voluntary, written consent of the party's parent, or the party if the party is an eligible student, to do so for this grievance procedure.

The parties have an equal opportunity to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence.

The ability of the parties to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence is not restricted.

The parties have the same opportunities to have others present during any grievance proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney. The choice or presence of advisor for either the complainant or respondent is not limited in any meeting or grievance proceeding.

Any party whose participation is invited or expected is provided written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all investigative interviews or other meetings with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.

The investigator provides both parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in a formal complaint, including the evidence which will not be relied upon in reaching a determination regarding responsibility and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or other source, so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to conclusion of the investigation. Prior to the completion of the investigative report, the investigator must send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties must have at least 10 days to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report.

The investigator creates an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and, at least 10 days prior to the time a determination regarding responsibility is made, sends to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the investigative report in an electronic format or a hard copy, for their review and written response.

After the investigator has sent the investigative report to the parties and before reaching a determination regarding responsibility, the decision-maker must afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that the party wants asked of any party or witness, provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party. Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to

prove consent. The decision-maker(s) must explain to the party proposing the question any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

Determination regarding responsibility

The decision-maker, who cannot be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator, must issue a written determination regarding responsibility.

The written determination must include

- identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX;
- a description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, and methods used to gather other evidence;
- findings of fact supporting the determination;
- conclusions regarding the application of the School Board's code of conduct or the superintendent's Standards of Student Conduct to the facts;
- a statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the School Board imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the School Board's education program or activity will be provided to the complainant; and
- the procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal.

The decision-maker must provide the written determination regarding responsibility to the parties simultaneously.

The determination regarding responsibility becomes final either on the date that the parties are provided with the written determination of the result of the appeal, if an appeal is filed, or, if an appeal is not filed, the date on which an appeal would no longer be considered timely.

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies.

Appeals

Either party may appeal from a determination regarding responsibility or from a dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein, on the following bases:

- procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
- new evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; and

- the Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decision-maker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.

Notification of appeal must be given in writing to the Title IX Coordinator.

As to all appeals, the Title IX Coordinator

- notifies the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implements appeal procedures equally for both parties;
- ensures that the decision-maker for the appeal is not the same person as the decision-maker that reached the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator, or the Title IX Coordinator; and
- ensures that the decision-maker for the appeal complies with the standards set forth in title IX and this policy.

The appeal decision-maker

- gives both parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome;
- reviews the evidence gathered by the investigator, the investigator's report, and the decision-maker's written decision;
- issues a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result; and
- provides the written decision simultaneously to both parties and the Title IX Coordinator.

Timelines

The investigative report will be provided to the parties within 35 days from the date the formal complaint is filed.

A decision will be issued within 10 working days from the date the investigative report is submitted to the decision-maker.

Either party may appeal within 5 working days from the date the written determination regarding responsibility is given to the parties.

Any appeal will be resolved within 15 calendar days from the filing of the appeal.

If the parties agree to an informal resolution process, these deadlines are tolled from the time one party requests an informal resolution process until either the time the other party responds, if that party does not agree to the informal resolution process, or until either party withdraws from the informal resolution process.

Temporary delays of the grievance process or the limited extension of time frames for good cause with written notice to the complainant and the respondent of the

delay or extension and the reasons for the action are permitted. Good cause may include considerations such as the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; disciplinary processes required by law or School Board policy; or the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities.

Informal Resolution Process

At any time during the formal complaint process and prior to reaching a determination regarding responsibility, the parties may participate in an informal resolution process, such as mediation, that does not involve a full investigation and determination of responsibility. When one party requests an informal resolution process, the other party must respond to the request within 3 days. The informal resolution process must be completed within 10 days of the agreement to participate in the process.

The informal resolution process may be facilitated by a trained educational professional, consultant, or other individual selected by the Title IX Coordinator under the following conditions:

- the parties are provided a written notice disclosing the allegations, the requirements of the informal resolution process, including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a formal complaint arising from the same allegations; provided, however that at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process, resume the grievance process with respect to the formal complaint, and be informed of any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared;
- the parties, voluntarily and in writing, consent to the informal resolution process; and
- the informal resolution process cannot be used to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

If the matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the parties, the facilitator shall document the nature of the complaint and the resolution, have both parties sign the documentation and receive a copy, and forward it to the Title IX Coordinator. If the matter is not resolved, the formal complaint process is resumed.

Parties cannot be required to participate in an informal resolution process.

An informal resolution process is not offered unless a formal complaint is filed.

Recordkeeping

The School Board will maintain for a period of seven years records of:

- each investigation of allegations of sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX including any determination regarding responsibility and any audio or audiovisual recording or transcript, if any, required under the Title IX regulations, any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent, and any

- remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to School Board's education program or activity;
- any appeal and the result therefrom;
 - any informal resolution and the result therefrom; and
 - all materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process. These materials will also be made available on the School Board's website.

For each response required under 34 C.F.R. § 106.44, the School Board must create, and maintain for a period of seven years, records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX. In each instance, the School Board will document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to its education program or activity. If the School Board does not provide a complainant with supportive measures, then it will document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

IV. Retaliation

Retaliation against students or school personnel who report harassment or participate in any related proceedings is prohibited. The school division shall take appropriate action against students or school personnel who retaliate against any student or school personnel who reports alleged harassment or participates in related proceedings. The Title IX Coordinator will inform persons who make complaints, who are the subject of complaints, and who participate in investigations of how to report any subsequent problems.

V. Right to Alternative Complaint Procedure

Nothing in this policy shall deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse to address concerns relating to prohibited harassment including initiating civil action, filing a complaint with outside agencies or seeking redress under state or federal law.

VI. Prevention and Notice of Policy

Training to prevent harassment prohibited by law or by this policy is included in employee and student orientations as well as employee in-service training.

This policy is (1) displayed in prominent areas of each division building in a location accessible to students, parents and school personnel (2) included in the student and employee handbooks; and (3) sent to parents of all students within 30 calendar days of the start of school. Further, all students, and their parents/guardians, and employees are notified annually of the names and contact information of the Compliance Officers.

VII. False Charges

Students or school personnel who knowingly make false charges of harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action as well as any civil or criminal legal proceedings.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Revised: September 8, 1998, November 12, 2002, August 12, 2003, October 10, 2006, August 14, 2007, November 9, 2010, July 12, 2011, December 11, 2012, January 8, 2013, July 31, 2013, December 11, 2013

Reviewed: December 9, 2014

Revised: November 10, 2015, August 11, 2020, July 13, 2021

Legal Refs: 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688.
29 U.S.C. § 794.
42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d-2000d-7.
42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e-2000e-17.
42 U.S.C. § 2000ff-1.
34 C.F.R. 106.2, 106.8, 106.9, 106.30, 106.44, 106.45, 106.71.

Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, §§ 2.2-3900, 2.2-3901, 2.2.3902, 22.1-23.3, 22.1-295.2.

Cross Refs: AC Nondiscrimination
AD Educational Philosophy
GAB/IIBEA Acceptable Computer System Use
GB Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination
GBA-F/JFHA-F Report of Harassment
GBM Professional Staff Grievances
GBMA Support Staff Grievances
JB Equal Educational Opportunities/Nondiscrimination
JFC Student Conduct
GCPD Professional Staff Discipline
GAE Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
KKA Service Animals in Public Schools

Cross Refs: AC Nondiscrimination
AD Educational Philosophy
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GB Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination
GBA-F/JFHA-F Report of Harassment
GBM Professional Staff Grievances
GBMA Support Staff Grievances
JB Equal Educational Opportunities/Nondiscrimination
JFC Student Conduct
GCPD Professional Staff Discipline
GAE Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
KKA Service Animals in Public Schools

REPORT OF HARASSMENT

Name of Complainant:

For Students, School Attending:

For Employees, Position and Location:

Address, Phone Number

and Email Address:

Date(s) of Alleged Incident(s) of Harassment:

Name of person(s) you believe harassed you or others:

If the alleged harassment was toward another, please identify that person:

Please describe in detail the incident(s) of alleged harassment, including where and when the incident(s) occurred. Please note any witnesses that may have observed the incident(s). Please include a description of any past incidents that may be related to this complaint. Attach additional pages if necessary.

I certify that the information provided in this report is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge:

Signature of Complainant Date

Complaint Received By: _____
(Principal or Compliance Officer) Date

PROHIBITION OF ABUSIVE WORK ENVIRONMENTS

Generally

The Rappahannock County School Board prohibits abusive work environments in the school division.

Any School Board employee who contributes to an abusive work environment is appropriately disciplined.

Retaliation or reprisal against School Board employees who make allegations of abusive work environments or assist in the investigation of allegations of abusive work environments is prohibited.

Definitions

As used in this policy,

"Abusive conduct" means conduct of a School Board employee in the workplace that a reasonable person would find hostile and that is severe enough to cause physical harm or psychological harm to another School Board employee based on a determination in which the following factors are considered: the severity, nature, and frequency of the conduct and, when applicable, the continuation of the conduct after a School Board employee requests that it cease or demonstrates outward signs of physical harm or psychological harm in the face of the conduct. "Abusive conduct" includes verbal or physical conduct that a reasonable person would find threatening, intimidating, or humiliating; the gratuitous sabotage or undermining of another School Board employee's work performance; attempts to exploit another School Board employee's known psychological or physical vulnerability; or repeated infliction of verbal abuse, such as the use of derogatory remarks, insults, or epithets. "Abusive conduct" does not include (i) a single act, unless it is especially severe, or (ii) conduct that the School Board proves with clear and convincing evidence is necessary for the furtherance of its legitimate and lawful interests.

"Abusive work environment" means a workplace in the school division in which abusive conduct occurs.

"Physical harm" means a material impairment of a School Board employee's physical health or bodily integrity, as documented by a licensed physician or another licensed health care provider.

"Psychological harm" means a material impairment of a School Board employee's mental health, as documented by a licensed psychologist, psychiatrist, or psychotherapist or another licensed mental health care provider.

Adopted: September 11, 2018

Revised: July 13, 2021

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-291.4.

STAFF COMPENSATION PROCEDURES

Employees may choose to have their salaries paid in full according to the division's pay schedule or may annualize their pay. Employees who choose to receive payment of wages beyond the period in which the wages were earned must provide a written election of such deferral prior to the first duty day of the year of deferral on a form provided by the division. Any change to the election must be made prior to the first duty day of the fiscal year of the deferment.

Adopted: November 11, 2008

Revised: June 8, 2009, December 11, 2013, March 12, 2019

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-78.

Cross Ref.: GBC-E1 Deferred Wage Payment Election Form

DEFERRED WAGE PAYMENT ELECTION FORM/HIRING AND PAY SCALE PHILOSOPHY

DEFERRED WAGE PAYMENT ELECTION FORM

Employees who choose to receive payment of wages beyond the period in which the wages were earned must provide a written election of such deferral prior to the first duty day of the year of deferral on a form provided by the division.

This election is provided to employees as part of their contract or letter of agreement. Each employee opts for number of installments upon signing their contract.

Employees performing extra duties such as coaching contracts and stipends are paid as indicated on the extracurricular contract.

Substitutes are paid for the number of days worked in a pay period and receive payment monthly as indicated on their time sheets.

HIRING AND PAY SCALE PHILOSOPHY

Rappahannock County Public Schools adopted a hiring philosophy for administrative pay that includes the following areas for consideration: nature of job responsibilities, total years of experience in education, years of experience in administrative positions, years of experience in similar positions, level of education, and current market value of the position filled. Placement on the administrative scales will reflect the above criteria and the assigned workload. Salary placement will be determined by the superintendent.

Beginning November 15, 2014, re-evaluation of current positions, will be on an as-needed basis to ensure equitable placement on the salary scale as compared to assigned duties.

Adopted: December 11, 2013
November 15, 2014

BOARD-STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

The Rappahannock County School Board supports and encourages two-way communication between the board and employees. The superintendent is the official representative of the School Board in its relations and communications with its employees.

Employees are encouraged to communicate their ideas and concerns in an orderly and constructive manner to the School Board and/or the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

The School Board desires to develop and maintain the best possible working relationship with the employees of the school division. The School Board welcomes the viewpoints of employees, and allows time at its meetings for employees to be heard.

The School Board does not discriminate against any employee because of membership in an employee organization, or participation in any lawful activities of the organization.

Adopted: August 9, 1995

Revised: August 11, 1998

Reviewed: December 8, 1998

Revised: November 9, 2004, June 10, 2008, November 11, 2008, December 11, 2013, March 12, 2019, May 14, 2024

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:7.

STAFF HEALTH

As a condition of employment every new employee of the School Board including teachers, cafeteria workers, janitors and bus drivers, must submit a certificate signed by a licensed physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or registered nurse stating the employee appears free of communicable tuberculosis. Volunteers may be required to provide such a certificate.

After consulting with the local health director, the School Board may require the submission of such certificates annually, or at such intervals as it deems appropriate, as a condition to continued employment.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Revised: September 8, 1998, November 12, 2002, May 13, 2003, September 9, 2003, August 9, 2005, October 10, 2006, December 11, 2013, November 10, 2015, July 14, 2020, July 11, 2023

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-300, 54.1-2952.2, 54.1-2957.02.

Cross Ref.:	EBAB	Possible Exposure to Viral Infections
	EBBB	Personnel Training—Viral Infections
	GDQ	School Bus Drivers
	JHCC	Communicable Diseases
	JHCCA	Blood-Borne Contagious or Infectious Diseases

UNLAWFUL MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION, DISPENSING, POSSESSION OR USE OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

Generally

The Rappahannock County School Board is committed to maintaining a Drug-Free Workplace.

Prohibited Conduct

Employees may not unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess or use a controlled substance on school property, at any school activity or on any school-sponsored trip. It is a condition of employment that each employee of the Rappahannock County School Board will not engage in such prohibited conduct and will notify the Rappahannock County School Board of any criminal drug conviction for a violation occurring on school property, at any school activity or on any school-sponsored trip no later than 5 days after such conviction. An employee who is convicted of criminal drug activity for a violation occurring on school property, at any school activity or on any school-sponsored trip will be subject to appropriate discipline, up to and including termination, or required to satisfactorily participate in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program.

Discipline

Within 30 days of receiving notice from a School Board employee as described above, the superintendent and School Board will take appropriate personnel action up to and including dismissal of any employee found to have engaged in prohibited conduct listed above or require satisfactory participation in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved by a federal, state, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency.

Distribution of Policy

All employees are given a copy of this policy.

Drug-Free Awareness Program

The Rappahannock County School Board shall establish a drug-free awareness program to inform its employees about the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace, the Board's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace, any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs and the penalties that may be imposed upon employees for violations of laws and policies regarding drug abuse.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Reviewed: March 16, 1999

Revised: July 10, 2001; November 12, 2002; November 10, 2009; December 11, 2013;
July 14, 2020

Legal Refs.: 41 U.S.C. §§ 8103, 8104.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.: GCPD Professional Staff Discipline
 GDQ School Bus Drivers

STAFF WEAPONS IN SCHOOL

No one may possess or use any firearm or any weapon, as defined in Policy JFCD Weapons in School, on school property (including school vehicles), on that portion of any property open to the public and then exclusively used for school-sponsored functions or extracurricular activities while such functions or activities are taking place or on any school bus without authorization of the superintendent or superintendent's designee. The superintendent or superintendent's designee is permitted to give authority to possess a firearm on school property only to persons expressly authorized by statute to possess a firearm on school property.

Violation of this policy by an employee will result in appropriate personnel action up to and including dismissal.

Illegal conduct will be reported to law enforcement officials.

Adopted: March 16, 2009

Revised: July 10, 2001; November 12, 2002; May 13, 2003

Reviewed: August 27, 2009

Revised: December 11, 2013; October 10, 2017; August 11, 2020

Legal Refs: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 18.2-308.1, 22.1-78, 22.1-279.3:1, 22.1-280.2:1, 22.1-280.2:4.

8 VAC 20-560-10.

Cross Refs.:	CLA	Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse
	JFCD	Weapons in School
	KGB	Public Conduct on School Property

TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND NICOTINE VAPOR PRODUCTS

Generally

Students are prohibited from possessing any tobacco product or nicotine vapor product on a school bus, on school property, or at an on-site or off-site school sponsored activity.

In addition, the use or distribution of any tobacco product or nicotine vapor product, on a school bus, on school property, or at an on-site or off-site school-sponsored activity is prohibited.

The superintendent is responsible for developing a regulation which contains

- provisions for the enforcement of this policy among students, employees, and visitors, including the enumeration of possible sanctions or disciplinary actions, and
- referrals to resources to help staff and students overcome tobacco addiction.

Definitions

"Nicotine vapor product" means any noncombustible product containing nicotine that employs a heating element, power source, electronic circuit, or other electronic, chemical, or mechanical means, regardless of shape or size, that can be used to produce vapor from nicotine in a solution or other form. "Nicotine vapor product" includes any electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or similar product or device and any cartridge or other container of nicotine in a solution or other form that is intended to be used with or in an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or similar product or device. "Nicotine vapor product" does not include any product regulated by the FDA under Chapter V (21 U.S.C. § 351 et seq.) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

"Tobacco product" means any product made of tobacco and includes cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco, bidis, and wrappings. "Tobacco product" does not include any nicotine vapor product, alternative nicotine product, or product that is regulated by the FDA under Chapter V (21 U.S.C. § 351 et seq.) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Reviewed: May 11, 1999

Revised: August 10, 1999, November 12, 2002, May 13, 2003, January 9, 2007, June 10, 2008, December 11, 2013, May 13, 2014

Revised to local policy: October 10, 2017

Revised: June 11, 2019, July 11, 2023

Legal Refs.: 20 U.S.C. §§ 6083, 7183.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 18.2-371.2, 22.1-79.5, 22.1-279.6.

Cross Refs.:	CLA	Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse
	JFCH/KGC	Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor Products
	KG	Community Use of School Facilities
	KGB	Public Conduct on School Property

TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND NICOTINE VAPOR PRODUCTS REGULATION

Use of Tobacco Products

The use and distribution of tobacco products; nicotine vapor products, or alternative nicotine products, including electronic smoking devices, and any components or accessory used in the consumption of a tobacco product (including liquid-containing nicotine) is prohibited by students, staff, contractors, and visitors on school property or school premises, on school buses, and at on-site or off-site school-sponsored activities, at any time, including non-school hours.

School property includes any building, structure, or vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the Division, both on- and off-site.

School premises means any property surrounding buildings and structures, athletic grounds, parking lots, or any other outdoor property owned, leased, or contracted by the Division, both on- and off-site.

Appropriate signage will be posted in buildings and on school property in a manner and location that adequately informs students, staff, and visitors of the policy, including at entrances to school buildings and athletic events.

Consequences for employees who violate this regulation will be in accordance with School Board Policy GCPD, "Professional Staff Discipline." For RCPS employees, a first offense will merit a verbal warning and a referral to tobacco cessation resources. A second offense will bring a written warning that will be included in the employee's personnel file. A third offense will prompt a letter advising that the violation is "considered insubordination" and will be treated as a disciplinary matter.

Visitors using tobacco products as defined by this regulation will be asked to refrain or leave the premises. Law enforcement may be contacted to escort the person off the premises or cite the person for trespassing, if the person refuses to leave. Forfeiture of any fee charged for admission will be enforced for visitors violating this policy.

The Superintendent, Designee, and Principals are responsible for implementing and monitoring this regulation.

This regulation and related policy shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed.

Regulation added: July 22, 2019

LACTATION SUPPORT FOR EMPLOYEES

The superintendent shall designate a non-restroom location in each school as an area in which any mother who is employed by the Rappahannock County School Board may take breaks of reasonable length during the school day to express milk to feed her child until the child reaches the age of one. The area must be shielded from public view and free from intrusion.

Adopted: May 14, 2024

Legal Refs.: 29 U.S.C. § 218d.

42 U.S.C. § 2000gg.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.2-3905, 22.1-79.6.

Cross Refs.: JHCL Lactation Support for Students

STAFF PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

The Rappahannock County School Board recognizes the right of its employees to engage in political activity.

The Board also recognizes that school time and school property should not be used for partisan political purposes. Thus, when engaging in political activities, an employee may not

- use the employee's position within the school division to further a political cause;
- engage in any activity supporting or opposing a candidate or political party while on duty, while on school property during school hours, or while representing the school division;
- suggest in any manner that the school division or any component of it supports or opposes a candidate for election to any office; or
- use any school division property to engage in any activity supporting or opposing a candidate for public office or a political party.

These restrictions are not intended to limit the rights of school division employees to support or oppose any political candidate or party on their own time. They are intended to minimize distractions from instruction, to assure that no public funds are used to support any candidate for public office, and to assure that the public is not given the false impression that the school division supports or opposes any political candidate or party. School division employees who engage in political activities on their own time must make it clear that their views and actions represent their individual positions and do not represent the views of the school division.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Reviewed: March 16, 1999, August 9, 2005

Revised: December 11, 2013, April 13, 2021

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78.

STAFF GIFTS AND SOLICITATIONS

Exchange of gifts between students and/or parents and staff is discouraged.

No school division employee solicits money, property, goods or services for personal use or use by staff or students during school hours on school property without written authorization from the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Reviewed: March 16, 1999, August 9, 2005, February 2, 2006, October 10, 2006,
December 11, 2013, March 12, 2019, April 12, 2022

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.:	GAH	School Employee Conflict of Interest
	JL	Fund Raising and Solicitation
	KGA	Sales and Solicitations in Schools
	KMA	Relations with Parent Organizations
	KQ	Commercial, Promotional and Corporate Sponsorships and Partnerships

PERSONNEL RECORDS

Present and past employees have access to their personnel information maintained by the Rappahannock County School Division.

When employment verification of a former employee of the Rappahannock County School Board is requested by another school board, the School Board responds within 10 working days of receiving such request. "Working days" applicable to this paragraph means every day except Saturdays, Sundays, and legal state and federal holidays.

If information relative to employment is requested by banks or other establishments or individuals, written permission from the employee to release such information is required, except to comply with a judicial order, a lawfully issued subpoena, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Va. Code § 2.2-3700 et seq.), or other law or court order. The employee will be notified of the request for records.

The superintendent or superintendent's designee is responsible for maintaining a system of personnel records for all employees of the School Board. Personnel files of all School Board employees may be produced and maintained in digital or paper format.

Teacher performance indicators, or other data collected by or for the Department of Education or the School Board or made available to and able to be used to judge the performance or quality of a teacher, maintained in a teacher's personnel file or otherwise, is confidential but may be disclosed, in a form that does not personally identify any student or other teacher, (i) pursuant to court order, (ii) for the purposes of a grievance proceeding involving the teacher, or (iii) as otherwise required by state or federal law. Nothing in this policy prohibits the release of or limits the availability of nonidentifying, aggregate teacher performance indicators or other data.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Revised: September 8, 1998, June 11, 2002, May 13, 2003, November 9, 2004, October 10, 2006, December 11, 2013, November 10, 2015, October 11, 2016, April 13, 2021, July 9, 2024

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.2-3705.1, 2.2-3800, 2.2-3801, 2.2-3802, 2.2-3803, 2.2-3804, 2.2-3805, 2.2-3806, 2.2-3807, 2.2-3808, 2.2-3808.1, 2.2-3809, 22.1-295.1, 22.1-296.5.

Cross Ref.: CBA Qualifications and Duties for the Superintendent
 GA Personnel Policies Goals
 GBLA Third Party Complaints Against Employees

THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINTS AGAINST EMPLOYEES

Any parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the Rappahannock County Public Schools or any resident of Rappahannock County may file a complaint regarding an employee of the Rappahannock County School Board. Such complaint should be filed with the superintendent or superintendent's designee. If the complaint involves allegations that an employee of the Rappahannock County School Board has abused or neglected a child in the course of his employment, the complaint will be investigated in accordance with Va. Code §§ 63.2-1503, 63.2-1505 and 63.2-1516.1.

Information determined to be unfounded after a reasonable administrative review is not maintained in any employee personnel file, but may be retained in a separate sealed file by the administration if such information alleges civil or criminal offenses. Any dispute over such unfounded information, exclusive of opinions retained in the personnel file, or in a separate sealed file, notwithstanding the provisions of the Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act, Va. Code §§ 2.2-3800 et seq., is settled through the employee grievance procedure as provided in Va. Code §§ 22.1-306 and 22.1-308 through 22.1-314.

Individuals lodging a complaint are notified in writing that the complaint has been received and is being investigated.

The complaint should be filed as soon as possible after the alleged incident, usually within 15 school days, and will be processed promptly, usually within 15 days.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Reviewed: March 16, 1999

Revised: July 10, 2001; October 10, 2006; June 10, 2008; November 11, 2008;
December 11, 2013; March 12, 2019; July 14, 2020

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.2-3800 et seq., 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-295.1.

Cross Refs.: GB Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination
GBA/JFHA Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation
GBL Personnel Records
GBM Professional Staff Grievances
GBMA Support Staff Grievances
JB Equal Educational Opportunities/Nondiscrimination
GAE Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting

PROFESSIONAL STAFF GRIEVANCES

The Rappahannock County School Board adopts the most recent version of Procedure for Adjusting Grievances promulgated by the Virginia Board of Education based on current statutory provisions.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Reviewed: March 16, 1999

Revised: November 12, 2002, November 9, 2004, October 10, 2006, November 11, 2008, December 11, 2013, June 13, 2017, April 12, 2022

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:7 and 22.1-306 et seq.

8 VAC 20-90-10 through 8 VAC 20-90-80 and accompanying forms.

Procedure for Adjusting Grievances

PART I Definitions

8 VAC 20-90-10. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Business day” means any day that the relevant school board office is open.

“Days” means calendar days unless a different meaning is clearly expressed in this procedure. Whenever the last day for performing an act required by this procedure falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the act may be performed on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

“Dismissal” means the dismissal of any teacher within the term of such teacher’s contract.

“Grievance” means, for the purpose of Part II (8 VAC 20-90-20 et seq.), a complaint or a dispute by a teacher relating to his employment, including but not necessarily limited to the application or interpretation of personnel policies, rules and regulations, ordinances, and statutes; acts of reprisal against a teacher for filing or processing a grievance, or participating as a witness in any step, meeting, or hearing related to a grievance; or complaints of discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, political affiliation, handicap, age, national origin, or sex. “Grievance” means, for the purposes of Part III (8 VAC 20-90-60 et seq.), a complaint or a dispute involving a teacher relating to his employment involving dismissal. The term “grievance” shall not include a complaint or dispute by a teacher relating to the establishment and revision of wages or salaries, position classifications or general benefits; suspension of a teacher or nonrenewal of the contract of a teacher who has not achieved continuing contract status; the establishment or contents of ordinances, statutes, or personnel policies, procedures, rules and regulations; failure to promote; or discharge, layoff, or suspension from duties because of decrease in enrollment, decrease in enrollment in or abolition of a particular subject, or insufficient funding; hiring, transfer, assignment, and retention of teachers within the school division; suspension from duties; the methods, means, and personnel by which the school division’s operations are to be carried on; or coaching or extracurricular activity sponsorship. While these management rights are reserved to the school board, failure to apply, where applicable, these rules, regulations, policies, or procedures as written or established by the school board is grievable.

“Hearing officer” means an impartial hearing officer from outside the school division who possesses some knowledge and expertise in public education and education law and who is capable of presiding over an administrative hearing.

“Personnel file” means, for the purposes of Part III (8 VAC 20-90-60 et seq.), any and all memoranda, entries, or other documents included in the teacher’s file as maintained in the central school administration office or in any file regarding the teacher maintained within a school in which the teacher serves.

“Teacher” or “teachers” means, for the purpose of Part II (8 VAC 20-90-20 et seq.), all employees of the school division involved in classroom instruction and all other full-time employees of the school division except those employees classified as supervising employees. “Teacher” means, for the purposes of Part III (8 VAC 20-90-60 et seq.), all regularly licensed professional public school personnel employed by any school division under a written contract as provided by § 22.1-302 of the Code of Virginia, as a teacher or as an assistant principal, principal, or supervisor as provided by § 22.1-294 of the Code of Virginia.

“Shall file,” “shall respond in writing,” or “shall serve written notice” means the document is either delivered personally or is mailed by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, and postmarked within the time limits prescribed by this procedure to the grievant or office of the proper school board representative.

“Supervisory employee” means any person having authority in the interest of the board (i) to hire, transfer, suspend, layoff, recall, promote, discharge, assign, reward, or discipline other employees; and (ii) to direct other employees; or (iii) to adjust the grievance of other employees; or (iv) to recommend any action set forth in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) above; provided that the authority to act as set forth in clause (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv) requires the exercise of independent judgment and is not merely routine and clerical in nature.

“Written grievance appeal” means a written or typed statement describing the event or action complained of, the date of the event or action complained of, and a concise description of those policies, rules, regulations, or statutes upon which the teacher bases his claim. The grievant shall specify what he expects to obtain through use of the grievance procedure. A written grievance appeal shall be on forms prescribed by the Board of Education and supplied by the local school board.

PART II Grievance Procedure

8 VAC 20-90-20. Purpose of Part II of this Grievance Procedure.

The purpose of Part II of the Procedure for Adjusting Grievances is to provide an orderly procedure for resolving disputes concerning the application, interpretation, or violation of any of the provisions of local school board policies, rules, and regulations as they affect the work of teachers, other than dismissals. An equitable solution of grievances should be secured at the most immediate administrative level. The procedure should not be construed as limiting the right of any teacher to discuss any matter of concern with any member of the school administration nor should the procedure be construed to restrict any teacher’s right to seek, or the school division administration’s right to provide, review of complaints that are not included within the definition of a grievance. Nothing in this procedure shall be interpreted to limit a school board’s exclusive final authority over the management and operation of the school division.

8 VAC 20-90-30. Grievance Procedure.

Recognizing that grievances should begin and should be settled promptly, a grievance must be initiated within 15 business days following either the event giving rise to the grievance, or within 15 business days following the time when the employee knew or reasonably should have known of its occurrence. Grievances shall be processed as follows:

1. Step 1 - Informal. The first step shall be an informal conference between the teacher and his immediate supervisor (which may be the principal). The teacher shall state the nature of the grievance, and the immediate supervisor shall attempt to adjust the grievance. It is mandatory that the teacher present the grievance informally prior to proceeding to Step 2.
2. Step 2 - Principal. If for any reason the grievance is not resolved informally in Step 1 to the satisfaction of the teacher, the teacher must perfect his grievance by filing a written grievance appeal on the required form within 15 business days following the event giving rise to the grievance, or within 15 business days following the time when the employee knew or reasonably should have known of its occurrence, specifying on the form the specific relief expected. Regardless of the outcome of Step 1, if a written grievance appeal is not, without just cause, filed within the specified time, the grievance will be barred.

A meeting shall be held between the principal (or his designee or both) and the teacher (or his designee or both) within five business days of the receipt by the principal of the written grievance. At such meeting the teacher or other party involved, or both, shall be entitled to present appropriate witnesses and to be accompanied by a representative other than an attorney. The principal (or his designee or both) shall respond in writing within five business days following such meeting.

The principal may forward to the teacher within five days from the receipt of the written grievance a written request for more specific information regarding the grievance. The teacher shall file an answer thereto within 10 business days, and the meeting must then be held within five business days thereafter.

3. Step 3 - Superintendent. If the grievance is not settled to the teacher's satisfaction in Step 2, the teacher can proceed to Step 3 by filing a written notice of appeal with the superintendent, accompanied by the original written grievance appeal form within five business days after receipt of the Step 2 answer (or the due date of such answer). A meeting shall then be held between the superintendent (or his designee or both) and the teacher (or his designee or both) at a mutually agreeable time within five business days. The superintendent or designee may make a written request for more specific information from the teacher, but only if such information was not requested in Step 2. The teacher shall file an answer to such request within 10 business days, and the meeting shall be held within five business days of the date on which the answer was received. At such meeting both the superintendent and the teacher shall be entitled to present witnesses and to be accompanied by a representative who may be an attorney. A representative may examine,

cross-examine, question, and present evidence on behalf of a grievant or the superintendent without violating the provisions of § 54.1-3904 of the Code of Virginia. If no settlement can be reached in said meeting, the superintendent (or his designee) shall respond in writing within five business days following such meeting. If the grievance is not resolved to the satisfaction of the teacher in Step 3, the teacher may request a decision by the school board pursuant to Step 4.

4. Step 4 - Decision by the school board.

- a. If a teacher elects to request a decision by the school board as provided for in Step 3, he must notify the superintendent in writing of the intention to make the request of the board, within five business days after receipt of the answer as required in Step 3 or the due date thereof. Upon receipt of such notice, the board may hold a hearing on the grievance, may elect to have the hearing conducted by a hearing officer appointed by the school board consistent with the procedures in § 22.1-311 of the Code of Virginia, or may make its determination on the basis of the written evidence presented by the teacher and the recommendation of the superintendent.
- b. In any case in which the school board elects to hold a hearing or elects to have a hearing officer conduct the hearing, the hearing shall be set within 30 days of the school board's receipt of the notice required by subdivision 4 a of this section (Step 4a), and the teacher must be given at least 15 days' written notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing.

The teacher and the division superintendent may be represented by legal counsel or other representatives. The hearing shall be private, unless the teacher requests a public hearing. The school board or hearing officer, as the case may be, shall establish the rules for the conduct of hearing. Such rules shall include the opportunity for the teacher and the division superintendent to make an opening statement and to present all material or relevant evidence, including the testimony of witnesses and the right of all parties or their representatives to cross-examine the witnesses. Witnesses may be questioned by the school board or the hearing officer.

In the case of a hearing conducted by the school board, the school board's attorney, assistants, or representative, if he, or they, represented a participant in the prior proceedings, the grievant, the grievant's attorney, or representative and, notwithstanding the provisions of § 22.1-69 of the Code of Virginia, the superintendent shall be excluded from any executive session of the school board that has as its purpose reaching a decision on a grievance. However, immediately after a decision has been made and publicly announced, as in favor of or not in favor of the grievant, the school board's attorney or representative, and the superintendent, may join the school board in executive session to assist in the writing of the decision.

A stenographic record or tape recording of the hearing shall be taken. However, the recording may be dispensed with entirely by mutual consent of the parties. If the recording is not dispensed with, the two parties shall share the cost of the recording equally, and if either party requests a transcript, that party shall bear the expense of its preparation.

- c. In the event of a hearing conducted by a hearing officer, the recommendation of the hearing officer shall be based exclusively upon the evidence presented at the hearing. Upon the hearing officer's own motion or upon application by either party to the grievance, the hearing officer may reopen the hearing for the purpose of hearing after-discovered evidence upon a finding of good cause by the hearing officer at any time before his recommendation is due. The hearing officer shall transmit his written recommendation and a record or recording of the hearing to the school board as soon as practicable and no more than 10 business days after the hearing.
- d. In the event of a hearing by a hearing officer, the school board may make its decision upon the record or recording of such hearing or the school board may elect to conduct a further hearing to receive additional evidence. The school board must hold such further hearing as soon as practicable and must give written notice of the time and place of such further hearing to the division superintendent and the teacher with 10 business days after the board received the record or recording of the initial hearing. The notice must specify each matter to be inquired into by the school board. The school board shall determine the procedure to be followed at such further hearing.
- e. In the event of a hearing before the school board, the school board shall give the teacher its written decision as soon as practicable and no more than 30 days after the hearing. The decision of the school board shall be reached after considering the evidence and information presented at the school board hearing.
- f. In the event of a hearing before a hearing officer followed by a further hearing by the school board, the school board shall give the teacher its written decision as soon as practicable and no more than 30 days after such further hearing. The decision of the school board shall be reached after considering the record or recording of the initial hearing, the recommendations of the hearing officer, and the evidence and the information presented at the further hearing before the school board.
- g. In the event of hearing before a hearing officer in cases in which no further hearing is conducted by the school board, the school board shall give the teacher its written decision as soon as practicable and no more than 30 days after receiving the record or recording of the hearing. The decision of the school board shall be reached after considering the record or recording of the hearing and the recommendations of the hearing officer.
- h. The school board shall retain its exclusive final authority over matters concerning employment and the supervision of its personnel.

8 VAC 20-90-40. Grievability.

- A. Initial determination of grievability. Decisions regarding whether a matter is grievable shall be made by the school board at the request of the division administration or grievant and such decision shall be made within 10 business days of such request. The school board shall reach its decision only after allowing the division administration and the grievant opportunity to present written or oral arguments

regarding grievability. The decision as to whether the arguments shall be written or oral shall be at the discretion of the school board. Such determination of grievability shall be made subsequent to the reduction of the grievance to writing but prior to any hearing by the board or a hearing officer, or the right to such determination shall be deemed to have been waived. Failure of the school board to make such a determination within such a prescribed 10-business-day period shall entitle the grievant to advance to the next step as if the matter were grievable.

B. Appeal of determination on grievability.

1. Decisions of the school board may be appealed to the circuit court having jurisdiction in the school division for a hearing on the issue of grievability.

- a. Proceedings for a review of the decision of the school board shall be instituted by filing a notice of appeal with the school board within 10 business days after the date of the decision and giving a copy thereof to all other parties.
- b. Within 10 business days thereafter, the school board shall transmit to the clerk of the court to which the appeal is taken a copy of its decision, a copy of the notice of appeal and the exhibits. The failure of the school board to transmit the record within the time allowed shall not prejudice the rights of the grievant. The court may, on motion of the grievant, issue a writ of certiorari requiring the school board to transmit the record on or before a certain date.
- c. Within 10 business days of receipt by the clerk of such record, the court, sitting without a jury, shall hear the appeal on the record transmitted by the school board and such additional evidence as may be necessary to resolve any controversy as to the correctness of the record. The court may, in its discretion, receive such other evidence as the ends of justice require.
- d. The court may affirm the decision of the school board or may reverse or modify the decision. The decision of the court shall be rendered not later than 15 days from the date of the conclusion of the court's hearing.

**PART III
Procedure for Dismissals**

8 VAC 20-90-60. Dispute resolution.

This Part III of the Procedure for Adjusting Grievances adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with the statutory mandate of Article 3, (§ 22.1-306 et seq.) of Chapter 15 of Title 22.1 of the Code of Virginia and the Standards of Quality for school divisions, Chapter 13.1 (§22.1-253.13:1 et seq.) of Title 22.1 of the Code of Virginia, is to provide an orderly procedure for the expeditious resolution of disputes involving the dismissal of any teacher.

8 VAC 20-90-70. Procedure for dismissals.

A. Notice to teacher of recommendation for dismissal.

1. In the event a division superintendent determines to recommend dismissal of any teacher, written notice shall be sent to the teacher on forms prescribed by the Board of Education notifying him of the proposed dismissal and informing the teacher that within 10 business days after receiving the notice, the teacher may request a hearing before the school board, or at the option of the school board, a hearing officer appointed by the school board, as provided in § 22.1-311 of the Code of Virginia.
2. During such 10-business day period and thereafter until a hearing is held in accordance with the provisions herein, if one is requested by the teacher, the merits of the recommendation of the division superintendent shall not be considered, discussed, or acted upon by the school board except as provided for herein.
3. At the request of the teacher, the superintendent shall provide the reasons for the recommendation in writing or, if the teacher prefers, in a personal interview. In the event a teacher requests a hearing pursuant to § 22.1-311 or § 22.1-312 of the Code of Virginia, the division superintendent shall provide, within 10 days of the request, the teacher or his representative with the opportunity to inspect and copy his personnel file and all other documents relied upon in reaching the decision to recommend dismissal. Within 10 days of the request of the division superintendent, the teacher, or his representative, shall provide the division superintendent with the opportunity to inspect and copy the documents to be offered in rebuttal to the decision to recommend dismissal. The division superintendent and the teacher or his representative shall be under a continuing duty to disclose and produce any additional documents identified later that may be used in the respective parties' cases-in-chief. The cost of copying such documents shall be paid by the requesting party.
4. Upon a timely request for a hearing, the school board or, at the school board's option, a hearing officer appointed by the school board shall set a hearing within 15 days of the request and the teacher shall be given at least five days' written notice of the time and the place of the hearing.

B. Procedure for hearing.

1. The hearing shall be conducted by the school board or, at the school board's option, a hearing officer appointed by the school board. The teacher and the division superintendent may be represented by legal counsel or other representatives. The hearing shall be private, unless the teacher requests a public hearing. The school board or hearing officer, as the case may be, shall establish the rules for the conduct of the hearing, and such rules shall include the opportunity for the teacher and the division superintendent to make an opening statement and to present all material or relevant evidence, including the testimony of witnesses, and the right of all parties to cross-examine the witnesses. Witnesses may be questioned by the school board or hearing officer.

2. The parties shall produce such additional evidence as the school board or hearing officer may deem necessary to an understanding and determination of the dispute. The school board or hearing officer shall determine the relevancy and materiality of the evidence offered. All evidence shall be taken in the presence of the school board or hearing officer and of the parties.
3. Exhibits offered by the teacher or the division superintendent may be received in evidence by the school board or hearing officer and, when so received, shall be marked and made a part of the record.
4. A stenographic record or tape recording of the proceedings shall be taken. The two parties shall share the cost of the recording equally. The record or recording of the proceedings shall be preserved for a period of six months. If the school board requests that a transcript of the record or recording be made at any time prior to expiration of the six-month period, it shall be made and copies shall be furnished to both parties. The school board shall bear the expense of the transcription.
5. The teacher shall bear his own expenses. The school board shall bear the expenses of the division superintendent and the hearing officer.
6. Witnesses who are employees of the school board shall be granted release time if the hearing is held during the school day. The hearing shall be held at the school in which most witnesses work, if feasible.
7. In the event of a hearing conducted by a hearing officer, the recommendation of the hearing officer shall be based exclusively upon the evidence presented at the hearing. Upon the hearing officer's own motion or upon application by the teacher or the division superintendent, the hearing officer may reopen the hearing for the purpose of hearing after-discovered evidence upon a finding of good cause by the hearing officer at any time before his recommendation is due. The hearing officer shall transmit his written recommendation and a record or recording of the hearing to the school board as soon as practicable and no more than 10 business days after the hearing.
8. In the event of a hearing by a hearing officer, the school board may make its decision upon the record or recording of such hearing or the school board may elect to conduct a further hearing to receive additional evidence. The school board must hold such further hearing as soon as practicable and must give written notice of the time and place of such further hearing to the division superintendent and the teacher within 10 business days after the board received the record or recording of the initial hearing. The notice must specify each matter to be inquired into by the school board. The school board shall determine the procedure to be followed at such further hearing.

C. School board determination.

1. In the event of a hearing before the school board, the school board shall give the teacher its written decision as soon as practicable and no more than 30

- days after the hearing. The decision of the school board shall be reached after considering the evidence and information presented at the school board hearing.
2. In the event of a hearing before a hearing officer followed by a further hearing by the school board pursuant to subdivision B 8 of this section, the school board shall give the teacher its written decision as soon as practicable and no more than 30 days after such further hearing. The decision of the school board shall be reached after considering the record or recording of the initial hearing, the recommendations of the hearing officer, and the evidence and information presented at the further hearing before the school board.
 3. In the event of a hearing before a hearing officer in cases in which no further hearing is conducted by the school board, the school board shall give the teacher its written decision as soon as practicable and no more than 30 days after receiving the record or recording of the hearing. The decision of the school board shall be reached after considering the record or recording of the hearing and the recommendations of the hearing officer.
 4. The school board may dismiss, or suspend, a teacher upon a majority vote of a quorum of the school board. The school board's attorney, assistants, or representative, if he or they represented a participant in the prior proceedings; the grievant; the grievant's attorney or representative, and, notwithstanding the provisions of § 22.1-69 of the Code of Virginia, the superintendent shall be excluded from any executive session of the school board that has as its purpose reaching a decision on a grievance. However, immediately after a decision has been made and publicly announced, as in favor of or not in favor of the grievant, the school board's attorney or representative and the superintendent may join the school board in executive session to assist in the writing of the decision.

NOTICE: The following forms used in administering the regulation were filed by the agency. The forms are not being published; however, online users of this issue of the Virginia Register of Regulations may click on the name of a form with a hyperlink to access it. The forms are also available from the agency contact or may be viewed at the Office of the Registrar of Regulations, General Assembly Building, 2nd Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

[FORMS \(8VAC20-90\)](#)

Statement of Grievance (rev. 4/2016)

Principal's Decision (rev. 4/2016)

Superintendent's Decision (rev. 4/2016)

Request for Hearing (rev. 4/2016)

Notice of Proposed Dismissal (rev. 4/2016)

SUPPORT STAFF GRIEVANCES

The Rappahannock County School Board adopts the following procedure in accordance with § 22.1-79(6) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. Nothing in this procedure is intended to create, nor shall it be construed as creating, a property right in employment, nor shall this procedure be interpreted to limit in any way whatsoever the School Board's exclusive final authority over the employment and supervision of its personnel.

The following words and terms are defined as indicated when used in this procedure, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Days" means calendar days unless a different meaning is clearly expressed in this procedure. Whenever any period of time fixed by this procedure shall expire on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the period of time for taking action under this procedure shall be extended to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. Working days" means those days that the Rappahannock County School Board office is open for business.

"Dismissal" means the termination of employment of any covered employee with or without cause during the term of such employee's employment.

"Employee" or "employees" means all full-time employees of the Rappa School Board who have completed the required probationary period except the superintendent and those employees covered under the provisions of Articles 2 and 3 of Chapter 15 of Title 22.1 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. "Employee" does not mean a part-time or temporary employee.

"Grievance" means a complaint or dispute involving the dismissal or other disciplinary action of an employee. A dismissal, reassignment or other action pursuant to a Reduction in Force (RIF) is not a disciplinary action and is not grievable. Employee evaluations are not disciplinary actions and are not grievable. "Grievance" does not mean a complaint or dispute regarding the suspension of an employee. The procedure for the suspension of employees is set forth in Policy GCPF Suspension of Staff Members.

Procedure

1. Written notice of the proposed dismissal or other disciplinary action, along with a statement of the reasons for the action, shall be given to the employee by the employee's building administrator or department head. Upon receipt of the recommendation, the employee is required to meet with a Human Resources administrator. During this meeting the employee receives a copy of this policy as

notice of the employee's grievance rights. The employee may file a written request for a hearing with the superintendent within ten (10) working days of receiving the written notice. The failure to file such a request within the prescribed time will constitute a waiver of the right to a hearing and the dismissal or other disciplinary action will become final without a hearing or further notice.

2. Upon receiving a timely written request, the superintendent shall select an impartial hearing administrator to hear the grievance. The hearing administrator will hold a hearing within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of the employee's request. Notice of the hearing shall be given orally or in writing to the employee at least five (5) working days before the hearing. The employee and the school division will share the cost of the hearing administrator and the cost of recording the hearing equally.
3. The employee and the employee's supervisor may be represented by legal counsel or a lay advocate at the hearing, but not both. The division may also be represented by legal counsel at the hearing. The hearing will be private and the hearing administrator will have full discretion over the conduct of the hearing. However, the employee and the division representative may make opening statements, may present all material and relevant evidence, including the testimony of witnesses, and may cross examine witnesses. Witnesses may be questioned by the hearing administrator.
4. The hearing administrator shall give the employee and the division representative a written decision within ten (10) working days after the completion of the hearing. The decision shall be based on the evidence relevant to the issues produced at the hearing in the presence of each party.
5. The decision may be appealed to the School Board by providing written notice of appeal to the superintendent within five (5) working days of receiving the decision of the hearing administrator. Upon timely appeal, the School Board shall decide the appeal on the written record and render its decision within thirty (30) days of the appeal.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Revised: September 8, 1998

Reviewed: August 9, 2005

Revised: November 10, 2009, December 11, 2013, October 11, 2016, August 11, 2020, April 12, 2022

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-79(6), 22.1-311, 22.1-313.

Cross Refs.: GCPF Suspension of Staff Members
 GDG Support Staff Probationary Period

STAFF HIRING PROCEDURES

It is the desire of the Rappahannock County School Board to recruit, hire and retain the best possible qualified applicants.

The Superintendent is responsible for developing procedures for advertising vacancies and new positions. Those procedures will be designed to ensure that all openings are properly advertised to give all interested and qualified parties the opportunity to apply. While most positions will be filled using those procedures, the School Board may, at the request of the Superintendent, fill positions in other ways. For example, the School Board may authorize the filling of a position to accommodate the disability of an employee, to transfer an employee when it is determined to be in the best interest of the school division, to satisfy the rights of employees returning from leave, to move an employee whose performance is unsuccessful to a position in which the employee might be successful or to discipline an employee for conduct deficiencies.

Current division employees are given an opportunity to apply for positions for which they are qualified.

The applicant determined to be the best qualified shall be selected for a vacant or new position, regardless of whether the applicant is an internal or external candidate.

Application for employment in the Rappahannock County Public Schools shall be made on forms provided by office of Human Resources.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to furnish accurate information and any falsification of either information or credentials is cause for dismissal or refusal to employ.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Revised: March 16, 1999; July 13, 1999; December 14, 1999; August 9, 2005;
December 11, 2013; July 14, 2020

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.: AC Nondiscrimination
 GA Personnel Policies Goals
 GCDA Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child
 Abuse or Neglect

VIRGINIA RETIREMENT SYSTEM

All eligible employees must be members of the Virginia Retirement System. Employee retirement benefits are governed by the rules and regulations established by the Virginia Retirement System.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Reviewed: March 16, 1999

Revised: June 11, 2002

Reviewed: August 27, 2009

Revised: August 14, 2012; December 11, 2013

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 51.1-135.

Cross Ref.: GBR Voluntary Retirement Savings Program

VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT SAVINGS PROGRAM

The Rappahannock County School Division offers its employees the opportunity to participate in a defined contribution retirement plan, also known as a tax sheltered annuity or 403(b) program. This program will be maintained and operated pursuant to a written plan.

The written plan will contain all the material terms and conditions for eligibility, benefits, applicable limitations, the contracts available under the plan, and the time and form under which benefit distributions may be made.

The written plan will also address any optional features, including hardship withdrawal distributions, loans, plan-to-plan or annuity contract-to-annuity contract transfers, and acceptance of rollovers to the plan, which are included in the Division's program.

The written plan may allocate responsibility for administrative functions, including functions to comply with the requirements of 26 U.S.C. § 403(b) and other tax requirements. The written plan may assign such responsibilities to parties other than the school division, but not to participants (unless the administration of the plan is a substantial portion of the duties of the participant). The written plan may incorporate by reference other documents which thereupon become part of the written plan. The written plan may address termination of the program.

Every employee of the school division will annually be notified about the program.

Adopted: March 11, 2008
Revised: August 14, 2012
Reviewed: December 11, 2013

Legal Refs.: 26 U.S.C. § 403(b).

26 CFR 1.403(b)-1 et seq.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 51.1-603, 51.1-603.1.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

No teacher is regularly employed by the School Board or paid from public funds unless such teacher

- holds a license or provisional license issued by the Board of Education
- holds a local eligibility license as defined in Va. Code § 22.1-298.1
- holds a three-year license to teach high school career and technical education courses in specified subject areas or
- is hired to teach in a trade and industrial education program and for whom the teacher licensure requirements have been waived by the Virginia Department of Education.

The Board of Education prescribes, by regulation, the requirements for the licensure for teachers and other school personnel required to hold a license.

Provisional Teacher License

If a teacher employed under a provisional license is activated or deployed for military service within a school year (July 1 - June 30), an additional year will be added to the teacher's provisional license for each school year or portion thereof during which the teacher is activated or deployed. The additional year shall be granted the year the return of the teacher from deployment or activation.

The superintendent may request that the Board of Education extend the three-year provisional license of a teacher for at least one year but no more than two additional years. The request must be accompanied by the superintendent's recommendation for such extension and satisfactory performance evaluations for the teacher for each year during the original three-year provisional license that such teacher was actually employed and received a filed performance evaluation.

As specified in Va. Code § 22.1-298.1, the division's superintendent may issue a provisional teacher license to any individual the School Board seeks to employ as a career and technical education teacher who is also seeking initial licensure in Virginia with an endorsement in the area of career and technical education to allow the teacher time to attain the required credentials.

Upon an individual's completion of a local eligibility license, the School Board may issue a provisional license to such an individual upon receiving from the superintendent (i) a recommendation for such a license, and (ii) a satisfactory performance evaluation for such individual for the local eligibility licensure period.

Local Eligibility License

In accordance with Va. Code § 22.1-298.1(M) and the Board of Education's regulations, a one-year nonrenewable local eligibility license may be issued to an individual who needs to take additional coursework but otherwise meets certain conditions for licensure and who may be employed by the School Board with the

intention of such individual, upon satisfaction of the applicable requirements set forth in Board regulations, receiving full licensure with a renewable license.

The superintendent or School Board may recommend for a local eligibility license any individual who received a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education and who has experience or training in a subject or content area as the School Board or the superintendent deems appropriate for the applicable teaching position or endorsement area.

Each local eligibility license is subject to regulations developed by the Board of Education and criteria established by law, including, but not limited to, the following:

- the School Board ensures that the number of its employed teachers who hold local eligibility licenses do not exceed five percent of the teachers employed by the School Board during the preceding school year;
- local eligibility licenses are not issued to any individual who is (i) seeking to provide instruction in special education or (ii) eligible for a collegiate professional license or postgraduate professional license;
- any individual issued a local eligibility license is required to complete, within the one-year of such licensure, all training requirements prescribed by law, the School Board and the superintendent;
- local eligibility licenses are only valid within the issuing school division;
- any individual issued a one-year local eligibility license is considered a probationary teacher and subject to the probationary terms of employment pursuant to Virginia law and School Board policies;
- when appropriate, before or by the expiration of such local eligibility license period held by an individual, the superintendent and School Board provide a recommendation to the Board of Education for such individual to be issued a collegiate professional or postgraduate professional license; and
- within a month of issuance to an individual, each local eligibility license is reviewed by the Department of Education's Office of Licensure to ensure compliance with all Board of Education regulations.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Reviewed: March 16, 1999

Revised: August 8, 2000, July 10, 2001, November 12, 2002, November 11, 2008, December 11, 2013, October 11, 2016, October 10, 2017, September 11, 2018, July 11, 2023, July 9, 2024

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-298.1, 22.1-299, 22.1-299.5 and 22.1-299.6.

The School Board employs at minimum one reading specialist for each 550 students in kindergarten through grade five and one reading specialist for each 1,100 students in grades six through eight. The School Board, upon determination of greatest need, may assign reading specialists to specific grade levels.

Reading specialists serve as advisors on dyslexia and related disorders. Reading specialists can provide the reading intervention services required by Virginia Code § 22.1-253.13:1 and identified in Policy IGBD Programs for Students with Reading Deficiencies.

Each reading specialist employed by the School Board has the necessary training, understanding, and knowledge required by Virginia law and, when applicable, the required licensure issued by the Department of Education.

Adopted: July 9, 2024

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-1, 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:2, 22.1-253.13:6, 22.1-298.1, and 22.1-299.7:1.

Cross Ref.: AG Literacy Plan
GCL Professional Staff Development
IGBD Programs for Students with Reading Deficiencies

The School Board enters into written contracts with teachers, principals, assistant principals, and supervisors as defined in 8 VAC 20-441-10 before such employees assume their duties except as noted below. Contracts are in the form permitted by the Board of Education, with special covenants added by the School Board as appropriate. Contracts are signed in duplicate, with a copy furnished to each party.

Written contracts are not required with persons who are temporarily employed. A temporarily employed teacher, is 1) one who is employed to substitute for a contracted teacher for a temporary period of time during the contracted teacher's absence, or 2) one who is employed to fill a teacher vacancy for a period of time, but for no longer than 90 teaching days in such vacancy, unless otherwise approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction on a case-by-case basis, during one school year.

Coaching contracts and contracts for extracurricular activity sponsorship assignments where a monetary supplement is paid are separate from the employee's primary contract. Such contracts are in a form permitted by the Board of Education. Termination of the separate contract does not constitute cause for the termination of the primary contract.

For purposes of this policy, "extracurricular activity sponsorship" means an assignment for which a monetary supplement is received, requiring responsibility for any student organizations, clubs, or groups such as service clubs, academic clubs and teams, cheerleading squads, student publication and literary groups, and visual and performing arts organizations except those that are conducted in conjunction with regular classroom, curriculum, or instructional programs.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Reviewed: March 16, 1999

Revised: November 12, 2002, October 10, 2006, August 14, 2012, December 11, 2013, June 12, 2018

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-302.

8 VAC 20-441-10.

8 VAC 20-441-40.

Cross Ref.:	G PBB	Supplementary Pay
	G CDA	Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect
	G CE	Part-Time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment
	G CG	Professional Staff Probationary Term and Continuing Contract
	G CPB	Resignation of Staff Members
	G CPD	Professional Staff Discipline
	G CPF	Suspension of Staff Members

STAFF SALARY SCHEDULES

The School Board establishes and approves salaries for all school employees.

Adopted: February 22, 1983

Revised: March 9, 1993

Reviewed: July 13, 1999

Revised: May 10, 2005, December 11, 2013, April 13, 2021

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-313.

SUPPLEMENTARY PAY

The Rappahannock County School Board approves all athletic coaching and other extracurricular activity sponsorships for which supplemental pay is provided. The Board establishes the amount of compensation for employees who coach or supervise such activities.

A separate contract in a form permitted by the Board of Education is executed by the School Board with an employee who receives supplemental pay for any athletic coaching assignment or extracurricular activity sponsorship assignment. All such contracts require a party intending to terminate the contract to give reasonable notice to the other party before termination thereof becomes effective.

For purposes of this policy, "extracurricular activity sponsorship" means an assignment for which a monetary supplement is received, requiring responsibility for any student organizations, clubs, or groups, such as service clubs, academic clubs and teams, cheerleading squads, student publication and literary groups, and visual and performing arts organizations except those activities that are conducted in conjunction with regular classroom, curriculum, or instructional programs.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Revised: March 16, 1999, November 12, 2002

Reviewed: August 27, 2009

Revised: December 11, 2013, June 12, 2018, July 9, 2024

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-302 and 22.1-313.

Cross Ref.: GCB

Professional Staff Contracts

STAFF BENEFITS

File: GCBC

The Rappahannock County School Board recognizes the need for benefits in order to promote the employment and retention of high quality personnel and effectively serve the educational needs of students. Accordingly, benefits are provided as established by the Board.

Adopted: March 16, 1999

Reviewed: August 9, 2005

Revised: August 14, 2012, December 11, 2013, April 13, 2021

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-85.

8 VAC 20-460-10.

Cross Ref.: GCBD Staff Leaves and Absences
 GBO Virginia Retirement System

Rappahannock County Public Schools

SICK LEAVE BANK

The Rappahannock County School Board maintains a Sick Leave Bank to assist employees who face catastrophic illness/ injury. Employees may join the sick leave bank by donating one day of general leave during a designated time period. Members will be assessed (asked to donate) an additional day to the Sick Leave Bank whenever the total number of days in the bank drops below 50. An employee must donate days as requested for continued eligibility. The Superintendent will consider written requests for sick leave bank time when the employee's sick leave and general leave is exhausted. The superintendent will present the case to the school board for final approval, as each case is based upon its merit. Medical documentation is required. The School Board has the right to amend the terms of the sick leave bank at any time (Policy GCBG and GCBG-R).

DIRECT DEPOSIT – PAYROLL CHECKS

Direct deposit is **required** for your payroll checks. A direct deposit form must be completed and you must notify your bank that the school division will be making a monthly deposit by ACH (Electronic Fund Transfer).

TUITION ASSISTANCE/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Tuition assistance is available for employees who are enrolled in **pre-approved** courses or who are taking courses required by the school division. Applications for tuition assistance require **prior approval** by the superintendent or designee. **For reimbursement to be processed: Approved application, copy of the grade report and an itemized course payment receipt must be submitted to the Finance Office. Payment will be made at the following month's School Board Meeting after all requirements are submitted.**

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

Financial support is available for employees attending professional development seminars. Applications require **prior approval** by the Superintendent or her designee.

PAYROLL DEDUCTION

All employees may utilize payroll deduction for:

- a) Northern Piedmont Federal Credit Union
- b) Virginia Credit Union, Inc.
- c) Tax-Deferred Annuities 403(b)
(further info. available during pre-school conference week).
- d) Professional Dues (further info. available through RCEA)
- e) Optional VRS Life Insurance
- f) 529 Virginia College Savings Plans
- g) AFLAC Insurance
- h) Term Care Insurance
- i) Piedmont United Way

Employees working at least 51% of a “full-time position” are eligible for the following fringe benefits:

HEALTH INSURANCE

The school division will pay the single subscriber premium and will make a contribution toward the type of coverage each eligible employee chooses to enroll in with the school system's health, vision, dental and prescription insurance.

FRINGE BENEFIT PACKAGE

File: GCBC-R1

Page 2

RETIREMENT: Virginia Retirement System

www.varetire.org 1-888-827-3847

The employee pays the required 5% contribution. The School Board pays the approved rates for professional and non-professional employees.

LIFE INSURANCE:

100% of premium paid by School Board.

Death Benefit: 2 x gross wages

(rounded to nearest thousand)

Accidental Death Benefit: 4 x gross wages (rounded to nearest thousand)

GENERAL LEAVE

All employees earn 1.25 days general leave per month. New employees may transfer in up to 100 eligible leave days.

Reviewed: 9/20/13

Reviewed: 12/11/13

The Rappahannock County School Board agrees to pay one-half of the single subscriber premium for health insurance benefits for retirees from Rappahannock County Public Schools until age 67. To qualify for full retirement, the employee must meet the current Virginia Retirement System guidelines. Any person retiring with a combination of years of service and age equal to 90 or more would also be eligible for the benefit.

Full retirement guidelines as defined by VRS

- VRS Plan 1: You become eligible for an unreduced retirement benefit at age 65 with at least 5 years of creditable service or at age 50 with at least 30 years of creditable service. VRS Plan 1 stipulates that an employee must be hired before July 1, 2010 and vested with VRS for 60 months by Jan. 1, 2013
- VRS Plan 2: You become eligible for an unreduced retirement benefit when you reach your normal Social Security retirement age and have at least five years of creditable service or when your age and service equals 90. VRS stipulates that an employee hired after July 1, 2010 and not vested as of January 1, 2013.
- VRS Hybrid Plan: You become eligible for an unreduced retirement benefit when you reach your normal Social Security retirement age and have at least five years of creditable service or when your age and service equal 90. VRS Hybrid Plan stipulates that an employee hired after January 1, 2014 is under the Hybrid Plan.

For those employees given “grandfather” rights to opt for employer-sponsored insurance programs as alternatives to the employer-sponsored health insurance program shall receive an insurance benefit not to exceed 3% of the employee’s annual gross salary at the time of retirement, until age 65, according to the policy in place at the time the employee retires.

Adopted: September 26, 2000

Revised: May 10, 2005

Reviewed: February 2, 2006

Revised: March 14, 2006, June 10, 2008

Revised: December 11, 2013

A. Generally

The following policy concerning terminal pay for unused sick leave applies to all employees who earn sick leave.

B. Eligibility

1. Terminal pay for unused sick leave will be paid to those employees who are retiring with at least ten (10) years of service in the Rappahannock County Public Schools, including years of service at George Washington Carver/Piedmont Technical Education Center, or to the estates of employees who become deceased while employed. Additionally, employees who are resigning with at least ten (10) years of service may also be paid according to the schedule below with the recommendation of the Superintendent and the approval of the School Board.
2. Only sick leave which is not transferable to another school division will be eligible for payment.
3. Only sick leave earned in the Rappahannock County Public Schools will be paid upon termination of employment.

C. Rate of Payment

The rate of pay is subject to review annually at the School Board's discretion. The employee shall be eligible to receive the approved rate for unused sick leave based on the following tiered system:

Tier 1 – Employees who have accumulated between 10 and 14 years of service to Rappahannock County Public Schools shall receive payment of \$25.00 per day for each day of accrued sick leave. The payment shall be for no more than 100 days.

Tier 2 – Employees who have accumulated between 15 and 19 years of service to Rappahannock County Public Schools shall receive payment of \$30.00 per day for each day of accrued sick leave. The payment shall be for no more than 110 days.

Tier 3 – Employees who have accumulated between 20 and 24 years of service to Rappahannock County Public Schools shall receive payment of \$35.00 per day for each day of accrued sick leave. The payment shall be for no more than 120 days.

Tier 4 – Employees who have accumulated between 25 and 29 years of service to Rappahannock County Public Schools shall receive payment of \$40.00 per day for each day of accrued sick leave. The payment shall be for no more than 130 days.

Tier 5 – Employees who have accumulated between 30 and 34 years of service to Rappahannock County Public Schools shall receive payment of \$45.00 per day for each day of accrued sick leave. The payment shall be for no more than 140 days.

Tier 6 – Employees who have accumulated 35 or more years of service to Rappahannock County Public Schools shall receive payment of \$50.00 per day for each day of accrued sick leave. The payment shall be for no more than 150 days.

Policy GCBH Adopted: February 22, 1989

Revised: March 8, 1989, June 13, 1989, June 18, 1996, December 8, 1998, September 12, 2000,
March 14, 2006, July 11, 2006, February 17, 2009, June 12, 2012,

Revised as a Regulation: December 11, 2013

TERMINAL PAY FOR UNUSED SICK LEAVE RESOLUTION

As of July 1, 2016, the Rappahannock County School Board resolves to pay for unused sick leave, based on the tiered system, for the 2016-2017 school year, in accordance with School Board Policy GCBC-R3 (Terminal Pay for Unused Sick Leave).

Rappahannock County Public Schools may have funds available for tuition assistance for its full-time employees, contingent upon appropriate funding sources. Staff members are eligible for tuition assistance for courses that are necessary to perform in their current position, fulfill re-licensure requirements, or to improve job skills. The school division may prescribe courses for individual staff members. Tuition assistance may be provided in two ways: tuition reimbursement and pre-paid tuition.

Tuition Reimbursement

In most cases, employees will be expected to pay tuition and seek reimbursement upon successful completion of coursework. Tuition reimbursement will be given only if the Superintendent approves the course.

For reimbursement to be made, the employee should provide the following:

- An approved tuition assistance application
- An itemized bill (Parking fees and recreation fees will not be reimbursed.)
- Proof of payment
- Copy of grade report (must be a passing grade)

Pre-paid Tuition

The Rappahannock County Public Schools will continue to seek partnerships with colleges to provide important coursework in the local area. When available, such courses will be pre-paid by the employer. Employees not successfully completing such courses will be expected to repay any prepaid amount.

Amount of Tuition Assistance

The Rappahannock County Public Schools will provide tuition assistance up to \$1600.00, unless prior approval is given. The maximum amount will be reviewed each school year. The costs of textbooks and supplies are not reimbursable.

Adopted: June 8, 2004

Revised: November 8, 2005, August 14, 2007

Reviewed: August 12, 2008, July 14, 2009, July 13, 2010, July 12, 2011, July 9, 2013

Regulation Added: December 11, 2013, October 11, 2016

Cross Reference: GCAA Administrative and Specialized Teaching Preparation Program

Revised: October 11, 2016

STAFF LEAVES AND ABSENCES

File: GCBD

All employee leaves and absences are subject to school division policy and regulations. The superintendent shall establish any regulations necessary for the application of the division's policies regarding leaves and absences.

Adopted: August 8, 1995
Revised: March 16, 1999; November 12, 2002
Reviewed: August 27, 2009
Revised: December 11, 2013

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.:	GCBE	Family and Medical Leave
	GCBEA	Leave Without Pay
	GCBEB	Military Leave and Benefits
	GCQA	Nonschool Employment by Staff Members

The superintendent shall establish any regulations necessary for the application of the division's policies regarding leaves and absences.

Civil Leave

The Superintendent, or his designee, has discretion to approve application for professional leave with full pay for any absences necessary for jury duty, subpoenaed witness appearances, or service on government boards or public task forces. Approval of leave may be contingent upon the ability of the school system to provide a proper continuity in the instructional program and/or other job responsibilities.

Political Leave- Short Term Political Aide

The Superintendent, or his designee, has discretion to approve application for short term political leave. Political leave, without pay, may be granted for a maximum period of four weeks during which the employee is engaged as a political aide. Approval of leave may be contingent upon the ability of the school system to provide a proper continuity in the instructional program and/or other job responsibilities.

Political Leave for Elected Office

The Superintendent, or his designee, has discretion to approve application for political leave without pay. Political leave, without pay, may be granted for a maximum period of eight weeks during which the employee is engaged as an elected official. Approval of leave may be contingent upon the ability of the school system to provide a proper continuity in the instructional program and or other job responsibilities. Once approved, an employee may opt to use general leave for extensions of employment beyond the 8 weeks. General leave is earned each year on actual days worked.

Adopted: October 8, 2013

Reviewed: December 11, 2013

HOLIDAYS AND VACATION (ANNUAL) LEAVE

A. Holidays for 12 month employees

The holiday schedule for 12-month employees includes the following: Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving break, Winter holiday break, Spring break, and Memorial Day. Additional days may be allotted based upon the School Board adoption of the academic calendar.

B. Vacation (Annual) Leave

1. Ten month and eleven month employees
Ten month and eleven-month employees shall receive no paid vacation (annual) leave.
2. Twelve-month employees
 - The School Board grants 1.25 days annual leave per contractual month to all twelve-month employees. See note at bottom of page.
 - Earned annual leave days will be entered on the employee's leave records in the month in which it is accrued.
 - The maximum accumulated annual leave for twelve month employees on June 30 of any given school year is 50 days.

Accumulated vacation (annual) leave up to the maximum will be paid to the employee, upon termination of employment, at the individual employee's current daily rate of pay.

NOTE:

Only those twelve-month employees who have been employed by the Rappahannock County Public Schools for more than 10 years on July 1, 2012 are grandfathered to continue to receive 20 days vacation (annual) leave per year (1.67 days per contractual month) through the remainder of their employment.

Adopted: September 12, 1995

Reviewed: December 8, 1998

Revised: March 16, 1999, September 14, 1999, November 9, 1999, August 8, 2000, October 8, 2002, May 11, 2004

Reviewed: July 20, 2009

Revised: June 12, 2012

Revised regulation: December 11, 2013, December 2, 2015, November 14, 2017
(GCBD-F1- form deleted November 14, 2017)

The intent of general leave is to provide greater employee leave flexibility without reducing all-over staff attendance rates. All full time employees shall participate in the school division general leave policy.

A. General Leave Provisions

1. All full time employees shall accrue general leave at the rate of 1.25 days per contractual month.
2. General leave can be used at the employee's discretion, however the administrator reserves the right to ask the employee to take an alternate day off if there are no substitutes available. Reasons for using general leave include but are not limited to sickness of employee or sickness within the employee's family, personal or family business, or bereavement.
3. Employees wishing to use general leave shall contact and inform their immediate administrator prior to the leave. Employees may take up to three consecutive leave days without gaining approval for leave. Employees wishing to use more than three consecutive days of general leave must gain prior approval from their immediate administrator.
4. For general leaves of greater than three consecutive days, administrative approval is required. Approval to use general leave shall be based solely on the basis of the impact on the school and educational program and on the basis of employee's prior leave patterns. Administrators may require a physician's statement for requests for general leave for reasons of illness in excess of three days.
5. General leave days not used during the year in which they are earned shall be converted to sick leave days and carried over into subsequent years.

B. Sick Leave

1. Unused general leave days shall be converted into sick days the year after the leave was earned.
2. For employees with accumulated sick leave, sick leave shall be used for employee illness, immediate family illness, or other medical reasons.
3. Administrators may require a physician's statement for requests for sick leave for reasons of illness in excess of three days.

4. Bereavement leave may be deducted from sick leave only after all general leave has been exhausted and only upon the approval of the superintendent or his/her designee.

C. Transfer of Sick Leave: Handling of Absences Beyond Scope of Policy

1. All accumulated sick leave shall be cancelled upon the termination of employment with the following exceptions: all certificated personnel who transfer from this division to another school system in Virginia may transfer any such accumulated leave if the School Board of the school system to which the transfer is being made signifies its willingness to accept such a transfer. The School Board will accept accumulated sick leave for any member of the Virginia Supplemental Retirement System. It will be the responsibility of the employee to initiate the transfer of accumulated sick leave credit. Employees who leave due to pregnancy, to enter the armed services, or for other reasons approved by the School Board, do not forfeit accumulated leave if they are later re-employed by this school division (See also Policy GCBH).
2. This school division accepts a maximum of one hundred (100) days of sick leave accumulated in other school divisions, however, only sick leave earned in the Rappahannock County Public Schools will be paid upon termination of employment (See Policy GCBH).
3. For absences due to causes other than those named in the preceding sections and for absences in excess of the approved sick leave allowances per diem salary for all such days shall be deducted from the payroll for the month following the absence. In cases of long absences due to illness or injury, the salary may be adjusted over the remaining months of the contract. The per diem salary is determined by dividing the contract salary by the number of the days of the contract (See Policy GCBG).

D. Anticipated General Leave Resolution

1. Upon annual resolution of the School Board, anticipated general leave days for the year, or remaining fraction thereof, may be awarded to each employee on the first day he/she reports to work. Employees who terminate employment prior to earning used general leave will have their final check(s) adjusted as appropriate.

E. Awards for Perfect Attendance

1. All ten and eleven-month employees who do not use their general or sick leave during their contracted days for the entire school year are eligible for a \$100.00 award.

F. Study of Leave Usage Trends

1. The Superintendent may annually conduct a study to compare overall leave rates to the previous year.

Policy GCBF Adopted: June 10, 1997
Reauthorized: July 14, 1998
Reviewed: March 16, 1999
Reauthorized: July 13, 1999
Revised: November 9, 1999
Reauthorized: July 11, 2000
Revised: August 8, 2000
Revised: January 8, 2002
Reauthorized: July 9, 2002
Revised: July 11, 2006
Reviewed: March 5, 2010
Revised: June 12, 2012
Reauthorized: July 9, 2013
Policy change to regulation: December 11, 2013
Revised: September 13, 2022

GENERAL LEAVE RESOLUTION

Whereas the Regulations of the Virginia Board of Education contain the following provision under "Sick Leave Plan for Teachers":

- I(d) School Boards may, by resolution, permit teachers to anticipate sick leave earnings for the current school year, provided adequate provision is made for a refund in the event the teacher terminates employment before such credit is earned.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Rappahannock County School Board authorizes all employees to anticipate general leave (which is based on sick leave) earnings for the current school year provided:

- 1 - The employee must have started work under that year's contract; and
- 2 - Any employee who terminates before the end of the contract year must repay any unearned days by deduction from his/her final paycheck (or through a refund if the final check is not sufficient to cover the amount owed).

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

Generally

The Rappahannock County School Board recognizes its obligation to provide its eligible employees with unpaid leave pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), 29 U.S.C. § 2601 et seq. This policy describes the benefits available to eligible employees under the Act.

Definitions

Covered active duty: The term covered “active duty” means

- in the case of a member of a regular component of the Armed Forces, duty during the deployment of the member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country; and
- in the case of a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, duty during the deployment of the member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country under a call or order to active duty under a provision of law referred to in 10 U.S.C. § 101(a)(13)(B).

Covered servicemember: The term “covered servicemember” means

- a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness; or
- a veteran who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, for a serious injury or illness and who was a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, at any time during the period of 5 years preceding the date on which the veteran undergoes that medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy.

Eligible employee: To be eligible for leave under this policy the employee must have at least twelve (12) months of service with the school division and have worked at least 1250 hours according to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq., in the twelve (12) months preceding the commencement of the leave. Full-time teachers are deemed to meet the 1250 hour test.

Instructional employee: Employees whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group, or an individual setting such as teachers, athletic coaches, driving instructors, and special education assistants such as signers for the hearing impaired. The term does not include teacher assistants or aides who do not have as their principal function actual teaching or instructing, or auxiliary personnel such as counselors, psychologists, curriculum specialists, cafeteria workers, maintenance workers, bus drivers, or other primarily noninstructional employees.

Next of kin: The term “next of kin” used with respect to an individual, means the nearest blood relative of that individual other than the covered servicemember’s spouse, parent, son, or daughter, in the following order of priority: blood relatives who have been granted legal custody of the covered servicemember by court decree or statutory provisions, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and first cousins, unless the covered servicemember has specifically designated in writing another blood relative as the covered servicemember’s nearest blood relative for purposes of military caregiver leave under the FMLA. When no such designation is made, and there are multiple family members with the same level of relationship to the covered servicemember, all such family members are considered the covered servicemember’s next of kin and may take FMLA leave to provide care to the covered servicemember, either consecutively or simultaneously. When such designation has been made, the designated individual is deemed to be the covered servicemember’s only next of kin.

Outpatient status: The term “outpatient status,” with respect to a covered servicemember, means the status of a member of the Armed Forces assigned to

- A. a military medical treatment facility as an outpatient; or
- B. a unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of members of the Armed Forces receiving medical care as outpatients.

Serious health condition: A serious health condition is an illness, injury, impairment or condition that involves inpatient care or continuing treatment by a health care provider.

Serious injury or illness: The term “serious injury or illness,” in the case of

- a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, means an injury or illness incurred by the member in line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces (or existed before the beginning of the member’s active duty and was aggravated by service in line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces) and that may render the member medically unfit to perform the duties of the member’s office, grade, rank, or rating; and
- a veteran who was a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, at any time during a period described in 29 U.S.C. § 2611(15)(B), means a qualifying (as defined by the Secretary of Labor) injury or illness that was incurred by the member in line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces (or existed before the beginning of the member’s active duty and was aggravated by service in line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces) and that manifested itself before or after the member became a veteran.

Year: A rolling 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses FMLA leave.

Leave

Any eligible employee is entitled to leave for a combined total of twelve (12) weeks per year for the following situations:

1. the birth and care of a newborn child;
2. the adoption or foster placement of a child;
3. to care for an employee's spouse, parent, or child with a serious health condition;
4. because of a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the essential functions of the employee's job; and
5. because of any qualifying exigency as defined in Department of Labor regulations, arising out of the fact that the spouse, or a son, daughter, or parent of the employee is on covered active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty) in the Armed Forces.

However, an eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered servicemember is entitled to a total of 26 workweeks of leave per year to care for the servicemember. Leave under this paragraph is available only during a single year. During that year the employee is entitled to a combined total of 26 workweeks of leave under this policy.

To the extent that an employee is entitled to compensated leave under other policies, such paid leave shall be substituted for unpaid FMLA leave. Otherwise, family and medical leave is unpaid. When paid leave is available, the employee must satisfy any procedural requirements of the division's paid leave policy.

Employees on FMLA leave must report their status and intention regarding returning to work to the school division at least every four weeks.

Notice to Employees of Their Rights under the FMLA

Posting and General Notice

The school division posts, in conspicuous places, on the premises of the school division where notices to employees and applicants for employment are customarily posted, a notice explaining the FMLA's provisions and providing information about the procedure for filing complaints with the Department of Labor. Attachment 1 may be used as the notice.

A copy of Attachment 1 is also given to each employee by including it in the employee handbook or similar document or by distributing it to each new employee upon hiring.

Eligibility Notice

When an employee requests FMLA leave, or the division has knowledge that an

employee's leave may be for an FMLA-qualifying reason, the division should notify the employee of the employee's eligibility to take FMLA leave within five business days. The Eligibility Notice should state whether the employee is eligible for FMLA leave. If the employee is not eligible for FMLA leave, the Notice must state at least one reason why the employee is not eligible (such as, for example, the number of months the employee has worked for the division.) This notification may be accomplished by providing the employee a copy of Attachment 4.

Notice of Rights and Responsibilities

The division provides written notice detailing the specific expectations and obligations of the employee and explaining the consequences of the failure to meet those obligations each time the employee is given an Eligibility Notice. This Notice includes, as appropriate:

- that the leave may be designated and counted against the employee's annual FMLA leave entitlement and the 12-month period for FMLA entitlement;
- any requirements for the employee to furnish certification of a serious health condition, serious injury or illness, or qualifying exigency arising out of active duty or call to active duty status, and the consequences of failing to provide certification;
- that the division substitutes paid leave for unpaid leave and any conditions related to the substitution and the employee's right to take unpaid FMLA leave if the employee does not meet the conditions for paid leave;
- any requirement for the employee to make any premium payments to maintain health benefits and the arrangements for making such payments, and the possible consequences of failure to make such payments on a timely basis;
- the employee's rights to maintenance of benefits during the FMLA leave and restoration to the same or an equivalent job upon return from FMLA leave; and
- the employee's potential liability for payment of health insurance premiums paid by the employer during the employee's unpaid FMLA leave if the employee fails to return to work after FMLA leave.

The Notice of Rights and Responsibilities should be accompanied by any required certification form.

The Notice of Rights and Responsibilities also includes notice that employees on FMLA leave must report their status and intention regarding returning to work to the division at least every four weeks.

If the information provided by the Notice of Rights and Responsibilities changes, the division will, within five business days of receipt of the employee's first notice of need for leave subsequent to any change, provide written notice referencing the prior notice and setting forth any of the information in the Notice of Rights and Responsibilities that has changed.

Designation Notice

When the division has enough information to determine whether the leave is being taken for a FMLA-qualifying reason, the division should give the employee written notice whether the leave will be designated and will be counted as FMLA leave within five business days. If the division determines that the leave will not be designated as FMLA-qualifying, the division must inform the employee of that determination. The division will also notify the employee that paid leave must be substituted for unpaid FMLA leave or that paid leave taken under an existing leave plan be counted as FMLA leave at the time of designating the FMLA leave.

If the division will require the employee to present a fitness-for-duty certification to be restored to employment after taking leave for a continuous period of time, the division will provide notice of the requirement with the Designation Notice. If the division will require that the fitness-for-duty certification address the employee's ability to perform the essential functions of the employee's position, the division so indicates in the Designation Notice and includes a list of the essential functions of the employee's position.

If the division has reasonable safety concerns regarding the ability of an employee who is returning to work after intermittent or reduced leave schedule to perform the employee's duties based on the serious health condition for which the employee took leave, it may require the employee to submit a fitness for duty certification unless one has been submitted within the past 30 days.

If the leave is not designated as FMLA leave because it does not meet the requirements of the FMLA, the notice to the employee that the leave is not designated as FMLA leave may be in the form of a simple written statement.

If the information provided by the division to the employee in the Designation Notice changes, the division will provide, within five business days of receipt of the employee's first notice of need for leave subsequent to any change, written notice of the change.

The division notifies the employee of the amount of leave counted against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement. If the amount of leave needed is known at the time the employer designates the leave as FMLA-qualifying, the division notifies the employee of the number of hours, days, or weeks that will be counted against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement in the Designation Notice. If it is not possible to provide the hours, days, or weeks that will be counted against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement, then the division provides notice of the amount of leave counted against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement upon request by the employee but no more often than once in a 30-day period and only if leave was taken in that period.

The division's decision to designate leave as FMLA-qualifying is based only on information received from the employee or the employee's spokesperson. If the division does not have sufficient information about the reason for an employee's use of leave, the division will inquire further of the employee or the spokesperson to ascertain whether leave is potentially FMLA-qualifying. Once the division has knowledge that the leave is being taken for a FMLA-qualifying reason, the division provides the employee the notice described in this subsection.

An employee giving notice of the need for FMLA leave must explain the reasons for the needed leave so as to allow the division to determine whether the leave is FMLA-qualifying. If the employee fails to explain the reasons, leave may be denied.

Leave for the Birth, Adoption or Foster Placement of a Child

The employee's entitlement to leave for a birth, adoption or foster placement of a child expires at the end of the twelve month period beginning on the date of the birth, adoption or foster placement. Leave taken for the birth, adoption or foster placement of a child may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule if the superintendent or superintendent's designee agrees to such an arrangement.

If the necessity for leave for the birth, adoption or foster placement of a child is foreseeable based on an expected birth or placement, the employee shall provide the school division with not less than 30 days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave. If the date of the birth or placement requires leave to begin in less than 30 days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable. The employee's notice should be sufficient to make the division aware that the employee needs FMLA-qualifying leave and of the anticipated timing and duration of the leave.

Leave Because of a Serious Health Condition of Employee

Employees are entitled, when medically necessary, to take such leave on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule except as provided below.

If the necessity for leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employee shall

- (1) make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the division; and
- (2) provide the division with at least 30 days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave. If the date of the treatment requires leave to begin in less than 30 days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.

The employee's notice should be sufficient to make the division aware that the employee needs FMLA-qualifying leave and of the anticipated timing and duration of the leave.

The School Board may require that a request for leave because of the employee's own serious health condition be supported by a certification issued by a health care provider of the employee. The division may use Form WH-380-E (Attachment 2) for this certification. The division should request that the employee furnish certification when the employee gives notice of the need for leave or within five business days thereafter, or, in the case of unforeseen leave, within five business days after the leave begins. The division may request certification at a later date if it later has reason to question the appropriateness of the leave or its duration. The employee must provide a complete and sufficient certification within 15 calendar days after the division's request. When the division requests certification, it advises the employee of the anticipated consequences of the employee's failure to provide adequate certification.

Certification will be sufficient if it states

- (1) the name, address, telephone number and fax number of the health care provider and the type of medical practice/specialization;
- (2) the approximate date on which the serious health condition commenced and its probable duration;
- (3) a statement or description of appropriate medical facts regarding the employee's health condition for which FMLA leave is requested. The medical facts must be sufficient to support the need for leave; and
- (4) information sufficient to establish that the employee is unable to perform the essential functions of the employee's position, the nature of any other work restrictions, and the likely duration of such inability.

If an employee requests leave on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule for planned medical treatment of the employee's serious health condition, the certification shall include information sufficient to establish the medical necessity for such intermittent or reduced schedule leave and an estimate of the dates on which such treatment is expected to be given and the duration of such treatment and any period of recovery.

If an employee requests leave on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule because of the employee's own serious health condition that may result in unforeseeable episodes of incapacity, the certification shall include information sufficient to establish the medical necessity for the intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule, and an estimate of the frequency and duration of the episodes of incapacity.

If the employee submits a complete and sufficient certification signed by the health care provider, the division may not request additional information from the health care provider. However, the division may contact the health care provider for purposes

of clarification and authentication of the medical certification. To make such contact, the division must use a health care provider, a human resources professional, a leave administrator, or a management official. The employee's direct supervisor may not contact the employee's health care provider.

If the school division doubts the validity of a certification, it may require, at its own expense, that the employee obtain the opinion of a second health care provider designated or approved by the school division concerning any information certified. The health care provider designated or approved by the school division may not be employed by the school division on a regular basis.

If the second opinion differs from the original certification, the school division may require, at its own expense, that the employee obtain the opinion of a third health care provider designated or approved jointly by the school division and the employee concerning information certified. The opinion of the third health care provider will be binding on both the school division and the employee.

Leave Because of a Serious Health Condition of a Child, Spouse, or Parent of Employee

Family and medical leave is provided when the employee is needed to care for the employee's spouse, child or parent with a serious health condition, as defined above. Employees are entitled, when medically necessary, to take such leave on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule except as provided below.

If the necessity for leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employee shall

- (1) make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the division; and
- (2) provide the division with at least 30 days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave. If the date of the treatment requires leave to begin in less than 30 days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.

The employee's notice should be sufficient to make the division aware that the employee needs FMLA-qualifying leave and the anticipated timing and duration of the leave.

The School Board may require that a request for leave to care for an employee's spouse, parent, or child with a serious health condition be supported by a certification issued by a health care provider of the family member in need of care. The division may use Form WH-380-F (Attachment 3) for this medical certification. The division should ask the employee to furnish certification when the employee gives notice of the need for leave or within five business days thereafter, or, in the case of unforeseen leave, within five business days after the leave begins. The division may request certification at some

later date if it has reason to question the appropriateness of the leave or its duration. The employee must provide the requested certification within 15 calendar days after the division's request. When the division requests certification, it advises the employee of the anticipated consequences of the employee's failure to provide adequate certification.

Certification will be sufficient if it states

- (1) the name, address, telephone number, and fax number of the health care provider and type of medical practice/specialization;
- (2) the approximate date on which the serious health condition commenced and its probable duration;
- (3) a statement or description of appropriate medical facts regarding the patient's health condition for which FMLA leave is requested. The medical facts must be sufficient to support the need for leave; and
- (4) information sufficient to establish that the family member is in need of care and an estimate of the frequency and duration of the leave required to care for the family member.

If an employee requests leave on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule for planned medical treatment of a family member's serious health condition, the certification shall include information sufficient to establish the medical necessity for such intermittent or reduced schedule leave and an estimate of the dates and the duration of such treatments and any periods of recovery.

If an employee requests leave on an intermittent reduced leave schedule in order to care for a family member with a serious health condition, the certification shall include a statement that the employee's intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule is medically necessary for the care of the son, daughter, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition, or will assist in their recovery, and the expected duration and schedule of the intermittent leave or reduced leave schedule.

If the employee submits a complete and sufficient certification signed by the health care provider, the division may not request additional information from the health care provider. However, the division may contact the health care provider for purposes of clarification and authentication of the medical certification. To make such contact, the division must use a health care provider, a human resources professional, a leave administrator, or a management official. The employee's direct supervisor may not contact the employee's health care provider.

If the school division doubts the validity of a certification, it may require, at its own expense, that the employee obtain the opinion of a second health care provider designated or approved by the school division concerning any information certified. The health care provider designated or approved by the school division may not be employed by the school division on a regular basis.

If the second opinion differs from the original certification, the school division may require, at its own expense, that the employee obtain the opinion of a third health care provider designated or approved jointly by the school division and the employee concerning information certified. The opinion of the third health care provider will be binding on both the school division and the employee.

Leave to Care for a Covered Servicemember

If the necessity for leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment for a serious injury or illness of a covered servicemember, the employee shall

- (1) make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the division; and
- (2) provide the division with at least 30 days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave. If the date of the treatment requires leave to begin in less than 30 days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.

The employee's notice should be sufficient to make the division aware that the employee needs FMLA-qualifying leave and the anticipated timing and duration of the leave.

The School Board may require that a request for leave to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness be supported by a certification issued by a health care provider of the covered serviceperson. The certification may be completed by any health care provider listed in 29 C.F.R. 825.310(a). The employee shall provide, in a timely manner, a copy of such certification to the school division.

Certification will be sufficient if it states

- (1) the name, address, and appropriate contact information (telephone number, fax number, and/or email address) of the health care provider, the type of medical practice, the medical specialty, and whether the health care provider is one of the following: a United States Department of Defense (DOD) health care provider, a United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care provider, a DOD TRICARE network authorized private health care provider, or a DOD non-network TRICARE authorized health care provider or a health care provider as defined in 29 C.F.R. 825.125;
- (2) whether the covered servicemember's injury or illness was incurred in the line of duty on active duty;
- (3) the approximate date on which the serious health condition or serious injury or illness commenced or was aggravated and its probable duration;
- (4) a statement or description of appropriate medical facts regarding the covered servicemember's health condition for which FMLA leave is requested. The medical facts must be sufficient to support the need for leave; and

- (5) information sufficient to establish that the covered servicemember is in need of care and whether the covered servicemember will need care for a single continuous period of time, including any time for treatment and recovery, and an estimate as to the beginning and ending dates for this period of time.

If an employee requests FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule for planned medical treatment appointments for the covered servicemember, the certification must state that there is a medical necessity for the covered servicemember to have such periodic care and must contain an estimate of the treatment schedule of such appointments.

If an employee requests FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis to care for a covered servicemember other than for planned medical treatment, the certification must contain a statement that there is a medical necessity for the covered servicemember to have such periodic care, and must contain an estimate of the frequency and duration of the periodic care.

In addition to the information listed above, the division may also request that the certification set forth the information on Form WH-385 (Attachment 7.)

In lieu of Form WH-385, the division accepts invitational travel orders (ITOs) or invitational travel authorizations (ITAs) issued to any family member to join an injured or ill servicemember at the servicemember's bedside. An ITO or ITA is sufficient certification for the duration of time specified in the ITO or ITA. During that time period, the employee may take leave to care for the covered servicemember in a continuous block of time or on an intermittent basis.

The information on the certification must relate only to the serious injury or illness for which the current need for leave exists. The division may seek authentication or clarification of the certification, ITO, or ITA but may not seek second or third opinions. The division may require an employee to provide confirmation of covered family relationship to the seriously injured or ill servicemember.

The division also accepts as sufficient certification of the servicemember's serious injury or illness documentation indicating the servicemember's enrollment in the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

Leave Related to a Qualifying Exigency arising from Covered Active Duty or a Call to Covered Active Duty

If the necessity for leave because of a qualifying exigency arising from the fact that a family member is on covered active duty or has been notified of an impending call

to covered active duty is foreseeable, the employee shall give such notice to the school division as is reasonable and practicable. The employee's notice should be sufficient to make the division aware that the employee needs FMLA-qualifying leave and the anticipated timing and duration of the leave.

The first time an employee requests leave because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the covered active duty or call to covered active duty status (or notification of an impending call or order to covered active duty) of a military member, the division may require the employee to provide a copy of the military member's active duty orders or other documentation issued by the military which indicates that the military member is on covered active duty or call to covered active duty status and the dates of the military member's covered active duty service. A copy of new active duty orders or other documentation issued by the military shall be provided to the division if the need for leave because of a qualifying exigency arises out of a different covered active duty or call to covered active duty status (or notification of an impending call or order to covered active duty) of the same or a different military member.

- A request for leave because of a qualifying exigency must be supported by
- (1) a statement or description signed by the employee of appropriate facts regarding the qualifying exigency for which FMLA leave is requested. The facts must be sufficient to support the need for leave;
 - (2) the approximate date on which the qualifying exigency commenced or will commence;
 - (3) the beginning and ending dates of absence if the employee requests leave because of a qualifying exigency for a single, continuous period of time;
 - (4) an estimate of the frequency and duration of the qualifying exigency if the employee requests leave because of a qualifying exigency on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis;
 - (5) if the qualifying exigency involves meeting with a third party, appropriate contact information for the individual or entity with whom the employee is meeting and a brief description of the purpose of the meeting; and
 - (6) if the qualifying exigency involves Rest and Recuperation leave, a copy of the military member's Rest and Recuperation orders, or other documentation issued by the military which indicates that the military member has been granted Rest and Recuperation leave, and the dates of the military member's Rest and Recuperation leave.

The division may use Form WH-384 (Attachment 6) for this certification.

Rules for Intermittent and Reduced Schedule Leave

When permitted by the FMLA, intermittent and reduced schedule leave may be used until the aggregate amount of such leave equals twelve weeks or 26 weeks if the leave is taken to care for a covered servicemember in the employee's rolling year.

However, when the employee requests intermittent or reduced schedule leave that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment the school division may temporarily transfer the employee to an available alternative position with equivalent pay and benefits that better accommodates the employee's intermittent or reduced schedule leave.

When an eligible employee employed principally in an instructional capacity requests leave to care for a family member with a serious health condition, leave because of the employee's own serious health condition, or leave to care for a covered servicemember and the leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment and the employee would be on leave for greater than 20 percent of the total number of working days in the period during which the leave would extend, the school division may require the employee to elect either

- (1) to take leave for periods of a particular duration, not to exceed the duration of the planned medical treatment; or
- (2) to transfer temporarily to an available alternative position offered by the school division for which the employee is qualified and that has equivalent pay and benefits and better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular employment position.

The school division may require an employee to make such an election when the employee has

- (1) made a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the division, subject to the approval of the health care provider; and
- (2) has provided the division with not less than 30 days' notice before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave, except that if the date of the treatment requires leave to begin in less than 30 days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.

Rules for Husband and Wife Employed by Rappahannock County School Division

A husband and wife who are both eligible for family and medical leave and are employed by the school division shall be granted family and medical leave only for a combined total of twelve weeks per year when the leave is taken for the birth, foster placement, or adoption of a child or to care for the child after birth, adoption, or foster placement or to care for a parent with a serious health condition.

A husband and wife who are both eligible for family and medical leave and are employed by the school division shall be granted family and medical leave only for a combined total of 26 workweeks per year if the leave

- (1) is taken to care for a covered servicemember; or
- (2) is taken as a combination of leave to care for a covered servicemember and leave for the birth, foster placement, or adoption of a child or to care for the child after birth, adoption, or foster placement or to care for a

parent with a serious health condition. However, if the leave taken by the husband and wife includes leave for the birth, foster placement, or adoption of a child or to care for the child after birth, adoption, or foster placement or to care for a parent with a serious health condition, the leave for that reason shall be limited to 12 workweeks per year.

Benefits During Family and Medical Leave

Employees on family and medical leave receive group health insurance plan coverage on the same conditions as coverage would have been provided if the employee had been working during the period of leave. Other benefits are provided according to school division policy for paid or unpaid leave, whichever applies.

If the employee fails to return to work when the period of leave to which the employee is entitled expires for any reason other than the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition that entitles the employee to leave, or other circumstances beyond the employee's control, the school division may recover the premium it paid for maintaining the employee's coverage during the period of unpaid leave in accordance with federal law.

Return to Work

An employee on family and medical leave shall provide the division at least two work days' notice of the intent to return to work. The employee shall be returned to the same or equivalent position at the end of the family and medical leave unless the division shows that the employee would not otherwise have been employed at the time reinstatement is requested.

The following return to work provisions apply to instructional employees:

1. If an instructional employee begins family and medical leave more than five (5) weeks before the end of an academic term, the employee may be required to continue taking leave until the end of the term if the leave is at least three (3) weeks in duration and the return to work would occur during the last three (3) weeks of the academic term.
2. If an instructional employee begins family and medical leave a) because of the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a son or daughter of the employee, b) to care for a family member with a serious health condition, or c) to care for a covered servicemember during the five (5) week period before the end of an academic term, the employee may be required to continue taking leave until the end of the academic term if the leave is longer than two (2) weeks in duration and the return to work would occur during the last two (2) weeks of the academic term.
3. If an instructional employee begins family and medical leave a) because of the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a son or daughter of the

employee, b) to care for a family member with a serious health condition, or c) to care for a covered servicemember during the three (3) week period before the end of an academic term, the employee may be required to continue taking leave until the end of an academic term if the leave is longer than five (5) working days in duration.

If an instructional employee is required to continue leave until the end of an academic term, only the period of leave until the employee is ready and able to return to work shall be counted against the family and medical leave entitlement. However, the division continues the group health insurance coverage under the same conditions as if the employee were working.

Outside Employment

An employee who is on family and medical leave may not engage in employment for any other employer or self-employment while on leave. Falsification of records and failure to correct records known to be false are violations of this policy and will result in discipline which may include termination from employment.

Adopted: August 8, 2005

Revised: September 8, 1998, November 9, 2004, June 10, 2008, June 9, 2009,
December 11, 2013, June 14, 2016, April 13, 2021

Legal Refs.: 29 U.S.C. §§ 207, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2618, 2619.

29 C.F.R. 825.110, 825.115, 825.122, 825.124, 825.125, 825.200,
825.203, 825.207, 825.300, 825.301, 825.302, 825.303, 825.305,
825.306, 825.307, 825.309, 825.310, 825.311, 825.312, 825.600,
825.602, 825.603, 825.604, 825.800.

Cross Refs.:	GCBD	Staff Leaves and Absences
	GCBEA	Leave without Pay
	GCQA	Nonschool Employment by Staff Members

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 **Employee Rights and Responsibilities Under the Family and Medical Leave Act** (WHD Publication 1420) (Revised April 2016)
Please note: a copy of this poster can be downloaded from <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/posters/fmla.htm>
- Attachment 2 **Certification of Health Care Provider for Employee's Serious Health Condition Under the Family and Medical Leave Act** (Form WH-380-E) (Revised June 2020)
Please note: a copy of the certification form can be downloaded from <http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-380-E.pdf>
- Attachment 3 **Certification of Health Care Provider for Family Member's Serious Health Condition Under the Family and Medical Leave Act** (Form WH-380-F) (Revised June 2020)
Please note: a copy of this form may be downloaded from <http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-380-F.pdf>
- Attachment 4 **Notice of Eligibility and Rights & Responsibilities Under the Family and Medical Leave Act** (Form WH-381) (Revised June 2020)
Please note: a copy of this form may be downloaded from <http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-381.pdf>
- Attachment 5 **Designation Notice Under the Family and Medical Leave Act** (Form WH-382) (Revised June 2020)
Please note: a copy of this form may be downloaded from <http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-382.pdf>
- Attachment 6 **Certification for Military Family Leave for Qualifying Exigency under the Family and Medical Leave Act** (Form WH-384) (Revised June 2020)
Please note: a copy of this form may be downloaded from <http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-384.pdf>
- Attachment 7 **Certification for Serious Injury or Illness of Current Servicemember for Military Caregiver Leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act** (Form WH-385) (Revised June 2020)
Please note: a copy of this form may be downloaded from <http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-385.pdf>

Attachment 8

**Certification for Serious Injury or Illness of a Veteran for
Military Caregiver Leave (Family and Medical Leave Act)**
(Form WH-385-V (revised May 2015))
*Please note: a copy of this form may be downloaded from
<http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/wh385V.pdf>*

LEAVE WITHOUT PAY

Employee's Debilitating or Life-Threatening Illness or Injury

A leave of absence, without pay, may be granted to employees of the school division who have a debilitating or life-threatening illness or injury and who are not eligible for Family and Medical Leave as described in Policy GCBE Family and Medical Leave because they have not worked for the division for 12 months or have not worked at least 1250 hours according to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.

Employees with a debilitating or life-threatening illness who are entitled to leave under this policy may take up to thirty (30) days unpaid leave during their first year of employment with the school division.

Other Work During Leave

Employees who are on unpaid leave pursuant to this policy or any other policy, except those on leave pursuant to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) (see Policy GCBE Military Leave and Benefits), may not engage in work for which they receive pay or any other type of remuneration without the prior written approval of the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

Adopted: August 9, 2005

Revised: October 10, 2006, December 11, 2013, March 12, 2019, May 14, 2024

Legal Ref.: 29 C.F.R. 825.216.
Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-296.

Cross Refs.:	GCBD	Staff Leaves and Absences
	GCBE	Family and Medical Leave
	GCBEB	Military Leave and Benefits
	GCQA	Nonschool Employment by Staff Members

MILITARY LEAVE AND BENEFITS

Leave

All employees of Rappahannock County School Board who are members of the state or federal military reserves are entitled to leaves of absence from their duties on all days during which they are engaged in federally funded military duty, including training duty, or when called forth by the Governor.

Immediately upon receipt of official notice to report for duty, the employee will notify Human Resources of the need for military leave. A copy of the official orders must accompany the leave request.

Pay/Paid Leave

All employees on military leave receive up to 21 days paid leave per federally funded tour of duty. When possible, military leave for employees on less than a 12 month contract should be arranged during non-duty hours.

An employee who is scheduled for a physical examination for military service during working hours, including but not limited to pre-induction physicals, receives paid leave.

In addition, full-time employees of the Rappahannock County School Division whose active duty service with the regular armed forces of the United States or the National Guard or other reserve component requires the employee's absence from employment receive supplemental pay in the amount of the employees per diem rate if the employee's military compensation is less than the regular salary paid to the employee by the school division.

The employee will be permitted, upon request, to use any vacation, annual, or similar leave that had accrued at the time military leave began.

Except as outlined above, military leave is unpaid.

Benefits

Health Benefits

If the employee so desires, the employee and the employee's dependents may continue to participate in the division's group health plan for up to 24 months while the employee is on military leave. The employee must notify the finance department if the employee wants to continue participation in the division's group health plan. Employees who elect to continue on the division's health plan will be responsible for the following payments: If the employee performs military service for 31 days or more, he or she may be required to pay up to 102% of the full premium under the plan. That amount represents the employer's share plus 2% to cover administrative costs. Employees who perform military service for less than 31 days may be required to pay up to the amount of the employee share, if any, for such coverage.

Retirement Benefits

An employee reemployed after military leave will be treated as not having incurred a break in service. The period of military leave will be considered service to the division for purposes of vesting and benefit accrual. The division is responsible for its pension plan funding obligation. The division is not required to make its contribution until the employee is reemployed.

The employee is allowed, but not required, to make up the employee's contributions to a contributory plan. The employee may repay employee contributions for a period of up to three times the period of military service, but not to exceed five years. If the employee's retirement plan is contributory and the employee does not make up the employee's contributions, the employee will not receive the employer match or the accrued benefit attributable to the employee's contribution because the employer is required to make contributions that are contingent on the employee's contributions.

The employer and employee contribution will be calculated on the rate of pay the employee would have received but for the absence to serve military duty.

Reemployment

An employee who is entitled to military leave by reason of service in the federal military reserves is entitled to be reemployed by the School Board as long as the employee

- has given advance notice of the need for military leave (unless notice is precluded by military necessity or is otherwise impossible or unreasonable);
- has not been absent for more than five years; and
- returns to work as outlined below.

If the employee was absent from work for

- less than 31 days, the employee must report back to work by the beginning of the next regularly scheduled work period after a reasonable amount of time to arrive home, rest and report to work;
- more than 30 days but less than 181 days, the employee must submit an application for reemployment within 14 days after the completion of service;
- more than 180 days, the employee must submit an application for reemployment within 90 days after the completion of service.

Employees who are entitled to military leave due to service in the Virginia military reserves must make written application for reemployment within

- 14 days of release from duty or from hospitalization following release if the length of the employee's absence by reason of service in the uniformed services does not exceed 180 days, or
- 90 days of release from duty or from hospitalization following release if the length of the employee's absence by reason of service in the uniformed services exceeds 180 days.

Upon returning from duty, an employee will be restored to the same job the employee held before leaving or to a comparable job. The School Board is not obligated to reemploy persons returning from military leave in certain unusual situations specified by state and federal law.

Termination after Reemployment

A person who is reemployed after returning from more than 30 days of military duty will not be discharged except for cause

- within one year after the date of reemployment, if the person's period of military service before the reemployment was more than 180 days; or
- within 180 days after the date of reemployment, if the person's period of military service before the reemployment was more than 30 days but less than 181 days.

Discrimination Against Members of Military Reserves Prohibited

Members of the military reserves will not be denied initial employment, reemployment, retention in employment, promotion, or any benefit of employment on the basis of that membership.

Adopted: October 10, 2006

Reviewed: January 9, 2007

Revised: December 11, 2013, July 14, 2020, April 11, 2023

Legal Refs: 38 U.S.C. §§ 4312, 4313, 4316, 4317.

20 C.F.R. §§ 1002.259, 1002.261, 1002.262, 1002.267.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-289.2, 44-93, 44-93.1, 44-93.3, 44-93.4, 44-102.1.

SICK LEAVE BANK

File: GCBG

A. Purpose

1. To protect employees only (not to be used for family members), who suffer an injury, illness, that is non-work related, which results in depletion of their accumulated sick and general leave.
2. To allow employees the use of Sick Leave Bank for Maternity/Paternity leave.
3. An employee who has been approved to use the Sick Leave Bank for a illness, injury, or condition will be able to use the Sick Leave Bank for follow-up doctor's visits for the same illness or injury providing the employee has exhausted all other leave. A doctor's statement must be provided stating the visit is a follow-up on the same illness.
4. There will be a maximum of 30 days per school year for any full time employee approved by the school board.

B. Pool

1. When first employed by the Rappahannock County Public Schools, each employee choosing to participate in the pool will donate one day to the pool, provided that the pool is not already full.
2. Days, once in the pool, cannot be withdrawn by the donating members, nor will these days be removed upon the member's separation from employment with Rappahannock County Public Schools.
3. At any one time, no more than 300 days may be in the pool.

C. Use of Pool Days

1. All general leave and accumulated sick leave must be used before an employee is eligible to request days from the Sick Leave Bank.
2. An individual must submit his/her request for use of pool days in writing.
3. An individual who has depleted his or her own leave days (general leave and sick leave) may receive credit for sick days from the pool provided that:
 - There has been a time lapse one (1) school day from the last day of sick leave taken. (Sick leave bank days are not an automatic extension of sick leave.)
 - The employee is a member of the pool and there are sick days in the pool.
 - Any member may be required, at the discretion of the School Board, to submit to a medical examination by a physician agreed upon by both parties.
4. Use of the Sick Leave Bank may be requested only once per school year.

D. Participation

1. Participation in the pool shall be voluntary and available to any full time School Board employee upon completing the appropriate form prepared at the direction of the Superintendent.
Rappahannock County Public Schools

2. Employees hired after July 1, 2014 who are eligible for the Virginia Retirement System's (VRS) Hybrid Retirement Program will only be eligible to use the Sick Leave Bank during their first year of employment.
3. It would be appropriate for members of the Sick Leave Bank to petition the School Board for an extension of days available should the bank be depleted during the school year.

E. Transfer of Sick Leave Days

1. On July 1 of each year, employees may donate up to 5 days of their accumulated general leave.
2. Upon termination of employment employees may donate any portion of their accrued annual or sick leave to the Sick Leave Bank, or the sick leave of employees who do not qualify for a sick leave payout and have not elected to transfer their sick leave to another school division shall be added to the Sick Leave Bank.

F. Amendment and Termination

1. The School Board has the right to amend the terms of the Sick Leave Bank or terminate it at any time.

Adopted: June 8, 1982

Reviewed: March 16, 1999

Revised: 8/8/00, 12/10/02, 9/9/03, 11/11/03, 1/9/07, 3/23/10, 6/12/12,

Reviewed: 12/11/13

Revised: 12/13/16, 11/14/17

GOVERNANCE OF THE SICK LEAVE BANK

A. Overall Purpose of the Sick Leave Bank

Eligibility for use of the Sick Leave Bank shall be considered for non-work illness or injury. Entitlement is for the enrolling employee as defined by the Family Medical Leave Act. Membership is defined as full time employees.

B. Enrollment to Pool and Donation of Days

An open enrollment period shall be held annually from July 1 until October 31 of each school year for all full time employees. Employees hired after October 31 may enroll in the Sick Leave Bank within their first 30 days of employment. Employees may join the sick leave bank by donating one day of general/sick leave plus one additional day/year unless bank is full (Fringe benefit package GCBC-R)

Members will be assessed (asked to donate) an additional day to the Sick Leave Bank whenever the total number of days in the bank drops below 50. Notification of such assessment shall be given and the assessment shall be made unless the participant chooses to cease membership in the bank. A member not wishing to remain in the bank may terminate membership in the bank by notifying the Human Resources Department in writing.

C. Requesting of Pool Days

A request form for use of the Sick Leave Bank can be obtained from the Director of Human Resources. All requests for use of the Sick Leave Bank are contingent upon written request for sick leave bank time when the employee's sick leave is exhausted and a request form is submitted to the Office of the Superintendent. Requests for use of the sick leave bank are determined on a case by case basis and on the merits of the request. A doctor's note is required. There will be a maximum of 30 days per school year for any full time employee approved by the school board.

D. Participation

The Division Superintendent's recommendations are subject to final approval by the School Board, which retains final authority on all matters pertaining to the Sick Leave Bank.

Revised: 9/10/13

Reviewed: 12/11/13

Revised : 12/13/16, 11/14/17

EMPLOYMENT OF FAMILY MEMBERS

File GCCB
Option 1

- A. The School Board may not employ or pay, and the superintendent may not recommend for employment, any family member of the superintendent or of a School Board member except as authorized below. This prohibition does not apply to the employment, promotion, or transfer within the school division of any family member who
- has been employed pursuant to a written contract with the School Board or employed as a substitute teacher or teacher's aide by the School Board prior to the taking of office of the superintendent or any School Board member, or
 - has been employed pursuant to a written contract with the School Board or employed as a substitute teacher or teacher's aide by the School Board prior to the inception of the family relationship, or
 - was employed by the School Board at any time prior to June 10, 1994 and had been employed at any time as a teacher or other employee of any Virginia school board prior to the taking of office of any member of the School Board or the superintendent.

A family member employed as a substitute teacher may not be employed to any greater extent than such family member was employed by the School Board in the last full school year prior to the taking of office of such Board member or superintendent or to the inception of such relationship.

- B. Notwithstanding the rules stated in Section A above, the School Board may employ or pay, and the superintendent may recommend for employment, any family member of a School Board member provided that
- the member certifies that they had no involvement with the hiring decision; and
 - the superintendent certifies to the remaining members of the School Board in writing that the recommendation is based upon merit and fitness and the competitive rating of the qualifications of the individual and that no member of the Board had any involvement with the hiring decision.
- C. Notwithstanding the rules stated in Section A above, the School Board may employ or pay any family member of the superintendent provided that
- the superintendent certifies that they had no involvement with the hiring decision; and
 - the assistant superintendent certifies to the members of the School Board in writing that the recommendation is based upon merit and fitness and the competitive rating of the qualifications of the individual and that the superintendent had no involvement with the hiring decision.

EFFECT OF CRIMINAL CONVICTION OR FOUNDED COMPLAINT OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

Generally

The Board does not hire or continue the employment of any part-time, full-time, temporary, or permanent personnel who are determined to be unsuited for service by reason of criminal conviction or information appearing in the registry of founded complaints of child abuse and neglect maintained by the Department of Social Services.

I. APPLICANTS FOR EMPLOYMENT

A. Criminal Convictions

As a condition of employment for all of its employees, whether full-time or part-time, permanent, or temporary, the Rappahannock County School Board requires on its application for employment certification of whether the applicant has been convicted of any violent felony set forth in the definition of barrier crime in subsection A of Va. Code § 19.2-392.02; any offense involving the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse or rape of a child, or the solicitation of any such offense; or any crime of moral turpitude.

The School Board does not employ any individual who has been convicted of any violent felony set forth in the definition of barrier crime in subsection A of Va. Code § 19.2-392.02 or any offense involving the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse, or rape of a child, or the solicitation of any such offense,

The School Board may employ any individual who has been convicted of any felony or crime of moral turpitude that is not set forth in the definition of barrier crime in subsection A of § Va. Code § 19.2-392.02 and does not involve the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse, or rape of a child, or the solicitation of any such offense, provided that in the case of a felony conviction, such individual's civil rights have been restored by the Governor.

The Rappahannock County School Board also requires on its application for employment, as a condition of employment requiring direct contact with students, whether full-time or part-time, permanent, or temporary, certification that the applicant has not been the subject of a founded case of child abuse and neglect. Any person making a materially false statement regarding a finding of child abuse and neglect is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor and upon conviction, the fact of such conviction is grounds for the Board of Education to revoke such person's license to teach.

As a condition of employment, any applicant who is offered or accepts employment, whether full-time, part-time, permanent or temporary with the Rappahannock County School Board shall submit to fingerprinting and provide personal descriptive information. The information and fingerprints shall be forwarded through the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the Federal Bureau of Investigations for the

purpose of obtaining criminal history record information on applicants who are offered or accept employment.

To conserve the costs of conducting criminal history record checks to applicants and school boards, upon the written request of the applicant, Rappahannock County School Board shall inform another school board with which reciprocity has been established and to which the applicant also has applied for employment of the results of the criminal history record information conducted within the previous ninety days that it obtained concerning the applicant. Criminal history record information pertaining to an applicant for employment by a school board shall be exchanged only between school boards in the Commonwealth in which a current agreement of reciprocity for the exchange of such information has been established and is in effect. Reciprocity agreements shall provide for the apportionment of the costs of the fingerprinting or criminal records check between the applicant and Rappahannock County School Board as provided by statute.

If an applicant is denied employment because of information appearing on the applicant's criminal history record, the School Board provides a copy of the information provided by the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the applicant.

B. Founded Complaints of Child Abuse or Neglect

The School Board requires, as a condition of employment, that any applicant who is offered or accepts employment requiring direct contact with students, whether full-time or part-time, permanent or temporary, provide written consent and the necessary personal information for the School Board to obtain a search of the registry of founded complaints of child abuse and neglect. The registry is maintained by the Department of Social Services. The School Board ensures that all such searches are requested in conformance with the regulations of the Board of Social Services. In addition, where the applicant has resided in another state within the last five years, the School Board requires as a condition of employment that such applicant provide written consent and the necessary personal information for the School Board to obtain information from each relevant state as to whether the applicant was the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse and neglect in such state. The School Board takes reasonable steps to determine whether the applicant was the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse and neglect in the relevant state. The Department of Social Services shall maintain a database of central child abuse and neglect registries in other states that provide access to out-of-state school boards for use by local school boards. The applicant may be required to pay the cost of any search conducted pursuant to this subsection at the discretion of the School Board. From such funds as may be available for this purpose, however, the School Board may pay for the search.

If the information obtained pursuant to the preceding paragraph indicates that the applicant is the subject of a founded case of child abuse and neglect, such applicant shall be denied employment, or the employment shall be rescinded.

If an applicant is denied employment because of information appearing on the applicant's record in the registry, the School Board provides a copy of the information

obtained from the registry to the applicant. The information provided to the School Board by the Department of Social Services is confidential and is not disseminated by the School Board.

II. EMPLOYEE CHARGES AND CONVICTIONS

A. Criminal Proceedings

An employee who is charged by summons, warrant, indictment, or information with the commission of a felony or a misdemeanor specified in Va. Code § 22.1-315 may be suspended in accordance with Policy GCPF Suspension of Staff Members.

If a current employee is suspended or dismissed because of information appearing on the employee's criminal history record, the School Board provides a copy of the information provided by the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the employee.

The superintendent shall inform the School Board of any notification of arrest of a school board employee received pursuant to Virginia Code § 19.2-83.1. The School Board shall require such employee, whether full-time or part-time, permanent, or temporary, to submit to fingerprinting and to provide personal descriptive information to be forwarded along with the employee's fingerprints through the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information regarding such employee. The contents of the employee's criminal record shall be used only to implement dismissal, suspension or probation in accordance with §§ 22.1-307 and 22.1-315 of the Code of Virginia.

B. Founded Complaints of Child Abuse or Neglect

Any employee of Rappahannock County School Board will be dismissed if he or she is or becomes the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse and neglect and after all rights to an appeal provided by Va. Code § 63.2-1526 have been exhausted. The fact of such finding, after all rights to an appeal provided by Va. Code § 63.2-1526 have been exhausted, is grounds for the school division to recommend that the Board of Education revoke such person's license to teach.

III. COURT ORDERED PROBATION

For purposes of this policy, a court's placing an individual on probation pursuant to Va. Code § 18.2-251 is treated as a conviction and as a finding of guilt.

IV. COSTS OF FINGERPRINTING, CRIMINAL RECORD AND ABUSE AND NEGLECT CHECKS

The School Board pays for the fingerprinting, criminal record check and abuse and neglect check conducted pursuant to this policy.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Revised: September 8, 1998, August 8, 2000, July 1, 2001, October 10, 2006, June 12, 2007, November 11, 2008, November 10, 2009, August 14, 2012, December 11, 2013, September 11, 2018, June 11, 2019, August 11, 2020, July 13, 2021, July 11, 2023

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, as amended, §§ 18.2-251, 19.2-83.1, 19.2-389, 22.1-78, 22.1-296.1, 22.1-296.2, 22.1-296.4, 22.1-307, 22.1-315, 63.2-1515.

Cross Refs.: GCPF Suspension of Staff Members
 GCPD Professional Staff Discipline

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Substitute teachers must

- be at least 18 years old;
- hold a high school diploma or have passed a high school equivalency examination approved by the Board of Education; and
- possess good moral character;
- attend substitute teacher training classes to include orientation,
- be free of communicable tuberculosis,
- meet the Teacher Aide qualifications; and
- pass a criminal records check

The Rappahannock County School Board seeks to employ substitute teachers, especially those engaged as long-term substitutes, who exceed these requirements.

A substitute teacher, as used in this policy, is (i) one who is employed to substitute for a contracted teacher for a temporary period of time during the contracted teacher's absence, or (ii) one who is employed to fill a teacher vacancy for a period of time, but for no longer than 90 teaching days in such vacancy, unless otherwise approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction on a case-by-case basis, during one school year. However, during the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years, the Rappahannock County School Board may employ a substitute teacher to fill such a vacancy for a period not to exceed 180 days during one school year.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Revised: September 8, 1998, March 16, 1999, August 10, 1999, May 13, 2003, November 10, 2009, August 14, 2012, December 11, 2012, December 11, 2013, July 11, 2023

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-302.

Acts 2023, c.641.

Cross Ref.: GCB Professional Staff Contracts
GCDA Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect
GCPD Professional Staff Discipline
GCPF Suspension of Staff Members

PROFESSIONAL STAFF PROBATIONARY TERM AND CONTINUING CONTRACT

Teachers

Probationary Term

A probationary term of service of three years in Rappahannock County School Division is required before a teacher is issued a continuing contract. A mentor teacher is provided to every first year probationary teacher to assist him or her in achieving excellence in instruction. Probationary teachers with prior successful teaching experience may be exempt from this requirement with approval from the superintendent. Probationary teachers are evaluated at least annually in accordance with policy GCN Evaluation of Professional Staff. A teacher in the first year of the probationary period is evaluated informally at least once during the first semester of the school year. The superintendent considers such evaluations as one factor in making recommendations to the School Board regarding the nonrenewal of such teacher's contract.

In order to achieve continuing contract status, every teacher must successfully complete training in instructional strategies and techniques for intervention for or remediation of students who fail or are at risk of failing the Standards of Learning assessments. Rappahannock County School Board provides said training at no cost to teachers it employs. If such training is not offered in a timely manner, no teacher will be denied continuing contract status for failure to obtain such training.

Once a continuing contract status has been attained in a school division in this state, another probationary period need not be served unless such probationary period, not to exceed two years, is made a part of the contract of employment. If a teacher separates from service and returns to teaching service in Virginia public schools by the beginning of the third year, the person shall be required to begin a new probationary period, not to exceed two years, if made part of the contract.

If a teacher who has not achieved continuing contract status receives notice of re-employment, he must accept or reject in writing within 15 calendar days of receipt of the notice. Unless a conference with the superintendent is requested as specified in the Code of Virginia, or in the case of reduction in force, written notice of nonrenewal of the probationary contract must be given by the Board on or before June 15 of each year. If the teacher requests a conference with the superintendent, then written notice of non-renewal by the School Board must be given within thirty days after the superintendent notifies the teacher of his intention with respect to the recommendation.

Continuing Contract

Teachers employed after completing the probationary period are entitled to continuing contracts during good behavior and competent service. Written notice of noncontinuation of the contract by either party must be given by June 15 of each year; otherwise the contract continues in effect for the ensuing year.

The School Board may reduce the number of teachers, whether or not such teachers have reached continuing contract status, because of decrease in enrollment or abolition of particular subjects.

Furthermore, nothing in the continuing contract shall be construed to authorize the School Board to contract for any financial obligation beyond the period for which funds have been made available.

As soon after June 15 as the school budget is approved by the appropriating body, the School Board furnishes each teacher a statement confirming continuation of employment, setting forth assignment and salary.

Within two weeks of the approval of the school budget by the appropriating body, but no later than July 1, the School Board will notify any teacher who may be subject to a reduction in force due to a decrease in the School Board's budget as approved by the appropriating body.

Principals, Assistant Principals, and Supervisors

A person employed as a principal, assistant principal or supervisor, including a person who has previously achieved continuing contract status as a teacher, shall serve a probationary term of three years in such position in the same school division before acquiring continuing contract status as a principal, assistant principal or supervisor.

Continuing contract status acquired by a principal, assistant principal or supervisor shall not be construed (i) as prohibiting the School Board from reassigning such principal, assistant principal or supervisor to a teaching position if notice of reassignment is given by the School Board by June 15 of any year or (ii) as entitling any such principal, assistant principal or supervisor to the salary paid him as principal, assistant principal or supervisor in the case of any such reassignment to a teaching position. No such salary reduction and reassignment, however, shall be made without first providing such principal, assistant principal or supervisor with written notice of the reason for such reduction and reassignment and an opportunity to present his or her position at an informal meeting with the superintendent, the superintendent's designee or the School Board. Before recommending such reassignment, the superintendent shall consider, among other things, the performance evaluations for such principal, assistant principal or supervisor. The principal, assistant principal or supervisor shall elect whether such meeting shall be with the superintendent, the superintendent's designee or the School Board. The School Board, superintendent or superintendent's designee shall determine what processes are to be followed at the meeting. The decision to reassign and reduce salary shall be at the sole discretion of the School Board.

The intent of this section is to provide an opportunity for a principal, assistant principal or supervisor to discuss the reasons for such salary reduction and reassignment with the superintendent, the superintendent's designee or the School Board, and the provisions of this section are meant to be procedural only. Nothing

contained herein shall be taken to require cause for the salary reduction and reassignment of a principal, assistant principal or supervisor.

As used in this policy, "Supervisor" means a person who holds an instructional supervisory position as specified in the regulations of the Board of Education and who is required to hold a license as prescribed by the Board of Education.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Revised: September 8, 1998; March 16, 1999; August 10, 1999; August 8, 2000; July 10, 2001; September 9, 2003; November 11, 2008; August 14, 2012; December 11, 2013; October 11, 2016; September 11, 2018; August 11, 2020

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-294, 22.1-303, 22.1-304.

Cross Refs.:	GBM	Professional Staff Grievances
	GCB	Professional Staff Contracts
	GCE	Part-Time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment
	GCN	Evaluation of Professional Staff
	GCPA	Reduction in Professional Staff Work Force
	GCPB	Resignation of Staff Members
	GCPD	Professional Staff Discipline
	GCPF	Suspension of Staff Members

PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSIGNMENTS AND TRANSFERS

Principals and other supervisory personnel may submit recommendations to the superintendent for the appointment, assignment, promotion, transfer and dismissal of all personnel assigned to their supervision.

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, the Rappahannock County School Board places all employees within the various schools and facilities located in the school division. The superintendent has the authority to assign employees to their respective positions within the school or facility wherein they have been placed by the School Board.

The superintendent may also reassign any employee for that school year to any school or facility within the division, provided no change or reassignment during a school year will affect the salary of such employee for that school year. However, no one will be employed in or reassigned to a situation where a family member, as defined in Policy GCCB Employment of Family Members, is directly responsible for that employee's supervision.

Any employee seeking a transfer of assignment to another work location for the next school year must make a request in writing to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee, with copies to the current supervisor, not later than April 1. This type of request, if granted, will be considered a voluntary transfer. A change of assignment within an immediate work station is the responsibility of the immediate supervisor.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Revised: March 16, 1999

Reviewed: August 9, 2005

Revised: June 10, 2008, December 11, 2013, April 11, 2023

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-293, 22.1-295, 22.1-297.

Cross Ref: GCCB Employment of Family Members

PROFESSIONAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Rappahannock County School Board provides a program of high-quality professional development

- (i) in the use and documentation of performance standards and evaluation criteria based on student academic progress and skills for teachers and administrators to clarify roles and performance expectations and to facilitate the successful implementation of instructional programs that promote student achievement at the school and classroom levels;
- (ii) as part of the license renewal process, to assist teachers and principals in acquiring the skills needed to work with gifted students, students with disabilities, and students who have been identified as having limited English proficiency and to increase student achievement and expand the knowledge and skills students require to meet the standards for academic performance set by the Board of Education;
- (iii) in educational technology for all instructional personnel which is designed to facilitate integration of computer skills and related technology into the curricula;
- (iv) for administrative personnel designed to increase proficiency in instructional leadership and management, including training in the evaluation and documentation of teacher and administrator performance based on student academic progress and the skills and knowledge of such instructional or administrative personnel; and
- (v) designed to educate School Board employees about bullying as defined in Va. Code § 22.1-276.01 and the need to create a bully-free environment.

In addition, the Board provides teachers and principals with high-quality professional development programs each year in

- (i) instructional content;
- (ii) the preparation of tests and other assessment measures;
- (iii) methods for assessing the progress of individual students, including Standards of Learning assessment materials or other criterion-referenced tests that match locally developed objectives;
- (iv) instruction and remediation techniques in English, mathematics, science and history and social science;
- (v) interpreting test data for instructional purposes;
- (vi) technology applications to implement the Standards of Learning; and
- (vii) effective classroom management.

The Board provides high-quality professional development and training in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction, from the list developed and the resources provided by the Virginia Department of Education (the Department) pursuant to subsection C of Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:5 or an alternative program that consists of evidence-based literacy instruction and aligns with science-based reading research approved by the Department, for

- each elementary school principal and each teacher with an endorsement in early/primary education preschool through grade three, elementary education

preschool through grade six, special education general curriculum kindergarten through grade 12, special education deaf and hard of hearing preschool through grade 12, special education blindness/visual impairments preschool through grade 12, or English as a second language preschool through grade 12, or as a reading specialist that builds proficiency in evidence-based literacy instruction and science-based reading research in order to aid in the licensure renewal process for such individuals;

- each teacher with an endorsement in middle education grades six through eight who teaches English that builds proficiency in evidence-based literacy instruction and science-based reading research; and
- each middle school principal and teacher with an endorsement in middle education grades six through eight who teaches mathematics, science, or history and social science that builds an awareness of evidence-based literacy instruction and science-based reading research.

The Board provides high-quality professional development in implementing the Virginia IEP established pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-214.4(11) and the referral, evaluation, reevaluation and eligibility forms and worksheets referenced in Va. Code §22.1-214.4(6), for each teacher with a provisional special education license or an endorsement in special education general curriculum kindergarten through grade 12, special education deaf and hard of hearing preschool through grade 12, and special education blindness and visual impairments preschool through grade 12.

The Board provides high-quality professional development in instructional practices to support specially designed instruction in inclusive settings for

- each teacher with a provisional general education license or an endorsement in early/primary education preschool through grade three, elementary education preschool through grade six, and secondary education grades six through 12;
- each principal with an endorsement in administration and supervision preschool through grade 12;
- each teacher's aide or other paraprofessional; and
- any teacher with a provisional special education license for whom the School Board determines there is a need for such professional development.

All instructional personnel are required to participate each year in professional development programs. No elementary or secondary school teacher is required to participate more than once every five years in training regarding appropriate management of student conduct and student offenses in violation of School Board policies or relating to secure mandatory test violations as set forth in Va. Code §§ 22.1-19.1 and 22.1-292.1 unless the School Board or superintendent determines that additional training is necessary to comply with federal or state law or to remediate misconduct. Each teacher who completes such training must sign a written attestation that the teacher has been trained in and understands the relevant subject matter.

Each teacher and licensed staff member, employed on a full-time basis, is required to complete a mental health awareness training or similar program.

Every employee holding a license issued by the Board of Education is required to complete cultural competency training, in accordance with guidance issued by the Board of Education, at least every two years.

The Board annually reviews its professional development program for quality, effectiveness, participation by instructional personnel and relevancy to the instructional needs of teachers and the academic achievement needs of the students in the school division.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Revised: March 16, 1996, August 10, 1999, August 8, 2000, November 9, 2004, August 9, 2005, October 9, 2007, December 11, 2013, June 12, 2018, August 11, 2020, July 13, 2021, July 11, 2023, July 9, 2024

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-23.3, 22.1-253.13:5, 22.1-276.01, 22.1-291.4, 22.1-298.6, 22.1-298.7, and 22.1-298.8.

EVALUATION OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Every employee of the Rappahannock County School Board staff is evaluated on a regular basis at least as frequently as required by law.

The superintendent assures that cooperatively developed procedures for professional staff evaluations are implemented throughout the division and included in the division's policy manual. The results of the evaluation are in writing, dated and signed by the evaluator and the person being evaluated, with one copy going to the central office personnel file and one copy to the person being evaluated.

The primary purposes of evaluation are:

- to optimize student learning and growth;
- to contribute to the successful achievement of the goals and objectives of the division's educational plan;
- to improve the quality of instruction by ensuring accountability for classroom performance and teacher effectiveness;
- to provide a basis for leadership improvement through productive performance appraisal and professional growth;
- to implement a performance evaluation system that promotes a positive working environment and continuous communication between the employee and the evaluator that promotes continuous professional growth, leadership effectiveness, improvement of overall job performance and improved student outcomes; and
- to promote self-growth, instructional effectiveness, and improvement of overall professional performance.

Teacher, principal, and superintendent evaluations are consistent with the performance standards included in the Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers, Principals, and Superintendents. Evaluations include student academic progress as a significant component and an overall summative rating. Teacher evaluations include regular observation and evidence that instruction is aligned with the school's curriculum. Evaluations include identification of areas of individual strengths and weaknesses and recommendations for appropriate professional activities. Evaluations include an evaluation of cultural competency.

Any teacher whose evaluation indicates deficiencies in managing student conduct may be required to attend professional development activities designed to improve classroom management and discipline skills.

Adopted: August 8, 2005

Revised: September 8, 1998, March 16, 1999, August 10, 1999, August 8, 2000, November 9, 2004

Reviewed: July 23, 2009

Revised: August 14, 2012, December 11, 2013, June 12, 2018, August 11, 2020, July 13, 2021

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-294, 22.1-295, 22.1-303, 22.1-253.13:5, 22.1-253.13:7 and 22.1-276.2.

Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers (Virginia Board of Education as approved March 18, 2021).

Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Principals (Virginia Board of Education as effective January 10, 2020).

Cross Ref.: CBG Evaluation of the Superintendent
 GCG Professional Staff Probationary Term and Continuing Contract

REDUCTION IN PROFESSIONAL STAFF WORK FORCE File: GCPA

A decrease in enrollment, abolition of particular subjects, a decrease in the School Board's budget as approved by the appropriating body, a consolidation of schools, the phasing out of programs, departments or grade levels and other conditions may cause a reduction in the number of staff needed in a building, program or department or in the entire school division.

General reduction in total personnel and redistribution of personnel within designated programs is done in accordance with Reduction in Force (RIF) Guidelines established by the superintendent and reviewed and approved by the School Board. The Guidelines will not provide for reductions to be made solely on the basis of seniority; they will include consideration of the performance evaluations of the teachers potentially affected by the reduction in workforce.

Adopted: August 8, 1995
Reviewed: March 16, 1999
Revised: November 12, 2002, September 9, 2003
Reviewed: December 16, 2008
Revised: June 9, 2009
Reviewed: March 5, 2010
Revised: December 11, 2013, April 13, 2021

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-304.

Cross Ref.: GCG Professional Staff Probationary Term and Continuing Contract

REDUCTION IN FORCE REGULATION

File: GCPA-R

Professional Employees

A decrease in enrollment, abolition of particular subjects, programs, departments or grade levels, or other conditions, a decrease in the School Board's budget as approved by the appropriating body, as well as a consolidation of schools may cause a reduction in the number of staff needed.

Reductions will not be made solely on the basis of seniority, but will include consideration of the performance evaluations of the teachers potentially affected by the reduction in workforce, the subject area(s) taught, and the contributions to the programmatic needs and extra duties performed.

In such event, the division superintendent will determine the personnel, positions, and/or programs that will be redistributed, reduced, or eliminated. The factors the division superintendent shall consider will be: years of experience in the division, years of experience in education, program needs, performance evaluations, and extra duties.

The school board will make the final decision based upon recommendation of the superintendent.

Classified Employees

Attrition due to retirement or resignation within an assignment area targeted for reduction (i.e. aide, secretary, custodian) will be the first remedy to achieve reduction in force provided those who remain have the necessary work experience/specialized skills as determined in the sole discretion of the Board.

If reduction in force cannot be achieved through attrition or resignation, the Superintendent will make a recommendation to the Board based on what is in the best interests of the school division.

Notification

The Superintendent, or designee, will give written notice of his intention to eliminate a position to the employee currently employed in that position, at least 5 work days prior to the School Board meeting at which he intends to recommend the reduction in force.

The Superintendent, or designee, will give written notice of the Board's decision to the employee within 5 work days of the Board's action to eliminate the position. A copy of this notice will be placed in the employee's personnel file.

Employees terminated because of reduction in force will be given first consideration for appointment to future vacant positions for which they are fully qualified as determined in the sole discretion of the Board. Once such positions are posted, it will be the former employee's responsibility to apply for such position(s) and by the stated deadline.

Adopted: April 10, 1990
Revised: March 16, 1999
Reviewed: August 9, 2005
Revised: December 16, 2008
Reviewed: March 5, 2010
Revised: December 11, 2013

RESIGNATION OF STAFF MEMBERS

File: GCPB

The superintendent is authorized to approve resignations of employees. Any resignation must be in writing.

A teacher may resign after June 15 of any school year with the approval of the superintendent. The teacher shall request release from contract at least two weeks in advance of the intended date of resignation. Such request shall be in writing and state the cause of the resignation. The teacher may, within one week, withdraw a request to resign. Upon the expiration of the one week period, the superintendent shall notify the School Board of the decision to accept or reject the resignation. The School Board, within two weeks, may reverse the decision of the superintendent. In the event that the Board or the superintendent declines to grant the request for release on the grounds of insufficient or unjustifiable cause, and the teacher breaches such contract, disciplinary action, which may include revocation of the teacher's license, may be taken pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Board of Education.

Other employees who wish to terminate their employment must give notice at least ten school days prior to their desired separation date. Notice should be given to the employee's immediate supervisor, who will inform the superintendent. The superintendent will inform the School Board of the resignation at its next regular meeting.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Revised: March 16, 1999, November 12, 2002

Reviewed: August 27, 2009

Revised: August 14, 2012, December 11, 2013, June 12, 2018

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-304.

Cross Refs.: GCPD
GDB

Professional Staff Discipline
Support Staff Employment Status

PROFESSIONAL STAFF DISCIPLINE

A. Probation and Dismissal

Teachers may be dismissed for incompetency, immorality, non-compliance with school laws and regulations, disability in accordance with State and federal law, conviction of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude or other good and just cause.

A teacher shall be dismissed if such teacher is or becomes the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse and neglect, pursuant to Va. Code § 63.2-1505, and after all rights to an appeal provided by Va. Code § 63.2-1526 have been exhausted. The fact of such finding, after all rights to an appeal provided by Va. Code § 63.2-1526 have been exhausted, shall be grounds for the School Board to recommend that the Board of Education revoke such person's license to teach.

In those instances when licensed personnel are dismissed or resign due to a conviction of any felony; any offense involving the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse or rape of a child; any offense involving drugs; or due to having become the subject of a founded case of child abuse or neglect, the School Board shall notify the Board of Education within 10 business days of such dismissal or the acceptance of such resignation.

If a current employee is dismissed because of information appearing on the employee's criminal history record, the School Board shall provide a copy of the information obtained from the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the employee.

Administrative regulations shall be developed for the dismissal or placing on probation of continuing contract teachers and probationary teachers during the school year.

No teacher shall be dismissed or placed on probation solely on the basis of the teachers' refusal to submit to a polygraph examination requested by the School Board.

B. Suspension

Employees of Rappahannock County School Board may be suspended as provided in Policy GCPF Suspension of Staff Members.

C. Failure to Perform Nonemergency Health-Related Services

With the exception of school administrative personnel and employees who have the specific duty to deliver health-related services, no licensed instructional employee, instructional aide, or clerical employee shall be disciplined, placed on probation, or dismissed on the basis of such employee's refusal to (i) perform nonemergency health-related services for students or (ii) obtain training in the administration of insulin and glucagon. However, instructional aides and clerical employees may not refuse to dispense oral medications.

"Health-related services" means those activities which, when performed in a health care facility, must be delivered by or under the supervision of a licensed or certified professional.

D. Effect of Probation Pursuant to Va. Code §18.2-251

For purposes of this policy, a court's placing an individual on probation pursuant to Va. Code § 18.2-251 shall be treated as a conviction and as a finding of guilt.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Revised: March 16, 1999, November 12, 2002

Reviewed: August 27, 2009

Revised: August 14, 2012, December 11, 2013, June 12, 2018, April 11, 2023, May 14, 2024

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 18.2-251, 22.1-274, 22.1-296.2, 22.1-307, 22.1-313, 22.1-315.

Cross Refs.:	GBM	Professional Staff Grievances
	GCE	Part-Time and Substitute Staff Employment
	GCG	Professional Staff Probationary Term and Continuing Contract
	GCDA	Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect
	GCPF	Suspension of Staff Members
	JHC	Student Health Services
	JHCD	Administering Medicines to Students

SUSPENSION OF STAFF MEMBERS

Employees of Rappahannock County School Board, whether full-time or part-time, permanent or temporary, may be suspended for good and just cause

- when the safety or welfare of the school division or the students therein is threatened or
 - when the employee has been charged by summons, warrant, indictment or information with the commission of
 - a felony; or
 - a misdemeanor involving
 - sexual assault as established in Article 7 (§18.2-61 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 18.2, of the Code of Virginia,
 - obscenity and related offenses as established in Article 5 (§18.2-372 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2, of the Code of Virginia,
 - drugs as established in Article 1 (§18.2-247 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title 18.2, of the Code of Virginia,
 - moral turpitude, or
 - the physical or sexual abuse or neglect of a child;
- or an equivalent offense in another state.

Except when an employee is suspended because of being charged by summons, warrant, indictment or information with the commission of any of the above-listed offenses, the superintendent or appropriate central office designee shall not suspend an employee for longer than sixty (60) days and shall not suspend an employee for a period in excess of five (5) days unless such employee is advised in writing of the reason for the suspension and afforded an opportunity for a hearing before the school board in accordance with Va. Code §§ 22.1-311 and 22.1-313, if applicable. Any employee so suspended shall continue to receive his then applicable salary unless and until the school board, after a hearing, determines otherwise. No employee shall be suspended solely on the basis of the employee's refusal to submit to a polygraph examination requested by the School Board.

Any employee suspended because of being charged by summons, warrant, information or indictment with any of the above-listed criminal offenses may be suspended with or without pay. In the event an employee is suspended without pay, an amount equal to the employee's salary while on suspended status shall be placed in an interest-bearing demand escrow account. Upon being found not guilty of one of the above-listed criminal offenses or upon the dismissal or nolle prosequi of the charge, such employee shall be reinstated with all unpaid salary and accrued interest from the escrow account, less any earnings received by the employee during the period of suspension, but in no event shall such payment exceed one year's salary.

In the event an employee is found guilty by an appropriate court of any of the above-listed criminal offenses and, after all available appeals have been exhausted and such conviction is upheld, all funds in the escrow account shall be repaid to the School Board.

If an employee is suspended because of information appearing on the employee's criminal history record, the School Board provides a copy of the information obtained from the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the employee.

No employee will have his insurance benefits suspended or terminated because of suspension in accordance with this policy.

The placing of a school employee on probation pursuant to the terms and conditions of Va. Code § 18.2-251 shall be deemed a finding of guilt.

Adopted: August 14, 2012

Reviewed: December 11, 2013

Revised: October 11, 2016, June 13, 2017, July 13, 2021

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-296.2, 22.1-315.

Cross Refs.

GBMA	Support Staff Grievances
GCDA	Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect
GCPD	Professional Staff Discipline
GDG	Support Staff Probationary Period

NONSCHOOL EMPLOYMENT BY STAFF MEMBERS

Employees may, during the hours not required of them to fulfill their responsibilities to Rappahannock County School Board, engage in other employment as long as such employment does not detract from or interfere with their employment by Rappahannock County School Board.

An employee who is on leave from Rappahannock County School Board, in a paid or unpaid status, may not be employed by the School Board or any other employer in any capacity during the period of leave except with the prior written authorization of the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

The School Board does not endorse, support, or assume liability for any activity conducted by School Board employees in which division students or employees participate which is not sponsored by the School Board.

Adopted: December 11, 2013

Revised: April 13, 2021

Legal Ref.: 29 C.F.R. 825.216(e).

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.:	BBFA	Conflict of Interests and Disclosure or Economic Interests
	GAA	Staff Time Schedules
	GAH	School Employee Conflict of Interests
	GCBE	Family and Medical Leave
	GCBEA	Leave Without Pay
	GCBEB	Military Leave and Benefits
	GCQAB	Tutoring for Pay
	GCQB	Staff Research and Publishing
	IICA	Field Trips

TUTORING FOR PAY

Staff members may not be paid by anyone other than the Rappahannock County School Board for tutoring students enrolled in a class under their direction.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Revised: March 16, 1999

Reviewed: August 9, 2005

Revised: August 14, 2012, December 11, 2013, April 13, 2021

STAFF RESEARCH AND PUBLISHING MATERIALS File: GCQB

The Rappahannock County School Board encourages employee innovation in creating and developing high-quality materials to improve student achievement and the efficiency of division operations. The School Board is the author of works produced by its employees within the scope of their employment and retains all rights to such works unless those rights are expressly waived or assigned to the employee who produced the work.

Any such assignment of rights will be accomplished in accordance with regulations promulgated by the superintendent. The regulations will provide that the work will remain available for the use of the School Board at no charge.

Employees who develop materials, including instructional materials and computer programs, outside the scope of their employment that have a connection to or are related to the division shall inform the superintendent in writing of their intent to develop such materials prior to commencing work.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Reviewed: March 16, 1999; August 9, 2005

Revised: December 11, 2013

Legal Ref.: 17 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, and 201.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.: EGAAA Reproduction of Copyrighted Materials
GCQA Non-school Employment by Staff Members

STAFF RESEARCH AND PUBLISHING REGULATION

The Rappahannock County School Board encourages employee innovation in creating and developing high-quality materials to improve student achievement and the efficiency of division operations.

The School Board is the author of materials and works produced by its employees within the scope of their employment. The School Board retains all rights to such materials and works unless those rights are expressly waived or assigned to the employee who produced the work.

Research conducted using data or materials from the division remain the property of the researcher unless denoted by the School Board or Superintendent. The research will be shared as appropriate with the division and a copy of the research document will be provided to the division. All research will include a Proposal and Plan of Action to be defined and approved by the Superintendent. Direct observations of classrooms will not be allowed unless performed under the supervision of school employees and approved in advance by the Superintendent and/or School Board. The School Board will not be responsible for publication of any research projects.

Adopted: December 11, 2013

SUPPORT STAFF

Support staff personnel are those employees who need not hold a license issued by the Virginia Board of Education in order to obtain their positions. This category includes, but is not limited to, non-licensed administrative, clerical, maintenance, transportation, food services, and paraprofessional positions.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Reviewed: March 16, 1999; August 9, 2005

Revised: August 14, 2012; December 11, 2013

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.:	GCDA	Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect
	GCPB	Resignation of Staff Members
	GCPF	Suspension of Staff Members
	GDB	Support Staff Employment Status

SUPPORT STAFF PROBATIONARY PERIOD

The probationary period for all support staff positions is 90 days.

Employees who have successfully completed the probationary period for one position will serve another probationary period if they move to another position.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Reviewed: March 16, 1999

Revised: June 14, 2005; August 14, 2012; December 11, 2013, October 11, 2016

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-79.

Cross Ref.: GBMA Support Staff Grievances
GD Support Staff
GDB Support Staff Employment Status

EVALUATION OF SUPPORT STAFF

Every employee of the Rappahannock County School Board is evaluated on a regular basis.

The superintendent ensures that cooperatively developed procedures for support staff evaluations are implemented within the division. The results of the evaluation shall be in writing, dated and signed by the evaluator and the person being evaluated, with one copy going to the central office personnel file and one copy to the employee.

The primary purposes of evaluation and assistance are:

- to optimize student learning and growth;
- to contribute to the successful achievement of the goals and objectives of the division's educational plan;
- to provide a basis for leadership improvement through productive performance appraisal and professional growth;
- to implement a performance evaluation system that promotes a positive working environment and continuous communication between the employee and the evaluator that promotes continuous professional growth, leadership effectiveness, improvement of overall job performance and improved student outcomes; and
- to promote self-growth, instructional effectiveness, and improvement of overall professional performance.

Adopted: August 8, 1995

Revised: March 16, 1999, May 13, 2003, November 9, 2004

Reviewed: July 23, 2009

Revised: August 14, 2012, December 11, 2013, April 13, 2021

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-313, 22.1-253.13:7.

Cross Ref.: CBG Evaluation of the Superintendent
GCN Evaluation of the Professional Staff
GD Support Staff
GDB Support Staff Employment Status
GDG Support Staff Probationary Period
GCPF Suspension of Staff Members

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Eligibility for Employment

Any applicant for employment operating a school bus transporting pupils must

- a. have a physical examination of a scope prescribed by the Board of Education and furnish a form prescribed by the Board of Education showing the results of such examination
- b. furnish a statement or copy of records from the Department of Motor Vehicles showing that the applicant, within the preceding five years, has not been convicted of a charge of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, convicted of a felony or assigned to any alcohol safety action program or driver alcohol rehabilitation program pursuant to Va. Code § 18.2-271.1 or, within the preceding 12 months, has not been convicted of two or more moving traffic violations or required to attend a driver improvement clinic by the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to Va. Code § 46.2-498
- c. furnish a statement signed by two reputable persons who reside in the school division or in the applicant's community that the person is of good moral character
- d. exhibit a license showing the person has successfully undertaken the examination prescribed by Va. Code § 46.2-339
- e. have reached the age of 18 on the first day of the school year
- f. submit to testing for alcohol and controlled substances as required by state and federal law and regulation

Persons for whom registration with the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry is required are not eligible for employment as a school bus driver.

Persons hired as school bus drivers must annually furnish the documents listed in (a) and (b) above prior to the anniversary date of their employment as a condition of continued employment as a school bus operator.

The Rappahannock County School Board requires proof of current certification or training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator as a condition of employment to operate a school bus transporting pupils.

The Rappahannock County School Board does not employ drivers subject to controlled substances and alcohol testing required by federal law without first conducting a pre-employment query of the federal Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (the Clearinghouse) to obtain information about the driver. Drivers must give specific consent for the query.

No driver is permitted to perform any safety-sensitive function if the results of a Clearinghouse query demonstrate that the driver has a verified positive, adulterated, or substituted controlled substances test result; has an alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher; has refused to submit to a test; or that an employer has reported actual knowledge that the driver used alcohol on duty, used alcohol before duty, used alcohol following an accident, or used a controlled substance in violation of federal regulations, except where a query of the Clearinghouse demonstrated that the driver has successfully completed the substance abuse professional (SAP) evaluation, referral, and education/treatment process required by federal regulation; achieves a negative return-to-duty test result; and completes the follow-up testing plan prescribed by the SAP

The School Board also conducts a query of the Clearinghouse at least once per year for information for all employees subject to controlled substance and alcohol testing required by federal law and regulation to determine whether information exists in the Clearinghouse about these employees.

Drug and Alcohol Testing

Drivers are subject to drug and alcohol testing as required by state and federal law. Any driver who refuses to submit to a test shall not perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions. The division administers alcohol and controlled substance tests in accordance with federal laws and regulations.

Prohibited conduct

Drivers are prohibited from alcohol possession and/or use on the job, use during the four hours before performing safety-sensitive functions, having prohibited concentrations of alcohol in their systems while on duty or performing safety-sensitive functions, and use during eight hours following an accident or until after undergoing a post-accident alcohol test, whichever occurs first.

No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions when the driver uses any controlled substances except when

the use is pursuant to the instructions of a licensed medical practitioner who is familiar with the driver's medical history and has advised the driver that the substance does not adversely affect his ability to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle.

Notification

The superintendent or superintendent's designee is responsible for providing educational materials to drivers that explain the requirements of federal regulations and the divisions' policies and procedures with regard to meeting those requirements. The superintendent or superintendent's designee ensures that a copy of the materials is distributed to each driver prior to the start of testing and to each driver subsequently hired or transferred into a position requiring driving a commercial vehicle. Those materials contain at least the following information

- the identity of the person designated by the school division to answer driver questions about the materials;
- the categories of drivers subject to this policy;
- sufficient information about the safety-sensitive functions performed by those drivers to make clear what period of the work day the driver is required to be in compliance;
- specific information concerning driver conduct that is prohibited;
- the circumstances under which a driver will be tested for alcohol and/or controlled substances, including post-accident testing;
- the procedures that will be used to test for the presence of alcohol and controlled substances, protect the driver and the integrity of the testing processes, safeguard the validity of the test results, and ensure that those results are attributed to the correct driver, including post-accident information, procedures and instructions;
- the requirement that a driver submit to alcohol and controlled substances tests;
- an explanation of what constitutes a refusal to submit to an alcohol or controlled substances test and the attendant consequences;
- the consequences for drivers found to have violated federal law or regulations, including the requirement that the driver be immediately removed from safety-sensitive functions;
- the consequences for drivers found to have an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater but less than 0.04;
- information concerning the effects of alcohol and controlled substances use on an individual's health, work, and personal life; signs and symptoms of an alcohol or a controlled substances problem (the driver's or a co-worker's); and available methods of intervening when an alcohol or a controlled substances problem is suspected, including confrontation, referral to any employee assistance program and/or referral to management; and

- the requirement that the following personal information be reported to the Clearinghouse: a verified positive, adulterated, or substituted drug test result; an alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher; a refusal to submit to required tests; an employer's report of actual knowledge of on duty alcohol use, pre-duty alcohol use, post-accident alcohol use, and controlled substance use; a SAP report of the successful completion of the return-to-duty process; a negative return-to-duty test; and an employer's report of completion of follow-up testing.

Each driver must sign a statement certifying that the driver has received a copy of the above materials and the division maintains this signed copy.

Before performing each alcohol or controlled substances test, the division notifies the driver that the test is required by federal law or regulation.

Consequences of prohibited conduct

A driver who has engaged in conduct prohibited by federal regulation or for whom testing confirms prohibited alcohol concentration levels or the presence of a controlled substance, is removed immediately from safety-sensitive functions. Before a driver is returned to the performance of safety-sensitive functions, if at all, the driver shall undergo an evaluation by a substance abuse professional, as defined by 49 C.F.R. § 40.281, comply with any required rehabilitation and undergo a return-to-duty test with negative drug test results and/or an alcohol test with an alcohol concentration of less than 0.02.

Record retention

The division maintains records in compliance with the federal regulations in a secure location with controlled access. With the driver's consent, the division may obtain any of the information concerning drug and alcohol testing from the driver's previous employer. A driver is entitled upon written request to obtain copies of any records pertaining to the driver's use of alcohol or controlled substances including information pertaining to alcohol or drug tests.

Records shall be made available to a subsequent employer upon receipt of a written request from a driver. Disclosure by the subsequent employer is permitted only as expressly authorized by the terms of the driver's request.

Adopted: August 8, 1995
Reviewed: March 16, 1999
Revised: November 12, 2002; June 14, 2005
Reviewed: November 9, 2010
Revised: December 11, 2013; June 12, 2018; July 14, 2020

Legal Refs.: 49 U.S.C. § 31136.
49 C.F.R. §§ 40.305, 382.105, 382.113, 382.201, 382.205, 382.207,
382.209, 382.213, 382.217, 382.301, 382.303, 382.401, 382.405,
382.601, 382.605, 382.701.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-178, 46.2-339, 46.2-340.

Cross Ref.: GBEA Unlawful Manufacture, Distribution, Dispensing,
Possession or Use of a Controlled Substance

Eligibility for Employment

Any Rappahannock County transportation applicant for employment operating a RCPS car transporting pupils must also submit to the following requirements as required by CDL drivers:

- g. have a physical examination of a scope prescribed by the Board of Education and furnish a form prescribed by the Board of Education showing the results of such examination
- h. furnish a statement or copy of records from the Department of Motor Vehicles showing that the applicant, within the preceding five years, has not been convicted of a charge of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, convicted of a charge of refusing to take a blood or breath test, convicted of a felony or assigned to any alcohol safety action program or driver alcohol rehabilitation program pursuant to Va. Code § [18.2-271.1](#) or, within the preceding 12 months, has not been convicted of two or more moving traffic violations or required to attend a driver improvement clinic by the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to Va. Code § [46.2-498](#)
- i. furnish a statement signed by two reputable persons who reside in the school division or in the applicant's community that the person is of good moral character
- j. exhibit a license showing the person has successfully undertaken the examination prescribed by Va. Code § [46.2-339](#)
- k. have reached the age of 18 on the first day of the school year
- l. submit to testing for alcohol and controlled substances (as required by state and federal law and regulation for other CDL drivers)

Persons for whom registration with the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry is required are not eligible for employment as a school car driver.

Persons hired as school car drivers must annually furnish the documents listed in (a) and (b) above prior to the anniversary date of their employment as a condition of continued employment as a school transportation operator.

The Rappahannock County School Board requires proof of current certification or training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator as a condition of employment to operate a school car transporting pupils.

Drug and Alcohol Testing

The school division has a drug and alcohol testing program for school bus/car drivers who are required to hold a driver's license.

Prohibited conduct

Drivers are prohibited from alcohol possession and/or use on the job, use during the four hours before performing safety-sensitive functions, having prohibited concentrations of alcohol in their systems while on duty or performing safety-sensitive functions, and use during eight hours following an accident or until after undergoing a post-accident alcohol test, whichever occurs first.

No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions when the driver uses any controlled substances except when the use is pursuant to the instructions of a licensed medical practitioner who has advised the driver that the substance does not adversely affect his ability to safely operate a vehicle.

Required testing

Drivers are subject to pre-employment/pre-duty drug testing, reasonable suspicion alcohol and drug testing, random alcohol and drug testing, post-accident alcohol and drug testing, return-to-duty and follow-up alcohol and drug testing pursuant to procedures set out in the regulation. Pursuant to state law, drivers are subject to pre-employment alcohol testing. Any employee who refuses to submit to a post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion or follow up test shall not perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions.

Notification

Each driver receives educational materials that explain the requirements of federal law and regulations together with a copy of the division's policy and procedures for meeting these requirements. Each driver must sign a statement certifying that he/she has received a copy of the above materials and the division maintains this signed copy.

Before performing each alcohol or controlled substances test, the division will notify the driver that the test is required by federal law (for CDL) or by RCPS regulation.

Consequences if testing indicates drug or alcohol misuse

If the testing confirms prohibited alcohol concentration levels or the presence of a controlled substance, the employee shall be removed immediately from safety-sensitive functions in accordance with the federal regulations. All drivers shall be advised of resources available and before a driver is re-instated, if at all, the driver shall undergo an evaluation by a substance abuse professional, comply with any required rehabilitation and undergo a return-to-duty test with negative urine sample.

Record retention

The division maintains records in compliance with the federal regulations in a secure location with controlled access. With the driver's consent, the division may obtain any of the information concerning drug and alcohol testing from the driver's previous employer. A driver is entitled upon written request to obtain copies of any records pertaining to the driver's use of alcohol or controlled substances including information pertaining to alcohol or drug tests.

Records shall be made available to a subsequent employer upon receipt of a written request from a driver. Disclosure by the subsequent employer is permitted only as expressly authorized by the terms of the driver's request.

Test procedure

The division administers alcohol and controlled substance tests in accordance with federal laws procedures and includes drug and alcohol testing for all car/bus drivers.

Adopted: July 15, 2015

Based upon VSBA Bus Driver Policy (GDQ)

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES AND RECORDS

Policy Statement

Electronic or digital signatures can take many forms and can be created using many different types of technology. The authenticity and reliability of electronic signatures relating to transactions are dependent on the accompanying processes, supplemental records and the overall context in which records are created, transferred, and signed. The Rappahannock County School Board adopts the following policy with respect to the use of electronic records and signatures in connection with its communications with parents, guardians, or other persons having control over a child enrolled in this division.

Definitions

“Attribution” – An electronic record or electronic signature is attributable to a person if it was the act of the person. The act of the person may be shown in any manner, including a showing of the efficacy of any security procedure applied to determine the person to which the electronic record or electronic signature was attributable.

“Electronic Signature”- An electronic sound, symbol or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.

“Electronic Record” – Any record created, generated, sent, communicated, received or stored by electronic means.

Applicability

This policy applies to parents, guardians, and other persons having control or charge of a child enrolled in the division; and also to individuals affiliated with the division, whether paid or unpaid, including but not limited to teachers, administrators, staff, students, affiliates, and volunteers.

Electronic Records

Electronic records created or received by the division shall be appropriately attributed to the individual(s) responsible for their creation and/or authorization or approval. The division shall utilize available technology to implement reliable methods for generating and managing electronic records. Any electronic record filed with or issued by the division may be given full force and effect of a paper communication if the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The communication is an electronic filing or recording and the Rappahannock County School Board agrees to accept or send such communication electronically; and
2. If a signature is required on the record or communication by any statute, rule or other applicable law or School Board policy, the electronic signature must conform to the requirements set forth in this policy governing the use of electronic signatures.

Electronic Signatures

An electronic signature may be used if the law requires a signature unless there is a specific statute, regulation, or policy that requires records to be signed in non-electronic form. The issuance and/or acceptance of an electronic signature by the School Board may be permitted in accordance with the provisions of this policy and all applicable state and federal law. If permitted, such electronic signature shall have the full force and effect of a manual signature only if the electronic signature satisfies all of the following requirements:

1. The electronic signature identifies the individual signing the document by the individual's name and title;
2. The identity of the individual signing with an electronic signature is capable of being validated through the use of an audit trail;
3. The electronic signature and the document to which it is affixed cannot be altered once the electronic signature has been affixed;
4. The electronic signature conforms to all other provisions of this policy.

Acceptance, Use and Issuance of Electronic Records and Signatures

The School Board shall maintain an electronic recordkeeping system that can receive, store, and reproduce electronic records and signatures relating to communications and transactions in their original form. Such system should include security procedures whereby the School Board can (a) verify the attribution of a signature to a specific individual, (b) detect changes or errors in the information contained in a record submitted electronically, (c) protect and prevent access, alteration, manipulation or use by an unauthorized person, and (d) provide for nonrepudiation through strong and substantial evidence that will make it difficult for the signer to claim that the electronic representation is not valid.

