

EXCLUSIONS AND EXEMPTIONS FROM SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The School Board shall excuse from attendance at school:

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

The School Board may excuse from attendance at school:

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

The compulsory attendance requirement does not apply to:

- Children suffering from contagious or infectious diseases;
- Children whose immunizations against communicable diseases have not been completed;
- Children under 10 years of age who live more than two miles from a public school, unless public transportation is provided within one mile of the place where such children live; and
- Children between the ages of 10 and 17, inclusive, who live more than 2.5 miles from a public school, unless public transportation is provided within 1.5 miles of the place where such children live.

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

ADOPTED: July 11, 2000

REVISED: July 12, 2005
November 14, 2006
October 11, 2011

LEGAL REFERENCES: Code of Virginia, sections 22.1-3, 22.1-254, 22.1-271.4, 22.1-277, 22.1-277.2:1, 32.1-46, 54.1-2957.02.

CROSS REFERENCES: JEA Compulsory Attendance
JHCB Immunization of Students
JHCC Communicable Diseases
LBD Home Instruction