

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

The Alexandria City School Board (Board) believes that regular school attendance is essential to student academic progress and future success. The Board considers parents/legal guardians as partners in ensuring students attend school and, for students enrolled in Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), all scheduled classes. The Superintendent develops regulations to ensure ACPS acts as a trusted partner with parents/legal guardians in ensuring student attendance.

The Code of Virginia § 22.1-254 requires every parent/legal guardian, or other person having control or charge of any child who will have reached the fifth birthday on or before September 30 of any school year and who has not passed the 18th birthday shall cause such child to attend a public school or otherwise provide the child with an education in accordance with state law unless the child is exempt from the state’s compulsory attendance requirement.

Further, in the case of any five-year-old child, the requirements of this Policy may be satisfied by causing the child to attend any public educational pre-kindergarten program, including a Head Start program, or in a private, denominational, or parochial educational pre-kindergarten program.

As used in this Policy, “attend” includes participation in educational programs and courses at a site remote from the school with the permission of the school and in conformity with applicable requirements.

The requirements of this Policy apply to:

- Any child in the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice or the Department of Corrections who has not passed their 18th birthday; and
- Any child whom the Superintendent has required to take a special program of prevention, intervention, or remediation as provided in Va. Code §§ 22.1-253.13:1.C and 22.1-254.01.

The requirements of this Policy do not apply to:

- Any person 16 through 18 years of age who is housed in an adult correctional facility when such person is actively pursuing the achievement of a passing score on a high school equivalency examination approved by the Virginia Board of Education but is not enrolled in an individual student alternative education plan; and
- Any child who has obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent, a certificate of completion, or a passing score on a high school equivalency examination approved by the Virginia Board of Education, or who has otherwise complied with compulsory school attendance requirements.

Individual Student Alternative Education Plan

The Board may allow the compulsory attendance requirements to be met pursuant to an individual student alternative education plan developed in conformity with guidelines prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education under the following conditions:

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1. The student must be at least 16 years of age;
2. There shall be a meeting of the student, the student’s parents/legal guardians, and the principal or principal’s designee of the school in which the student is enrolled to develop the plan, which must include the following:
 - Career guidance counseling;
 - Mandatory enrollment and attendance in a preparatory program for passing a high school equivalency examination approved by the Virginia Board of Education or other alternative education program approved by the Board, with attendance reported to the principal or designee;
 - Mandatory enrollment in a program to earn a Virginia Board of Education-approved career and technical education credential, such as the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness skills assessment;
 - Successful completion of the course in economics and personal finance required to earn a Virginia Board of Education-approved high school diploma;
 - Counseling on the economic impact of failing to complete high school; and
 - Procedures for re-enrollment.
3. A student for whom such an individual student alternative education plan has been granted but who fails to comply with the conditions of the plan shall be in violation of the compulsory attendance laws, and the Superintendent or attendance officer shall seek immediate compliance with such laws.

Alternative Education Programs

The Board may, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Va. Code § 22.1- 276.01 et seq. and policy including but not limited to JGD/JGE, upon a finding that a school-age child has been:

- charged with an offense relating to the Commonwealth’s laws, or with a violation of Board policies on weapons, alcohol or drugs, or intentional injury to another person;
- found guilty or not innocent of a crime that resulted in or could have resulted in injury to others, or of an offense that is required to be disclosed to the Superintendent pursuant to subsection G of Va. Code § 16.1-260;
- suspended pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-277.05; or
- expelled from school attendance pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-277.06, § 22.1-277.07, or subsection C of § 22.1-277,

require a student to attend an alternative education program as provided by Va. Code § 22.1-209.1:2 or § 22.1-277.2:1.

Prior to requiring a student to attend an alternative education program, the Superintendent provides: (1) written notice to the student and their parent/legal guardian that the student will be required to attend an alternative education program and (2) written notice to the student and their

93 parent/legal guardian of the right to a hearing before the Superintendent or designee regarding the
94 placement. The decision of the Superintendent or designee regarding such alternative education
95 placement shall be final unless altered by the Board, upon timely written petition, as established
96 in Regulation JGD-R/JGE-R, by the student or their parent/legal guardian, for a review of the
97 record by the Board.
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99 Whenever a court orders any student into an alternative education program, including a program
100 preparing students for a high school equivalency examination approved by the Virginia Board of
101 Education, offered in the public schools, the Board determines the appropriate alternative
102 education placement of the student regardless of whether the student attends the public schools it
103 supervises or resides within its school division.
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105 **Reports Regarding Nonenrolled Children**
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107 The attendance officer, the Superintendent, or the Superintendent’s designee checks the reports
108 submitted pursuant to subsection A of Va. Code § 22.1-260 with reports from the State Registrar
109 of Vital Records and Health Statistics. From these reports and from any other reliable source the
110 attendance officer, the Superintendent, or the Superintendent’s designee, within five days after
111 receiving all reports submitted pursuant to subsection A of Va. Code § 22.1-260, makes a list of
112 the names of children who are not enrolled in any school and who are not exempt from school
113 attendance. The attendance officer investigates all cases of nonenrollment and, when no valid
114 reason is found therefor, notifies the parent/legal guardian or other person having control of the
115 child to require the attendance of such child at the school within three days from the date of such
116 notice.
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118 The Superintendent develops regulations to implement this policy.
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- 121 Adopted: July 1, 2011
- 122 Amended: June 21, 2012
- 123 Amended: December 18, 2014
- 124 Amended: September 10, 2020
- 125 Amended: September 9, 2021
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128 Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-254.
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130	Cross Refs.:	IGBH	Alternative School Programs
131		JEA-R	Attendance Regulations
132		JED	Student Absences/Excuses/Dismissals
133		JEG	Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
134		JGD/JGE	Student Suspension/Expulsion
135		JGD-R/JGE-R	Student Suspension/Expulsion Regulations
136		LBD	Home Instruction

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

The Alexandria City School Board (Board) believes that regular school attendance is essential to student academic progress and future success. The Board considers parents/legal guardians as partners in ensuring students attend school and, for students enrolled in Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), all scheduled classes. The Superintendent develops regulations to ensure ACPS acts as a trusted partner with parents/legal guardians in ensuring student attendance.

Virginia law requires children between the ages of five and eighteen to attend school, with limited exceptions. Specifically, Va. Code § 22.1-254 requires each parent/guardian (or other person having control or charge) of a child “who will have reached the fifth birthday on or before September 30 of any school year and who has not passed the eighteenth birthday” to cause the child to attend a public school or otherwise provide the child with an education (in accordance with state law) unless the child is exempt from Virginia’s compulsory attendance requirement.

For a five-year-old child, the compulsory attendance requirement may also be satisfied if the child attends a public educational pre-kindergarten program, including a Head Start program or a private, denominational, or parochial educational pre-kindergarten program.

The Code of Virginia § 22.1-254 requires every parent/legal guardian, or other person having control or charge of any child who will have reached the fifth birthday on or before September 30 of any school year and who has not passed the 18th birthday shall cause such child to attend a public school or otherwise provide the child with an education in accordance with state law unless the child is exempt from the state’s compulsory attendance requirement.

Further, in the case of any five-year-old child, the requirements of this Policy may be satisfied by causing the child to attend any public educational pre-kindergarten program, including a Head Start program, or in a private, denominational, or parochial educational pre-kindergarten program.

As used in this Policy, “attend” includes participation in educational programs and courses at a site remote from the school with the permission of the school and in conformity with applicable requirements.

The requirements of this Policy apply to:

- Any child in the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice or the Department of Corrections who has not passed his/her their 18th birthday; and
- Any child whom the Superintendent has required to take a special program of prevention, intervention, or remediation as provided in Va. Code §§ 22.1-253.13:1.C and 22.1-254.01.

The requirements of this Policy do not apply to:

- Any person 16 through 18 years of age who is housed in an adult correctional facility when such person is actively pursuing the achievement of a passing score on a high school equivalency examination approved by the Virginia Board of Education but is not enrolled in an individual student alternative education plan; and

Commented [1]: Revised to align with the VSBA model policy. This required edits to the first two paragraphs.

- Any child who has obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent, a certificate of completion, or a passing score on a high school equivalency examination approved by the Virginia Board of Education, or who has otherwise complied with compulsory school attendance requirements.

Individual Student Alternative Education Plan

The ~~School~~ Board may allow the compulsory attendance requirements to be met pursuant to an individual student alternative education plan developed in conformity with guidelines prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education under the following conditions:

1. The student must be at least ~~16~~sixteen years of age;
2. There shall be a meeting of the student, the student's parents/legal guardians, and the principal or ~~his/her~~principal's designee of the school in which the student is enrolled to develop the plan, which must include the following:
 - Career guidance counseling;
 - Mandatory enrollment and attendance in a preparatory program for passing a high school equivalency examination approved by the Virginia Board of Education or other alternative education program approved by the ACPS School Board, with attendance reported to the principal or designee;
 - Mandatory enrollment in a program to earn a Virginia Board of Education-approved career and technical education credential, such as the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness skills assessment;
 - Successful completion of the course in economics and personal finance required to earn a Virginia Board of Education-approved high school diploma;
 - Counseling on the economic impact of failing to complete high school; and
 - Procedures for re-enrollment.
3. A student for whom such an individual student alternative education plan has been granted but who fails to comply with the conditions of the plan shall be in violation of the compulsory attendance laws, and the Superintendent or attendance officer shall seek immediate compliance with such laws.

Alternative Education Programs

~~The Superintendent, pursuant to Regulation JGD-R/JGE-R adopted by the~~ ACPS School Board ~~may,~~ in accordance with the procedures set forth in Va. Code § 22.1- 276.01 et seq. and ACPS ~~Policy~~ including but not limited to JGD/JGE, upon a finding that a school-age child has been:

- charged with an offense relating to the Commonwealth's laws, or with a violation of ACPS ~~School~~ Board policies on weapons, alcohol or drugs, or intentional injury to another person;
- found guilty or not innocent of a crime that resulted in or could have resulted in injury to others, or of an offense that is required to be disclosed to the Superintendent pursuant to subsection G of Va. Code § 16.1-260;
- suspended pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-277.05; or

- expelled from school attendance pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-277.06, § 22.1-277.07, or subsection C of § 22.1-277,

~~may~~ require a student to attend an alternative education program as provided by Va. Code § 22.1-209.1:2 or § 22.1-277.2:1. ~~The Superintendent develops regulations (JGD-R/JGE-R) to implement this policy.~~

Prior to requiring a student to attend an alternative education program, the Superintendent ~~shall~~ provides: (1) written notice to the student and ~~his/her-their~~ parent/~~legal~~ guardian that the student will be required to attend an alternative education program and (2) written notice to the student and ~~his/her-their~~ parent/~~legal~~ guardian of the right to a hearing before the Superintendent or designee regarding the placement. The decision of the Superintendent or ~~his/her-their~~ designee regarding such alternative education placement shall be final unless altered by the ~~ACPS-School~~ Board, upon timely written petition, as established in Regulation JGD-R/JGE-R, by the student or ~~his/her-their~~ parent/~~legal~~ guardian, for a review of the record by the ~~ACPS-School~~ Board.

Commented [2]: This ACPS language, the rest is the VSBA model policy.

Whenever a court orders any student into an alternative education program, including a program ~~of general educational development preparing students for a high school equivalency examination approved by the Virginia Board of Education,~~ offered in the public schools, the ~~ACPS-School~~ Board ~~will~~ determines the appropriate alternative education placement of the student regardless of whether the student attends the public schools it supervises or resides within its school division.

Reports Regarding Nonenrolled Children

~~The attendance officer, the Superintendent, or the Superintendent’s designee checks the reports submitted pursuant to subsection A of Va. Code § 22.1-260 with reports from the State Registrar of Vital Records and Health Statistics. From these reports and from any other reliable source the attendance officer, the Superintendent, or the Superintendent’s designee, within five days after receiving all reports submitted pursuant to subsection A of Va. Code § 22.1-260, makes a list of the names of children who are not enrolled in any school and who are not exempt from school attendance. The attendance officer investigates all cases of nonenrollment and, when no valid reason is found therefor, notifies the parent/~~legal~~ guardian or other person having control of the child to require the attendance of such child at the school within three days from the date of such notice.~~

Commented [3]: Per Va. Code § 22.1-261.

~~The Superintendent develops regulations to implement this policy.~~

- Adopted: July 1, 2011
- Amended: June 21, 2012
- Amended: December 18, 2014
- Amended: September 10, 2020
- Amended: September 9, 2021

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

144	Cross Refs.:	IGBH	Alternative School Programs
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