

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

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The Alexandria City School Board (Board) seeks to educate young people in the democratic tradition, to foster a recognition of individual freedom and social responsibility, and to inspire meaningful awareness of and respect for the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Freedom of individual conscience, association, and expression are encouraged and fairness in procedures is observed both to safeguard the legitimate interests of the schools and to exhibit by appropriate examples the basic objectives of a democratic society as set forth in the Constitutions of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Students may express their personal beliefs, including about religion, in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of their submissions. Such home and classroom work is evaluated by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the school. Such work must be consistent with other Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) policies and regulations.

Adopted: NEW

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-203.3.

Cross Refs.: IKB Homework
INDC Religion in the Schools

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Commented [1]: ACPS has not adopted this model policy. The changes are from the VSBA model.

Commented [2]: Notes 5-26:
- VSBA model policy that we have not adopted
- Revise last paragraph to expand beyond religion. Brielle on revision team for this policy. Freedom of expression in alignment with student code of conduct

Commented [3]: This is from the Code. It could be slightly adjusted to be more inclusive and mention other areas than just religion.

REF:
<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-203.3/>

Commented [4]: Would be great to be more inclusive by mentioning areas other than religion