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## INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Mecklenburg County Public School Board develops and implements a program of instruction for grades kindergarten through 12 that is aligned to the Standards of Learning established by the Board of Education and that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Board of Education. The program of instruction emphasizes reading, writing, speaking, mathematical concepts and computations, proficiency in the use of computers and related technology, computer science and computational thinking, including computer coding, and scientific concepts and processes; essential skills and concepts of citizenship, including knowledge of Virginia history and world and United States history, economics, government, foreign languages, international cultures, health and physical education, environmental issues and geography necessary for responsible participation in American society and in the international community; fine arts, which may include, but need not be limited to, music and art, and practical arts; knowledge and skills needed to qualify for further education, gainful employment, or training in a career or technical field; and development of the ability to apply such skills and knowledge in preparation for eventual employment and lifelong learning and to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

The School Board also implements:

1. programs in grades kindergarten through three that emphasize developmentally appropriate learning to enhance success
2. programs based on prevention, intervention, or remediation designed to increase the number of students who earn a high school diploma and to prevent students from dropping out of school; such programs shall include components that are research-based
3. career and technical education programs incorporated into the kindergarten through grade 12 curricula
4. educational objectives in middle and high school that emphasize economic education and financial literacy pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-200.03
5. early identification of students with disabilities and enrollment of such students in appropriate instructional programs consistent with state and federal law
6. early identification of gifted students and enrollment of such students in appropriately differentiated instructional programs
7. educational alternatives for students whose needs are not met in programs prescribed elsewhere in the Standards of Learning
8. adult education programs for individuals functioning below the high school completion level

9. a plan to make achievements for students who are educationally at risk a divisionwide priority that shall include procedures for measuring the progress of such students

10. an agreement for postsecondary degree attainment with a community college in Virginia specifying the options for students to complete an associate's degree or a one-year Uniform Certificate of General Studies from a community college concurrent with a high school diploma; such agreement shall specify the credit available for dual enrollment courses and Advanced Placement courses with qualifying exam scores of three or higher

11. a plan to notify students and their parents of the availability of dual enrollment and Advanced Placement classes; career and technical education programs, including internships, externships, apprenticeships, credentialing programs, certification programs, licensure programs, and other work-based learning experiences; the International Baccalaureate Program, and Academic Year Governor's School Programs; the qualifications for enrolling in such classes, programs and experiences; and the availability of financial assistance to low-income and needy students to take the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate examinations; this plan shall include notification to students and parents of the agreement with a community college in Virginia to enable students to complete an associate's degree or a one-year Uniform Certificate of General Studies concurrent with a high school diploma

12. identification of students with limited English proficiency and enrollment of such students in appropriate instructional programs, which programs may include dual language programs whereby such students receive instruction in English and in a second language

13. early identification, diagnosis, and assistance for students with reading and mathematics problems and provision of instructional strategies and reading and mathematics practices that benefit the development of reading and mathematics skills for all students

14. incorporation of art, music, and physical education as a part of the instructional program at the elementary school level

15. a program of physical activity available to all students in grades kindergarten through five consisting of at least 20 minutes per day or an average of 100 minutes per week during the regular school year and available to all students in grades six through 12 with a goal of at least 150 minutes per week on average during the regular school year; such program may include any combination of (i) physical education classes, (ii) extracurricular athletics, (iii) recess, or (iv) other programs and physical activities deemed appropriate by the School Board

16. a program of student services for grades kindergarten through grade 12 that shall be designed to aid students in their educational, social, and career development

17. the collection and analysis of data and the use of the results to evaluate and make decisions about the instructional program

18. a program of instruction in each government course in the school division on all information and concepts in the civics portion of the U.S. Naturalization test.

Timely written notification is provided to the parents of any student who:

- undergoes literacy and Response to Intervention screening and services; or
- does not meet the benchmark on any assessment used to determine at-risk learners in preschool through grade 12, which notification includes all such assessment scores and subscores and any intervention plan that results from such assessment scores or subscores.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: July 17, 2018; July 20, 2020

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-253.13:1.

Cross Refs.: IGAD  
IGBE  
IGBI  
JHCF

Career and Technical Education  
Remedial and Summer Instructional Program  
Advanced Placement Classes and Special Programs  
Student Wellness

## NOTIFICATION OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES

### I. Annual Notice

At the beginning of each school year, each school within the MECKLENBURG COUNTY School Division provides to its students' parents or guardians information on the availability of and source for receiving:

- the learning objectives developed in accordance with the Standards of Accreditation to be achieved at their child's grade level, or, in high school, a copy of the syllabus for each of their child's courses;
- the Standards of Learning (SOLs) applicable to the child's grade or course requirements and the approximate date and potential impact of the child's next SOL testing;
- an annual notice to students in all grade levels of all requirements for Board of Education-approved diplomas; and
- the board's policies on promotion, retention and remediation.

The superintendent certifies to the Department of Education that the notice required by this policy has been given.

### II. Notice of Credits Needed for Graduation and of the Right to a Free Public Education

- A. The school board notifies the parents of rising eleventh and twelfth grade students of
- the requirements for graduation pursuant to the standards for accreditation and
  - the requirements that have yet to be completed by the individual student.
- B. The school board notifies the parent of students with disabilities who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and who fail to meet the graduation requirements of the student's right to a free and appropriate education to age 21, inclusive, pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-213 et seq.
- C. The school board notifies the parent of students who fail to graduate or who fail to achieve graduation requirements as provided in the Standards of Accreditation and who have not reached 20 years of age on or before August 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year of the right to a free public education. If the student who does not graduate or complete such requirements is a student for whom English is a second language, the school board notifies the parent of the student's opportunity for a free public education in accordance with Va. Code § 22.1-5.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: May 20, 2019

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:4.  
8 VAC 20-131-270.

Cross Refs.: IGBC Parental Involvement  
IKF The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation  
Requirements

## ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The School 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 beliefs 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.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: May 20, 2019

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

Cross Ref.: IKB Homework  
INDC Religion in the Schools



## SCHOOL YEAR/SCHOOL DAY

### School Year

The length of the school year is at least 180 teaching days or 990 teaching hours. Days on which a school or schools or all the schools in the division are closed due to severe weather or other emergencies are made up as provided below if necessary to meet these requirements.

Students are provided a minimum of 680 hours of instructional time in elementary school, except for students in half-day kindergarten, in the four academic disciplines of English, mathematics, science, and history and social science and a minimum of 375 hours of instructional time in half-day kindergarten in the four academic disciplines of English, mathematics, science, and history and social science.

Unstructured recreational time that is intended to develop teamwork, social skills, and overall physical fitness may be included in the calculation of total instructional time or teaching hours for elementary school, provided that such unstructured recreational time does not exceed 15 percent of total instructional time or teaching hours.

### Make Up Days

If severe weather conditions or other emergency situations result in the closing of a school or schools or all the schools in the school division for

- five or fewer days, all missed days are made up by adding teaching days to the school calendar or extending the length of the school day;
- six days or more, the first five days plus one day for each two days missed in excess of the first five are made up by adding teaching days to the school calendar or extending the length of the school day.

If severe weather conditions or other emergency situations result in the closing of any school in the school division and such school has been unable to meet the 180 teaching day requirement, the school division may make up the missed teaching days by providing its students with instructional hours equivalent to such missed teaching days to meet the minimum 990 teaching hour requirement.

The Board of Education may waive the requirement that the school division provide additional teaching days or teaching hours to compensate for school closings resulting from a declared state of emergency or severe weather conditions or other emergency situations under certain circumstances. If the School Board desires a waiver, it will submit a request to the Board of Education. The request will include evidence of efforts that have been made by the school division to reschedule as many days as possible and certification by the superintendent and chairman of the School Board that every reasonable effort for making up lost teaching days or teaching hours was exhausted before requesting a waiver. If the waiver is denied, the school division will make up the missed instructional time.

The Board of Education waives the requirement that school divisions provide additional teaching days or teaching hours to compensate for school closings resulting from an evacuation directed and compelled by the Governor pursuant to Va. Code § 44-146.17 for up to five teaching days. If the School Board desires such a waiver, it notifies the Board of Education and provides evidence of efforts that have been made by the school division to reschedule as many days as possible and certification by the superintendent and chair of the School Board that every reasonable effort for making up lost teaching days or teaching hours was exhausted. After receiving such notification, the Board of Education grants the waiver and

there is no proportionate reduction in the amount paid by the Commonwealth from the Basic School Aid Fund. Further, the local appropriations for educational purposes necessary to fund 180 teaching days or 990 teaching hours shall not be proportionally reduced by the local appropriating body due to any reduction in the length of the term of any school or the schools in a school division permitted by such waiver.

## School Calendar

The School Board establishes the division's calendar in accordance with state law. The School Board establishes teaching contracts in accordance with applicable regulations of the Board of Education to include contingencies for making up teaching days and teaching hours missed for emergency situations.

An advisory committee composed of teachers, parents and school administration may be utilized to recommend a proposed calendar to the superintendent. The recommendation of this committee is advisory.

## School Day

The standard school day for students in grades 1 through 12 averages at least 5-1/2 instructional hours excluding breaks for meals and recess. The standard school day for kindergarten is a minimum of three instructional hours.

All students in grades 1 through 12 maintain a full day schedule of classes (5-1/2 hours) unless a waiver is granted in accordance with policies defined by the School Board.

Each elementary school provides students with a daily recess during the regular school year, as determined appropriate by the school.

The secondary school class schedule contains a minimum of 140 clock hours for each unit of credit. When credit is awarded in less than whole units, the increment awarded is no greater than the fractional part of the 140 hours of instruction provided.

The time for opening and closing schools is established by the School Board upon recommendation of the superintendent, provided that the daily program for students in grades 1 through 12 averages at least 5 ½ hours, not including meal intermissions. If the required program length is maintained, the School Board may approve occasional shortened days for staff development, conferences, planning and other activities designed to improve the instructional program, provided that no more than one day in each five-day week may be shortened to no less than four hours. The daily program for kindergarten is at least three hours, not including meal intermissions.

When exceptions in the length of the daily program are necessary, the Board requests approval by the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the exceptions by August 1 preceding the school year for which they are requested.

The length of the work day for employees is determined by the School Board. It is of sufficient length to allow for the daily program for students and additional time as may be necessary for such activities as planning, preparation, meetings, workshops, conferences, meal intermissions or other contractual obligations.

## Joint or Regional Schools

School boards operating joint or regional high schools, including regional charter schools, offering a specialized curriculum leading to a high school diploma and a postsecondary credential, such as industry certification, career certificate, or degree may, by agreement, establish alternative schedules for the delivery of instruction. Those schedules may include alternatives to standard school day and year requirements, subject to the issuance of any necessary waivers by the Board of Education and relevant Board of Education regulations.

#### Certification

The superintendent and School Board chair certify the total number of teaching days and teaching hours each year as part of the annual report to the Board of Education.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: July 20, 2015; July 17, 2018; July 29, 2019; June 15, 2020

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended §§ 22.1-26, 22.1-79.1, 22.1-98, 22.1-200.2.

Acts 2019, cc. 569, 570 and 637.

8 VAC 20-131-150.

8 VAC 20-131-200.

8 VAC 20-490-30.

Cross Ref.:	BCF	Advisory Committees to the School Board
	DL	Payroll Procedures
	GAA	Staff Time Schedules
	IKF	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements

## MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Mecklenburg County School Board recognizes that a moment of silence before each school day prepares students and staff for their respective work or school days. Therefore, each teacher shall observe a moment of silence at the beginning of the first class of each school day.

The teacher responsible for each class shall make sure that each student: (1) remains seated and silent and (2) does not disrupt or distract other students during the moment of silence. The moment may be used for any lawful silent activity, including personal reflection, prayer and meditation. Teachers shall not influence, in any way, students to pray or meditate or not to pray or meditate during the moment of silence.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-203.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance, as established in 4 U.S.C. § 4, is recited daily in each classroom of the Mecklenburg County school division.

During the recitation of the Pledge, students shall stand and recite the Pledge while facing the flag with their right hands over their hearts or in an appropriate salute if in uniform.

No student is compelled to recite the Pledge if the student or the student's parent or legal guardian objects on religious, philosophical, or other grounds to the student's participating in this exercise. Students who are exempt from reciting the Pledge shall quietly stand or sit at their desks while others recite the Pledge and shall make no display that disrupts or distracts those who are reciting the Pledge.

Appropriate accommodations are made for students who are unable to comply with the procedures described herein due to disability.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: May 17, 2021

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Legal Refs: 4 U.S.C. § 4.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-202.

Cross Refs.: JFC                      Student Conduct

## NATIONAL MOTTO

The statement “In God We Trust,’ the National Motto, enacted by Congress in 1956” is posted in a conspicuous place in each school for all students to read.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: July 20, 2020

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Legal Ref: Acts 2003, c. 902

BILL OF RIGHTS OF THE  
CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

The Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States shall be posted in a conspicuous place in each school for all students to read.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

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Legal Ref: Acts 2003, c. 902.

## CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION

The curriculum is a coherent and comprehensive plan for teaching and learning built upon a framework that promotes continuity and the cumulative acquisition and application of skills. The curriculum shall state clearly and specifically what students are expected to know and be able to do by grade level and course. Mecklenburg County School Board curricula shall meet or exceed the requirements of the Code of Virginia and regulations of the Virginia Board of Education and, at a minimum, shall be aligned to the Standards of Learning.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-253.13:1.

Cross Ref.: AF                      Comprehensive Plan



## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The MECKLENBURG COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS School Board provides career and technical educational programs incorporated into the kindergarten through twelfth grade curricula that include

- knowledge of careers and all types of employment opportunities including, but not limited to, apprenticeships, entrepreneurship and small business ownership, the military, and the teaching profession, and emphasize the advantages of completing school with marketable skills;
- career exploration opportunities in the middle school grades; and
- competency-based career and technical education programs which integrate academic outcomes, career guidance and job-seeking skills for all secondary students based on labor market needs and student interest. Career guidance includes counseling about available employment opportunities and placement services for students exiting school; and
- annual notice on its website to enrolled high school students and their parents of (i) the availability of the postsecondary education and employment data published by the State Council of Higher Education on its website and (ii) the opportunity for such students to obtain a nationally recognized career readiness certificate at a local public high school, comprehensive community college or workforce center.

The School Board develops and implements a plan to ensure compliance with this Policy. This plan is developed with the input of area business and industry representatives and local comprehensive community colleges and is submitted to the Superintendent of Public Instruction in accordance with the timelines established by federal law.

The School Board may establish High School to Work Partnerships or delegate the authority to establish High School to Work Partnerships to the division's career and technical education administrator or the administrator's designee, in collaboration with the school counselor office of each high school in the school division, and educate high school students about opportunities available through High School to Work Partnerships.

The School Board may enter into agreements for postsecondary course credit, credential, certification, or license attainment, referred to as College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships, with comprehensive community colleges or other public institutions of higher education or educational institutions that offer a career and technical education curriculum. College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships specify

- the options for students to take courses as part of the career and technical education curriculum that lead to course credit or an industry-recognized credential, certification, or license concurrent with a high school diploma;
- the credit, credentials, certifications, or licenses available for such courses; and
- available options for students to participate in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs at comprehensive community colleges concurrent with the pursuit of a high

school diploma and receive college credit and high school credit for successful completion of any such program.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: July 17, 2018; July 29, 2019

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-227.1, 22.1-253.13:1.

Cross Ref.: IJ      Guidance and Counseling Program

## HEALTH EDUCATION/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students receive health instruction and physical training as prescribed by the Board of Education and approved by the Board of Health.

Such health instruction

- incorporates standards that recognize the multiple dimensions of health by including mental health and the relationship of physical and mental health so as to enhance student understanding, attitudes, and behavior that promote health, well-being and human dignity, and
- may include an age-appropriate program of instruction on the safe use of and risks of abuse of prescription drugs that is consistent with curriculum guidelines developed by the Board of Education and approved by the Board of Health.

The MECKLENBURG COUNTY school division provides a program of physical activity available to all students in grades kindergarten through five consisting of at least 20 minutes per day or an average of 100 minutes per week during the regular school year and available to all students in grades six through 12 with a goal of at least 150 minutes per week on average during the regular school year. Such program may include any combination of physical education classes, extracurricular athletics, recess or other programs and physical activities.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: July 20, 2015; July 17, 2018; May 20, 2019

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-207, 22.1-253.13:1.

Cross Refs.:	IC/ID	School Year/School Day
	IGAG	Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco
	JHCA	Physical Examinations of Students
	JHCF	Student Wellness
	JO	Student Records

## TEACHING ABOUT DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

MECKLENBURG COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS Public Schools provides instruction concerning

- drugs and drug abuse,
- the public safety hazards and dangers of alcohol abuse, underage drinking, and drunk driving, and
- the health and safety risks of using tobacco products, nicotine vapor products, and alternative nicotine products.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: July 29, 2019

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-206.

Cross Refs: GBEC/JFCH/KGC Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor Products

## FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (FLE)

## Generally

The MECKLENBURG COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS School Board provides Family Life Education (FLE) based on the FLE Standards of Learning (SOL) and curriculum guidelines developed by the Board of Education. The SOL objectives related to dating violence and the characteristics of abusive relationships are taught at least once in middle school and at least twice in high school. The high school FLE curriculum incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of dating violence, domestic abuse, sexual harassment, including sexual harassment using electronic means, and sexual violence, human trafficking, and the law and meaning of consent. Such age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of sexual violence may include instruction that increases student awareness of the fact that consent is required before sexual activity. The FLE curriculum offered in any school incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the importance of the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals and tools for a student to use to ensure that he respects the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals. The FLE curriculum incorporates age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the harmful physical and emotional effects of female genital mutilation; associated criminal penalties; and the rights of the victim, including any civil action pursuant to Va. Code § 8.01-42.5.

The FLE curriculum may incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention, recognition, and awareness of child abduction, child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse.

The School Board reviews its family life education curricula at least once every seven years, evaluates whether the curricula reflects contemporary community standards, and revises the curricula if necessary.

## Right of Parental Review

A parent or guardian has the right to review the family life curricula, including all supplemental materials used in the program. A complete copy of all printed materials not subject to copyright protection and a description of all audio-visual materials is made available through any available parental portal and kept in the school library or office and made available for review to any parent or guardian during school office hours before and during the school year. The audio-visual materials are to be made available to parents for in-person review, upon request, on the same basis as printed materials are made available.

The School Board develops and distributes to the parents or guardians of students participating in the FLE program and posts for public viewing on the division's website a summary designed to assist them in understanding the program implemented in its school division and to encourage parental guidance and involvement in the instruction of the students. Such information reflects the curricula of the program as taught in the classroom. The following statement is included on the summary: "Parents and guardians have the right to review the family life education program offered by their school division, including written and audio-visual

educational materials used in the program. Parents and guardians also have the right to excuse their child from all or part of family life education instruction."

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: July 20, 2015; July 17, 2018; July 29, 2019; July 20, 2020; May 17, 2021

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-207.1, 22.1-207.1:1, 22.1-207.2.

Cross Refs.: BCF  
IIA  
INB  
KLB

Advisory Committees to the School Board  
Instructional Materials  
Teaching About Controversial Issues  
Public Complaints About Learning Resources

## CHARACTER EDUCATION

The MECKLENBURG COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS School Board provides, within its existing program or as a separate program, a character education program in its schools. The character education program may occur during the regular school year, during the summer in a youth development academy offered by the school division, or both. The purpose of the program is to foster civic virtues and personal character traits so as to improve the learning environment, promote student achievement, reduce disciplinary problems and develop civic-minded students of high character. The program is cooperatively developed with students, parents and the community. Specific character traits emphasized may include trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Character education is interwoven into the school procedures and environment so as to instruct primarily by example, illustration and participation, in such a way as to complement the Standards of Learning. Classroom instruction may also be used to supplement the program. The program also addresses the inappropriateness of bullying, as defined in Va. Code § 22.1-276.01. Parents have the right to review any audio-visual materials that contain graphic sexual or violent content used in any anti-bullying program. Prior to the use of any such material, the parent of a child participating in such a program is provided written notice of the parent's right to review the material and the right to excuse the child from participating in the part of such program utilizing such material.

The character education program

- specifies those character traits to be taught, selecting from those which are common to diverse social, cultural and religious groups;
- is implemented at the elementary and secondary levels;
- provides for relevant professional development and adequate resources; and
- includes a method for program evaluation.

Character education is intended to educate students regarding those core civic values and virtues which are efficacious to civilized society and are common to the diverse social, cultural, and religious groups of the Commonwealth. It shall not include indoctrination in any particular religious or political belief. Consistent with this purpose, Virginia's civic values, which are the principles articulated in the Bill of Rights (Article I) of the Constitution of Virginia and the ideals reflected in the seal of the Commonwealth, as described in Va. Code § 1-500, may be taught as representative of such civic values.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: May 20, 2019; July 29, 2019

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-207.2:1, 22.1-208.01.

Cross Refs.: IKF	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements
INB	Teaching About Controversial Issues
INDC	Religion in the Schools

## DRIVER EDUCATION

The Mecklenburg County Public School Board offers a program of driver education in the high schools in the safe operation of motor vehicles. The program includes instruction concerning alcohol and drug abuse, aggressive driving, motorcycle awareness, distracted driving, organ and tissue donor awareness, fuel-efficient driving practices and traffic stops, including law-enforcement procedures for traffic stops, appropriate actions to be taken by drivers during traffic stops and appropriate interactions with law-enforcement officers who initiate traffic stops.

The School Board establishes fees, that do not exceed the limit established by the Department of Education, for the behind-the-wheel portion of the program. The School Board may waive the fee or surcharge in whole or in part for those students it determines cannot pay the fee or surcharge.

Any student who participates in a driver education program must meet the academic requirements established by the Board of Education. No student is permitted to operate a motor vehicle without a learner's permit or a license. Necessary certification of students' academic standing and compliance with compulsory attendance laws is provided by the administration to the Department of Motor Vehicles upon request, in accordance with state law.

Driver education instructors possess valid driver's licenses and maintain satisfactory driving records. Any teacher of behind-the-wheel instruction who receives six or more demerit points in a 12-month period will be suspended from teaching driver education for 24 months.

At the beginning of each school year and thereafter as necessary, the superintendent reports to the Department of Motor Vehicles the name and driver's license number of all persons providing instruction in driver education for the school division.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: July 20, 2015

Revised: May 21, 2018

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-205, 46.2-334, 46.2-340.

8 VAC 20-340-10.

8 VAC 20-720-80.

Cross Ref.:	JED	Student Absences/Excuses/Dismissals
	JFC-R	Standards of Student Conduct
	JN	Student Fees, Fines, and Charges



## ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL DISSECTION

The MECKLENBURG COUNTY School Board provides one or more alternatives to animal dissection for students enrolled in classes that incorporate dissection exercises. The superintendent is responsible for implementing such alternatives. The superintendent considers the Virginia Board of Education Guidelines Alternatives to Animal Dissection in implementing the alternatives.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: May 20, 2019

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-200.01.

Virginia Board of Education Guidelines Alternatives to Animal Dissection  
(Attachment to Virginia Department of Education Superintendent's Memo  
#161 (Aug. 6, 2004)).

## PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

### Generally

The Mecklenburg County School Board provides a free, appropriate public education for all children and youth with disabilities, ages 2 through 21, inclusive, who are residents of Mecklenburg County or who are not residents of Mecklenburg County but are residents of Virginia and who are enrolled in a full-time virtual school program provided by the Board. To the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities are educated with children who are not disabled.

An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed and maintained for each child with a disability served by the Mecklenburg County School Board. The program is developed in a meeting of the child's IEP team, which includes the child's teachers, parent(s), the student (when appropriate), a school division representative qualified to provide or supervise the provision of special education services, an individual who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results and other individuals at the discretion of the parents or school division in accordance with State and federal law and regulations. This IEP is reviewed at least annually.

The IEP includes areas specified by state and federal statutes and regulations.

### Explanation of Procedural Safeguards

A copy of the procedural safeguards available to the parent(s) of a child with a disability is given to the parent(s). The procedural safeguards notice includes a full explanation of all the procedural safeguards available.

### Child Find

The Mecklenburg County School Board maintains an active and continuing child find program designed to identify, locate and evaluate those children residing in the division who are birth to 21 inclusive who are in need of special education and related services

The School Board provides all applicable procedural safeguards including written notice to the parents of the scheduled screening and, if the child fails the screening, the results of the screening, confidentiality and maintenance of the student's scholastic record.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

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Legal Refs.: 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.  
29 U.S.C. § 701 et seq.  
42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.  
Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-213, 22.1-215.

8 VAC 20-81-50.  
8 VAC 20-81-80.  
8 VAC 20-81-100.  
8 VAC 20-81-110.  
8 VAC 20-81-130.  
8 VAC 20-81-170.

## PROGRAMS FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

The Mecklenburg County School Board shall approve a comprehensive plan for the education of gifted students that includes the components identified in Board of Education regulations. The plan for the education of gifted students shall be accessible through the division's website and the division will ensure that printed copies of the plan are available to citizens who do not have online access.

The school division has uniform procedures for screening, referring, identifying, and serving students in kindergarten through twelfth grade who are gifted in general intellectual or specific academic aptitude and the visual arts

The school division will provide written notification to and seek written consent from parents and legal guardians to conduct any required assessment to determine a referred student's eligibility for the division's gifted education program, and provide services for an identified gifted student in the division's gifted education program.

The School Board may establish a local advisory committee composed of parents, school personnel, and other community members appointed by the School Board. The committee will reflect the ethnic and geographical composition of the school division. If established, the committee will annually review the division's plan for the education of gifted students, including revisions, and determine the extent to which the plan for the previous year was implemented. The findings of the annual program effectiveness and the recommendations of the committee will be submitted annually in writing to the division superintendent and the School Board.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-18.1, 22.1-253.13:1.D.6.

8 VAC 20-40-40.

8 VAC 20-40-55.

8 VAC 20-40-60.

Cross Refs.: BCF                      Advisory Committees to the School Board  
                  IKEB                      Acceleration

## PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

### Generally

The Mecklenburg County Public School Board recognizes that the education of each student is a responsibility shared by the school and the student's family. The Mecklenburg County Public School Board endorses the parent and family engagement goals of Title I (20 U.S.C. § 6318) and encourages the regular participation by parents and family members of all children including those eligible for Title I and English learner programs in all aspects of those programs.

In keeping with these beliefs, the Mecklenburg County Public School Board cultivates and supports active parent and family engagement in student learning. The Mecklenburg County Public School Board:

- provides activities that educate parents regarding the intellectual and developmental needs of their children. These activities will promote cooperation between the division and other agencies or school/community groups (such as parent-teacher groups, the Head Start program, the Reading First program, Early Reading First program, Even Start program, and Parents as Teachers program) to furnish learning opportunities and disseminate information regarding parenting skills and child/adolescent development
- implements strategies to involve parents in the educational process, including:
  - keeping families informed of opportunities for involvement and encouraging participation in various programs
  - providing access to educational resources for parents and families to use with their children
  - keeping families informed of the objectives of division educational programs as well as of their child's participation and progress with these programs
- enables families to participate in the education of their children through a variety of roles. For example, family members may
  - provide input into division policies
  - volunteer time within the classroom and school program
- provides professional development opportunities for teachers and staff to enhance their understanding of effective parent involvement strategies
- performs regular evaluations of parent involvement at each school and in the division

- provides access, upon request, to any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum
- if practicable, provides information in a language understandable to parents

In addition, for parents of students eligible for English learner programs, the School Board informs such parents of how they can be active participants in assisting their children

- to learn English;
- to achieve at high levels in core academic subjects; and
- to meet the same challenging academic content and student academic achievement standards as all children are expected to meet.

#### Parental Involvement in Title I Plan

The Mecklenburg County Public School Board encourages parents of children eligible to participate in Title I, Part A, programs to participate in the development of the Board's Title I plan. Parents may participate by contacting the Director of Elementary Instruction, Mecklenburg County Public Schools, 175 Mayfield Dr., P.O. Box 190, Boydton, VA 23917 Phone: 434-738-6111.

#### Parental Involvement in School Review and Improvement

The Mecklenburg County Public School Division encourages parents of children eligible to participate in Title I, Part A, and English learner programs to participate in the process of school review and, if applicable, the development of support and improvement plans under 20 U.S.C. § 6311(d)(1) and (2). Parents may participate by contacting the Director of Elementary Instruction, Mecklenburg County Public Schools, 175 Mayfield Dr., P. O. Box 190, Boydton, VA 23917 Phone: 434-738-6111.

#### Division Responsibilities

The Mecklenburg County Public School Division, and each school which receives Title I, Part A, funds:

- provides assistance to parents of children served by the school or division, as applicable, in understanding topics such as Virginia's challenging academic standards, state and local academic assessments and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children

- provides materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement
- educates teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the school
- to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinates and integrates parental involvement programs and activities with other federal, state and local programs, including public preschool, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children
- ensures that information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand
- provides such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request

The Mecklenburg County Public School Division, and each school which receives Title I, Part A, funds, **MAY**:

- involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training
- provide necessary literacy training from Title I funds if the division has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training
- pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
- train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents
- arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with

participating children and parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school in order to maximize parental involvement and participation

- adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement
- establish a divisionwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported by Title I
- develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities

### School Parent and Family Engagement Policies

Each school served under Title I, Part A, jointly develops with and distributes to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents, that describes the means for carrying out the following:

- convening an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children are invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation in Title I, Part A, and to explain the requirements of Title I, Part A, and the rights of parents to be involved
- offering a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening. Schools may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement
- involving parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I, Part A, programs including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school wide program plan under 20 U.S.C. § 6314(b), except that if a school has in place a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the school's programs, the school may use that process, if such process includes an adequate representation of parents of participating children
- providing parents of participating children:
  - timely information about Title I, Part A, programs;
  - a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure



student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging state academic standards; and

- if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and responding to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible
- if the school wide program plan under 20 U.S.C. § 6314(b) is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submitting any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the School Board

#### Parent and Family Involvement in Allocation of Funding

Parents and family members of children receiving services under Title I, Part A, are involved in the decisions regarding how funds provided under Title I, Part A, are allotted for parental involvement activities.

#### Policy Review

The School Board conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under Title 1, Part A, including identifying

- barriers to greater participation by parents (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy or are of any racial or ethnic minority background);
- the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
- strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: May 21, 2018

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Legal Refs.: 20 U.S.C. §§ 6312, 6318.

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

Cross Refs.: AD

Educational Philosophy

BCF  
IAA  
IKA

Advisory Committees to the School Board  
Notification of Learning Objectives  
Parental Assistance with Instruction

## REMEDIAL AND SUMMER INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

### Generally

The School Board develops and implements programs of prevention, intervention, or remediation for students who are educationally at risk, including but not limited to those who fail to achieve a passing score on any Standards of Learning assessment in grades three through eight, or who fail an end-of-course test required for the award of a verified unit of credit. Such programs shall include components that are research based.

Any student who achieves a passing score on one or more, but not all, of the Standards of Learning assessments for the relevant grade level in grades three through eight may be required to attend a remediation program.

Any student who fails to achieve a passing score on all of the Standards of Learning assessments for the relevant grade level in grades three through eight or who fails an end-of-course test required for the award of a verified unit of credit is required to attend a remediation program or to participate in another form of remediation. The superintendent requires such students to take special programs of prevention, intervention, or remediation, which may include attendance in public summer school programs.

Remediation programs include, when applicable, a procedure for early identification of students who are at risk of failing the Standards of Learning assessments in grades three through eight or who fail an end-of-course test required for the award of a verified unit of credit. Such programs may also include summer school for all elementary and middle school grades and for all high school academic courses, as defined by regulations promulgated by the Board of Education, or other forms of remediation. Summer school remediation programs or other forms of remediation are chosen by the superintendent to be appropriate to the academic needs of the student.

Students who are required to attend such summer school programs or to participate in another form of remediation are not charged tuition.

The requirement for remediation may, however, be satisfied by the student's attendance in a program of prevention, intervention or remediation which has been selected by his parent, in consultation with the superintendent or superintendent's designee, and is either (i) conducted by an accredited private school or (ii) a special program which has been determined to be comparable to the required public school remediation program by the superintendent. The costs of such private school remediation program or other special remediation program are borne by the student's parent.

Targeted mathematics remediation and intervention are provided to students in grades six through eight who show computational deficiencies as demonstrated by their

individual performance on any diagnostic test or grade-level Standards of Learning mathematics test that measures non-calculator computational skills.

The School Board shall annually evaluate and modifies, as appropriate, the remediation plan based on an analysis of the percentage of students meeting their remediation goals and consideration of the pass rate on the Standards of Learning assessments.

#### Summer School

The courses offered and the quality of instruction in the summer school program shall be comparable to that offered during the regular school term. Students must meet the requirements for SOL testing if appropriate.

Summer school instruction at any level which is provided as part of a state-funded remedial program is designed to improve specific identified student deficiencies.

#### Compulsory Attendance

When a student is required to participate in a remediation program pursuant to this policy, the superintendent may seek immediate compliance with the compulsory school attendance laws if a reasonable effort to seek the student's attendance, including direct notification of the parents of such student of the attendance requirement and failure of the parents to secure the student's attendance, have failed and the superintendent determines that remediation of the student's poor academic performance, passage of the Standards of Learning Assessment in grades three through eight, or promotion is related directly to the student's attendance in the remediation program.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: October 15, 2018

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:3, 22.1-254, 22.1-254.01.

8 VAC 20-131-120.

8 VAC 20-630-40.

Cross Refs.: BCF  
IKG

Advisory Committees To The School Board  
Remediation Recovery Program

## LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT STUDENTS

### Generally

The MECKLENBURG COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS School Board provides programs to improve the education of English learners by assisting the children to learn English and meet Virginia's challenging academic content and student academic achievement standards.

The School Board accepts and provides programs for students for whom English is a second language who entered school in Virginia for the first time after reaching their 12th birthday, and who have not reached age 22 on or before August 1 of the school year. No tuition is charged such students, if state funding is provided for such programs.

### Assessments

The School Board annually assesses the English proficiency of all English learners.

### Notification of Programs for English Learners

The School Board, not later than 30 days after the beginning of the school year, informs a parent or the parents of an English learner identified for participation in, or participating in, a program for English learners, of

- the reasons for the identification of their child as an English learner and in need of placement in a language instruction education program;
- the child's level of English proficiency, how that level was assessed and the status of the child's academic achievement;
- the method of instruction used in the program in which their child is, or will be, participating, and the methods of instruction used in other available programs, including how such programs differ in content, instruction goals, and use of English and a native language in instruction;
- how the program in which their child is, or will be, participating will meet the educational strengths and needs of the child;
- how such program will specifically help their child learn English, and meet age appropriate academic achievement standards for grade promotion and graduation;
- the specific exit requirements for such program, the expected rate of transition from such program into classrooms that are not tailored for English learners, and the expected rate of graduation from high school (including four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates and extended-year adjusted cohort graduation rates for such program);
- in the case of a child with a disability, how such program meets the objectives of the individualized education program of the child; and
- information pertaining to parental rights that includes written guidance
  - detailing the right that parents have to have their child immediately removed from such program upon their request and the options that parents have to decline to enroll their child in such program or to choose another program or method of instruction, if available, and

- assisting parents in selecting among various programs and methods of instruction, if more than one program or method is offered by the school division.

For a child who has not been identified as an English learner prior to the beginning of the school year but is identified as an English learner during the school year, the School Board provides the notice detailed above within 2 weeks of the child being placed in the program.

The information described above is provided to parents in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that the parent can understand.

#### Notification of Availability of Testing Accommodations

Each high school principal or principal's designee notifies each English learner of the availability of testing accommodations available for industry certifications, state licensure examinations, national occupational competency assessments, the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and the Virginia workplace readiness skills assessment prior to the student's participation in any such certification, examination, assessment, or battery.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: May 21, 2018; July 29, 2019

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Legal Ref.: 20 U.S.C. §§ 6311, 6312, 6825.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-5, 22.1-253.13:4.

Cross Ref.: IA Instructional Goals and Objectives  
IGBC Parent and Family Engagement

## OFF-SITE INSTRUCTION AND VIRTUAL COURSES

### Homebound Instruction

The School Board maintains a program of homebound instruction for students who are confined at home or in a health care facility for periods that would prevent normal school attendance based upon certification of need by a licensed physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical psychologist.

Credit for the work is awarded when it is done under the supervision of a licensed teacher qualified in the relevant subject areas and employed by the School Board, and there is evidence that the instructional time requirements or alternative means of awarding credit adopted by the School Board have been met.

### Virtual Courses

Students may enroll in and receive a standard and verified unit of credit for supervised virtual courses with prior approval of the principal. The superintendent is responsible for developing regulations governing this method of delivery of instruction that include the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-110 and the administration of required Standards of Learning tests prescribed by 8 VAC 20-131-30. For courses offered for possible high school credit, standard units of credit are awarded for successful completion of such courses when the course is equivalent to that offered in the regular school program and the work is done under the supervision of a licensed teacher qualified in the relevant subject areas. A verified unit of credit may be earned when the student has successfully completed the requirements specified in 8 VAC 20-131-110.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: July 17, 2018

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:3, 54.1-2952.2, 54.1-2957.02.

8 VAC 20-131-180.

Cross Ref.: IGBGA                      Online Courses and Virtual School Programs  
IKFD                                Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit

## ONLINE COURSES AND VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The MECKLENBURG COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS School Board may enter into contracts, consistent with the criteria approved by the Board of Education, with approved private or nonprofit organizations to provide multidivision online courses and virtual school programs. Such contracts are exempt from the Virginia Public Procurement Act.

Information regarding online courses and programs that are available through the school division is posted on the division's website. The information includes the types of online courses and programs available to students through the division, when the division will pay course fees and other costs for nonresident students, and the granting of high school credit.

Any student enrolled in any online course or virtual program offered by the school division must be enrolled in a public school in Virginia as provided in Va. Code § 22.1-3.1. The student's parent or guardian must give written permission prior to the enrollment of the student in any full-time virtual program offered by the school division.

A student who resides in MECKLENBURG COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS school division is not charged tuition for enrolling in any online course or virtual program offered by the school division. However, tuition may be charged to students, except children with disabilities who are enrolled in the division's full-time virtual school program, who do not reside within the boundaries of the school division.

Teachers who deliver instruction to students through online courses or virtual school programs must be licensed by the Board of Education and are subject to the requirements of Policy GCDA Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect.

The administrator of a virtual school program must hold an advanced degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education with educational and work experience in administering educational programs.

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply.

"Multidivision online provider" means (i) a private or nonprofit organization that enters into a contract with a local school board to provide online courses or programs through that school board to students who reside in Virginia both within and outside the geographical boundaries of that school division; (ii) a private or nonprofit organization that enters into contracts with multiple local school boards to provide online courses or programs to students in kindergarten through grade 12 through those school boards; or (iii) a local school board that provides online courses or programs to students who reside in Virginia but outside the geographical boundaries of that school division. However, "multidivision online provider" shall not include (a) a local school board's online learning program in which fewer than 10 percent of the students enrolled reside outside the geographical boundaries of that school division; (b) multiple local school boards that establish joint online courses or programs in which fewer than 10 percent of the students enrolled reside outside the geographical boundaries of those school divisions; (c) local school boards that provide online learning courses or programs for their students through an arrangement with a public or private institution of higher education; or (d) local school boards providing online courses or programs through a private or nonprofit organization that has been approved as a multidivision online provider.



"Online course" means a course or grade-level subject instruction that (i) is delivered by a multidivision online provider primarily electronically using the Internet or other computer-based methods and (ii) is taught by a teacher primarily from a remote location, with student access to the teacher given synchronously, asynchronously, or both.

"Virtual school program" means a series of online courses with instructional content that (i) is delivered by a multidivision online provider primarily electronically using the Internet or other computer-based methods; (ii) is taught by a teacher primarily from a remote location, with student access to the teacher given synchronously, asynchronously, or both; (iii) is delivered as a part-time or full-time program; and (iv) has an online component with online lessons and tools for student and data management.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: July 29, 2019

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-212.24, 22.1-212.25, 22.1-212.26, 22.1-212.27, 22.1-215, 22.1-296.1, 22.1-296.2, and 22.1-296.4.

Cross Refs.: DJF Purchasing Procedures  
GCDA Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect  
IGBA Programs for Students with Disabilities  
IGBG Off-Site Instruction and Virtual Courses

## ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Mecklenburg County School Board establishes alternative educational programs within existing schools or at separate sites as needed. No person of school age meeting the residency requirements of § 22.1-3 is charged tuition for enrollment in an alternative program offered as a regional or divisionwide initiative by the School Board.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: May 17, 2021

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-5, 22.1-253.13:1.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT CLASSES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Students and their parents are notified of the availability of dual enrollment and advanced placement classes; career and technical education programs, including internships, externships, apprenticeships, credentialing programs, certification programs, licensure programs, and other work-based learning experiences; the International Baccalaureate program and Academic Year Governor's School Programs; the qualifications for enrolling in such classes, programs, and experiences; and the availability of financial assistance to low-income and needy students to take the advanced placement and International Baccalaureate examinations. Students and their parents are also notified of the program with a community college to enable students to complete an associate's degree or a one-year Uniform Certificate of General Studies concurrent with a high school diploma. The superintendent promulgates regulations to implement this policy, which ensure the provision of timely and adequate notice to students and their parents.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: July 17, 2018

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:1.

Cross Ref.: IGAD Career and Technical Education  
LEB Advanced/Alternative Courses for Credit

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

### Generally

Public school facilities are devoted primarily to instructional programs and school-sponsored activities. Curriculum-related student organizations are an extension of the regular school program. Their function is to enhance the participants' educational experience and supplement course materials. The activities of these organizations should bear a clear relationship to the regular curriculum.

Secondary school students may organize and conduct meetings of noncurriculum-related groups. Any secondary school which permits one or more noncurriculum-related student group to meet on school premises during non-instructional time will provide equal access to any students who wish to conduct a meeting without discrimination on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings.

Noncurriculum-related student groups may use school facilities provided that

- the group's meetings are voluntary and student-initiated;
- the group is not sponsored by the school, the government, or any government agent or employee;
- agents or employees of the school or government are present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity;
- meetings do not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities at the school; and
- nonschool persons do not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of the group.

### Meetings of Student Organizations

The principal of each school will determine the times and places which are available for the meetings of student organizations. The principal will also develop procedures for scheduling meetings of student organizations. Meeting times will be limited to non-instructional time.

### Faculty Involvement

Curriculum-related student organizations must be sponsored and supervised by one or more school faculty members and approved by the principal. Faculty sponsors will participate in the supervision and direction of all activities of the organization and will attend all meetings and activities.

Noncurriculum-related student organizations do not have a faculty sponsor. However, a member of the school's staff shall attend every meeting or activity of such organizations in a non-participatory capacity for purposes of general supervision. The organization is responsible for assuring the presence of a staff member for its meetings.

No school employee will be compelled to attend a meeting of any student organization if the content of such meeting is contrary to the beliefs of that school employee.

#### Compliance with Law and Policy

Student organizations shall not engage in any activity which is contrary to law, division policy, or school rules; which disrupts or clearly threatens to disrupt the orderly operation of the school; or which would adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of any students or staff members. Failure to comply with these provisions shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

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Legal Refs.: 20 U.S.C. § 4071.

Cross Refs.: KF     Distribution of Information/Materials  
                  KG     Community Use of School Facilities

## ADULT EDUCATION

Adult education programs are offered to those residents of the school division over the age of compulsory school attendance who are not enrolled in the regular public school program, including adult basic education, credit programs, cultural adult education, external diploma programs, general adult education, and high school equivalency programs, and who are functioning below the high school completion level. The School Board seeks to ensure that every individual participating in such a program has the opportunity to earn a high school diploma or pass a high school equivalency examination approved by the Board of Education. Such programs may be conducted solely by the School Board or through a collaborative arrangement between the School Board and other school boards or agencies. Credits and diplomas are awarded in accordance with regulations established by the Board of Education. Additional educational programs for individuals over the age of compulsory attendance also may be offered. Tuition and fees are established by the School Board.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: July 17, 2018

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-210, 22.1-223, 22.1-225, 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:4.

8 VAC 20-30-20.

Cross Refs.:	JEA	Compulsory Attendance
	JEG	Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
	JN	Student Fines, Fees and Charges
	IKF	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements

## GROUPING FOR INSTRUCTION

The Mecklenburg County School Board recognizes the different educational needs of students and endorses the use of flexible assignment of students for instruction.

The grouping of students within individual schools for instructional purposes will be designed so each student will receive the maximum instructional benefit and will be based on

1. the best interests of the student,
2. the educational level, or achievement level, of the student,
3. the availability of space,
4. the best educational climate for learning,
5. the student's best chance for success,
6. Standards of Learning test scores, where available, or other standardized test scores, and
7. the creation of groups that may be taught effectively.

Grouping will remain flexible in order to take advantage of the best educational research currently available. Groups will be created, modified, or disbanded to be responsive to student needs.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

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

Cross Ref.: IA Instructional Goals and Objectives

## CLASS SIZE

The Mecklenburg County School Board will assign licensed instructional personnel in a manner that produces division-wide ratios of students in average daily membership to full-time equivalent teaching positions, excluding special education teachers, principals, assistant principals, counselors, and librarians, that are not greater than the following ratios:

- 24 to one in kindergarten with no class being larger than 29 students; if the average daily membership in any kindergarten class exceeds 24 pupils, a full-time teacher's aide will be assigned to the class;
- 24 to one in grades one, two, and three with no class being larger than 30 students;
- 25 to one in grades four through six with no class being larger than 35 students; and
- 24 to one in English classes in grades six through 12.

In addition, the Mecklenburg County School Board shall assign instructional personnel in a manner that produces schoolwide ratios of students in average daily memberships to full-time equivalent teaching positions of 21 to one in middle schools and high schools.

When determining the assignment of instructional and other licensed personnel for purposes of this policy, full-time students of approved virtual school programs will not be included.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:2.



## INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The MECKLENBURG COUNTY School Board is responsible for the selection and use of instructional materials.

The superintendent or superintendent's designee creates and updates, as necessary, guidelines and procedures for the selection of instructional materials. The guidelines and procedures are designed to ensure that appropriate instructional materials are selected and provide an opportunity for the professional staff and community to participate and be informed on the selection and use of instructional materials.

Parents may inspect, on request, any instructional material used as part of their student's curriculum.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: May 20, 2019

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Legal Refs.: 20 U.S.C. § 1232h.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-16.

8 VAC 20-720-160.

Cross Ref.:	IGAH	Family Life Education
	IIAA	Textbook Adoption, Selection and Purchase
	IIAB	Supplementary Materials Selection and Adoption
	KLB	Public Complaints About Learning Resources
	INB	Teaching About Controversial Issues

## TEXTBOOK SELECTION, ADOPTION AND PURCHASE

The School Board may adopt textbooks, including print or electronic media, for student use that serve as the primary curriculum basis for a grade-level subject or course from the list of textbooks approved by the Board of Education. The School Board may also adopt books which are not on the state-adopted list in accordance with the Board of Education regulations.

### Textbooks Approved by the Board of Education

The Mecklenburg County School Board may either enter into written term contracts or issue purchase orders with publishers of textbooks approved by the Board of Education. Such written contracts or purchase orders are exempt from the Virginia Public Procurement Act (Va. Code § 2.2-4300 et seq.) The contract price shall not exceed the lowest wholesale price at which the textbook or textbooks involved in the contract are currently bid under contract anywhere in the United States. If, subsequent to the date of any contract entered into by the School Board, the prices of textbooks named in the contract are reduced or the terms of the contract are made more favorable to purchase anywhere in the United States or a special or other edition of any book named in the contract is sold outside of Virginia at a lower price than contracted in Virginia, the publisher shall grant the same reduction or terms to the School Board and give the School Board the option of using such special or other edition adapted for use in Virginia and at the lowest price at which such special edition is sold elsewhere and the contract shall so state.

Contracts and purchase orders with publishers of textbooks approved by the Board of Education shall require the publisher to furnish an electronic file of the textbook in the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standards (NIMAS) format that will then be deposited in the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) from which accessible versions of the particular textbook may be produced for students with print disabilities, as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1474. Publishers shall deliver the NIMAS file of the textbook on or before the date of delivery of the regular text version.

Contracts and purchase orders with publishers of textbooks approved by the Board of Education for use in grades 6-12 shall allow for the purchase of printed textbooks, printed textbooks with electronic files, or electronic textbooks separate and apart from printed versions of the same textbook. The School Board may purchase an assortment of textbooks in any of the three forms listed above.

The School Board shall order directly from the respective publishers the textbooks needed to supply the public schools in the school division. The publishers shall ship the textbooks to the School Board. The purchase price of such textbooks shall be paid directly to the publishers by the School Board.

### Locally-Approved Textbooks

In approving textbooks that have not been approved by the Board of Education, the School Board will

- appoint evaluation committees to review and evaluate textbooks,
- give notice to parents that textbooks under consideration will be listed on the division's website and made available at designated locations for review by any interested citizens,
- create opportunities for persons reviewing such textbooks to present their comments and observations to the School Board,
- create procedures to ensure appropriate consideration of citizen comments and observations and
- establish and make known selection criteria.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-238, 22.1-241.

8 VAC 20-720-170.

Cross Refs.:	DJF	Purchasing Procedures
	IIA	Instructional Materials
	KQ	Commercial, Promotional, and Corporate Sponsorships and Partnerships

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS SELECTION AND ADOPTION

Materials used by students under the guidance of teachers to extend, expand, and supplement basal materials constitute an integral part of the instructional program. Supplemental materials are those items which are used to assist the teaching and learning process and include such items as magazines, newspapers, charts, pictures, certain workbooks, kits, videos, film strips, and games. Materials selected for supplemental use relate directly to the established objectives of the course or content area in which they are used.

The school board delegates the responsibility for the selection and use of supplemental materials to the individual schools. Teachers must carefully review materials prior to use and exercise a high degree of professional judgment in their selection and use of supplemental materials to ensure that the use of such materials serves to both support and complement the basic educational objectives within the specific subject areas and classrooms.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: May 20, 2019

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-16, 22.1-78.

8 VAC 20-720-160.

Cross Refs.:	IIA	Instructional Materials
	IIAA	Textbook Selection, Adoption and Purchase
	KLB	Public Complaints About Learning Resources
	KQ	Commercial, Promotional, and Corporate Sponsorships and Partnerships

## INNOVATIVE OR EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMS

Experimental and innovative programs that are not consistent with accreditation standards or other regulations promulgated by the Board of Education are submitted to the Board of Education for approval prior to implementation.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: October 15, 2018

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

8 VAC 20-131-420.

Cross Ref.: IKF

The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation  
Requirements

## SCHOOL LIBRARIES/MEDIA CENTERS

Each school shall maintain an organized library media center as the resource center of the school and provide a unified program of media services and activities for students and teachers before, during and after school. The library media center shall contain hard copy, electronic technological resources, materials, and equipment that are sufficient to meet research, inquiry, and reading requirements of the instructional program and general student interest.

Each school provides a variety of materials, resources and equipment to support the instructional program.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: October 15, 2018

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Legal Ref.: 8 VAC 20-131-190.

## ACCEPTABLE COMPUTER SYSTEM USE

The school board provides a computer system, including the internet, to promote educational excellence by facilitating 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, multimedia devices, workstations, 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 school 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.

The superintendent is responsible for establishing Technology Use Guidelines, containing the appropriate uses, ethics and protocols for use of the computer system. 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;
- provisions prohibiting the unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of

- photographs and/or personal information of or regarding minors; and
- (8) a component of internet safety for students that is integrated in the division's instructional program.

Use of the school division's computer system shall 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.

Each user of the division's computer system and a parent/guardian of each student user shall sign the Acceptable Computer System Use Agreement, GAB-E1/IIBEA-E2, before using the division's computer system. The failure of any user to follow the terms of the Agreement, this policy or the Technology Use Guidelines may result in loss of computer system privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

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 will not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the computer system.

The school board will review, amend if necessary, and approve this policy every two years.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: July 29, 2019

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Legal Refs: 18 U.S.C. §§ 1460, 2256.

47 U.S.C. § 254.

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

Cross Refs.:	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
	JFC-R	Standards of Student Conduct



## TECHNOLOGY USE GUIDELINES

All use of the **Mecklenburg County** School Division's computer system shall be consistent with the school board's goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating 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, multimedia devices, workstations, the internet and other electronic services and any other internal or external network. This includes any device that may be connected to or used to connect to the school division's network or electronically stored division material.

### **Computer System Use-Terms and Conditions:**

1. **Acceptable Use.** Access to the division's computer system shall be (1) for the purposes of education or research and be consistent with the educational objectives of the division or (2) for legitimate school business.
2. **General Use and Ownership.**
  - Mecklenburg County Public Schools proprietary information stored on electronic and computing devices whether owned or leased by Mecklenburg County Public Schools, the employee or a third party, remains the sole property of Mecklenburg County Public Schools.
  - You have a responsibility to promptly report the theft, loss or unauthorized disclosure of Mecklenburg County Public Schools proprietary information.
  - You may access, use or share Mecklenburg County Public Schools proprietary information only to the extent it is authorized and necessary to fulfill your assigned job duties.
  - Employees are responsible for exercising good judgment regarding the reasonableness of personal use.
  - For security and network maintenance purposes, authorized individuals within Mecklenburg County Public Schools may monitor equipment, systems and network traffic at any time.
  - Mecklenburg County Public Schools reserves the right to audit networks and systems on a periodic basis to ensure compliance with this policy.
3. **Security and Proprietary Information.**
  - System level and user level passwords must have complexity (employee and secondary students). Complexity is the use of uppercase and lowercase lettering, numbers and symbols. Providing access to another individual, either deliberately or through failure to secure its access, is prohibited.
  - All computing devices must be secured with a password-protected screensaver with the automatic activation feature set to 30 minutes or less. You must lock the screen or log off when the device is unattended.
  - All computing devices must be secured with a password-protected screensaver with the automatic activation feature set to 30 minutes or less. You must lock the screen or log off when the device is unattended.
4. **Privilege.** The use of the division's computer system is a privilege, not a right.

5. **Unacceptable Use.** Each user is responsible for his or her actions on the computer system. Prohibited conduct includes but is not limited to:
- using the network for any illegal or unauthorized activity, including violation of copyright or contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any federal, state, or local law.
  - sending, receiving, viewing or downloading illegal material via the computer system.
  - unauthorized downloading of software.
  - using the computer system for private financial or commercial purposes.
  - wastefully using resources, such as file space.
  - gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities.
  - posting material created by another without his or her consent.
  - submitting, posting, publishing, or displaying any obscene, profane, threatening, illegal, or other inappropriate material.
  - using the computer system while access privileges are suspended or revoked.
  - vandalizing the computer system, including destroying data by creating or spreading viruses or by other means.
  - intimidating, harassing, bullying, or coercing others.
  - threatening illegal or immoral acts.
  - Effecting security breaches or disruptions of network communication. Security breaches include, but are not limited to, accessing data of which the employee/student is not an intended recipient or logging into a server or account that the the employee/student is not expressly authorized to access, unless these duties are within the scope of regular duties. For purposes of this section, "disruption" includes, but is not limited to, network sniffing, pinged floods, packet spoofing, denial of service, and forged routing information for malicious purposes.
  - Port scanning or security scanning is expressly prohibited unless prior notification to Technology Department is made.
  - Executing any form of network monitoring which will intercept data not intended for the divisions host, unless this activity is a part of the employee's normal job/duty.
  - Circumventing user authentication or security of any host, network or account.
  - Using any program/script/command, or sending messages of any kind, with the intent to interfere with, or disable, a user's terminal session, via any means, locally or via the Internet/Intranet/Extranet.
  - Providing information about, or lists of, Mecklenburg County Public Schools employees/students to parties outside Mecklenburg County Public Schools.
  - Revealing your account password to others or allowing use of your account by others. This includes family and other household members when work is being done at home.
6. **Network Etiquette.** Each user is expected to abide by generally accepted rules of etiquette, including the following:
- be polite.
  - users shall not forge, intercept or interfere with electronic mail messages.
  - use appropriate language. The use of obscene, lewd, profane, lascivious, threatening or disrespectful language is prohibited.
  - users shall not post personal information other than directory information as defined in Policy JO Student Records about themselves or others.
  - users shall respect the computer system's resource limits.

- users shall not post chain letters or download large files.
  - users shall not use the computer system to disrupt others.
  - users shall not modify or delete data owned by others.
7. **Liability.** The school board makes no warranties for the computer system it provides. The school board shall not be responsible for any damages to the user from use of the computer system, including loss of data, non-delivery or missed delivery of information, or service interruptions. The school division is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the computer system. The user agrees to indemnify the school board for any losses, costs, or damages incurred by the school board relating to or arising out of any violation of these procedures.
8. **Security.** Computer system security is a high priority for the school division. If any user identifies a security problem, the user shall notify the building principal or system administrator immediately. All users shall keep their passwords confidential and shall follow computer virus protection procedures.
9. **Vandalism.** Intentional destruction of or interference with any part of the computer system through creating or downloading computer viruses or by any other means is prohibited.
10. **Charges.** The school division assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees as a result of using the computer system, including telephone, data, or long-distance charges.
11. **Student Supervisory Guidelines.** Teachers will provide students with a sequential, structured approach to gaining the skills that will allow them to become independent, responsible users of the computer network or Internet. In all classes, teachers will make a reasonable effort to ensure that students are directed to sites with age and topic appropriate materials and resources.
- In K-3, teachers will actively supervise student use of the computer network and Internet. Students will only access Internet resources previously explored by the teacher.
  - In grades 4-5, teachers will supervise and model appropriate use of the computer network and Internet. Students will continue to have computer network and Internet access under direct teacher supervision. However, students will experience guided practice leading toward gaining skills to become independent and responsible users of the Internet. Teachers will explore an Internet site before directing students to that site.
  - In grades 6-8, teachers will provide guided practice and model appropriate use of the computer network and Internet. Teachers will supervise student-initiated information-search activities and provide support for students as they begin to assume responsibility for becoming independent users of the computer network and Internet.
  - In grades 9-12, students will participate in independent computer network and Internet use with teachers serving as advisors and providing monitoring as appropriate.

12. **Photographs, Artwork, Videos, and Audio Materials.** Photographs, artwork, videos and audio materials will be presented in such a way to protect the individual student. These materials may be used in newspapers, television, or the Mecklenburg County Public Schools website and social media pages only if the parent /guardian has signed and returned the Mecklenburg County Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy.
13. **Blogging/Social Media.**
  - Blogging by employees and/or students, whether using Mecklenburg County Public Schools' property and systems or personal computer systems, is also subject to the terms and restrictions set forth in this Policy. Limited and occasional use of Mecklenburg County Public Schools' systems to engage in blogging is acceptable, provided that it is done in a professional and responsible manner, does not otherwise violate Mecklenburg County Public Schools' policy, is not detrimental to Mecklenburg County Public Schools' best interests, and does not interfere with an employee's regular work duties. Blogging from Mecklenburg County Public Schools' systems is also subject to monitoring.
  - Employees and/or students shall not engage in any blogging that may harm or tarnish the image, reputation and/or goodwill of Mecklenburg County Public Schools and/or any of its employees and/or students. Employees and/or students are also prohibited from making any discriminatory, disparaging, defamatory or harassing comments when blogging or otherwise engaging in any conduct prohibited by Mecklenburg County Public Schools' *Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment* policy.
  - Employees and/or students may also not attribute personal statements, opinions or beliefs to Mecklenburg County Public Schools when engaged in blogging. If an employee is expressing his or her beliefs and/or opinions in blogs, the employee may not, expressly or implicitly, represent themselves as an employee and/or student or representative of Mecklenburg County Public Schools. Employees and/or students assume any and all risk associated with blogging.
  - Apart from following all laws pertaining to the handling and disclosure of copyrighted or export controlled materials, Mecklenburg County Public Schools' trademarks, logos and any other Mecklenburg County Public Schools intellectual property may also not be used in connection with any blogging activity
14. **Electronic Mail.** The school division's electronic mail system is owned and controlled by the school division. The school division may provide electronic mail to aid students and staff in fulfilling their duties and as an education tool. Electronic mail is not private. Students' electronic mail will be monitored. The electronic mail of staff may be monitored and accessed by the school division. All electronic mail may be archived. Unauthorized access to an electronic mail account by any student or employee is prohibited. Users may be held responsible and personally liable for the content of any electronic message they create or that is created under their account or password. Downloading any file attached to an electronic message is prohibited unless the user is certain of that message's authenticity and the nature of the file.
15. **Enforcement.** Software will be installed on the division's computers having internet access to filter or block internet access through such computers to child pornography and obscenity. The online activities of users may also be monitored manually. **Any violation of these regulations shall result in loss of computer system privileges**

**and may also result in appropriate disciplinary action, as determined by school board policy, or legal action.**

Adopted: July 29, 2019

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Legal Refs: 18 U.S.C. §§ 1460, 2256.  
47 U.S.C. § 254.  
Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 18.2-372, 18.2-374.1:1, 18.2-390, 22.1-70.2 and 22.1-78.  
Guidelines and Resources for Internet Safety in Schools, Virginia Department of Education (Second Edition October 2007)

Cross Refs: GCPD                      Professional Staff Discipline  
              JFC                              Student Conduct  
              JFC-R                         Standards of Student Conduct

ACCEPTABLE COMPUTER SYSTEM USE AGREEMENT

**Each employee must sign this Agreement as a condition for using the School Division's computer system. Each student and his or her parent/guardian must sign this Agreement before being permitted to use the School Division's computer system. Read this Agreement carefully before signing.**

Prior to signing this Agreement, read Policy GAB/IIBEA and Regulation GAB-R/IIBEA-R, Acceptable Computer System Use. If you have any questions about this policy or regulation, contact your supervisor or your student's principal.

I understand and agree to abide by the School Division's Acceptable Computer System Use Policy and Regulation. I understand that the School Division may access, monitor, and archive my use of the computer system, including my use of the internet, e-mail and downloaded material, without prior notice to me. I further understand that should I violate the Acceptable Use Policy or Regulation, my computer system privileges may be revoked and disciplinary action and/or legal action may be taken against me.

Student/Employee Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student/Employee Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

I have read this Agreement and Policy GAB/IIBEA and Regulation GAB-R/IIBEA-R. I understand that access to the computer system is intended for educational purposes and the **Mecklenburg County** School Division has taken precautions to eliminate inappropriate material. I also recognize, however, that it is impossible for the School Division to restrict access to all inappropriate material and I will not hold the School Division responsible for information acquired on the computer system. I have discussed the terms of this agreement, policy, and regulation with my student.

I grant permission for my student to use the computer system in accordance with Mecklenburg County School Division's policies and regulations and for the School Division to issue an account for my student.

I **DO / DO NOT** (circle one) grant permission for photographs, artwork, videos and audio materials of my child to be used in the newspapers, television or the division's websites.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are off-campus instructional activities. Field trips can provide excellent educational experiences for students by enriching the curriculum and by making classroom learning experiences more meaningful. To be educationally beneficial, a field trip requires thoughtful selection, careful advance preparation, and opportunities to assimilate the experience during and after the trip. Teachers will plan advance activities that prepare students for the trip and follow-up activities that assist students in summarizing, applying, and evaluating information learned on the trip.

The following factors should be considered in proposing and approving field trips:

- The value of the trip to the particular class
- The relationship of the field trip to a particular aspect of the curriculum
- The distance travelled
- The time away from the regular instructional program
- The availability of transportation

No student is denied the opportunity to participate in a field trip because of a lack of funds.

Trips are approved by the superintendent or superintendent's designee pursuant to regulations developed by the superintendent. Approval must be obtained before commitments are made to students, parents, or commercial establishments. The superintendent makes an annual report to the School Board on field trips taken.

Trips for activities governed by the Virginia High School League do not require approval on a trip-by-trip basis. Parental permission for such trips may be obtained for the entire athletic season or school year.

The Mecklenburg County School Board does not endorse or accept responsibility for any privately sponsored trips for students or any student trips which are not part of the instructional program. Employees are not permitted to solicit students for such trips. Employees who are involved with such trips must emphasize to any interested student/parent that such trips are strictly private enterprises.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: May 17, 2021

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-176.

8 VAC 20-70-190.

8 VAC 20-720-80.

Cross Ref.:	JFCB	Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity
	JL	Fund Raising and Solicitation
	JN	Student Fees, Fines, and Charges



## COMMUNITY RESOURCE PERSONS/SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

The Mecklenburg County Public School Board supports and encourages the active participation of parents and members of the community in providing and extending educational opportunities for children. The involvement of parents, volunteers and others in the community who can serve as a resource to schools is a fundamentally important component of successful school programs. The administration of each school directs the activities of parents, volunteers and other community resources at the building level.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: May 21, 2018; May 17, 2021

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

8 VAC 20-131-270.

Cross Ref.:	AD	Educational Philosophy
	IGBC	Parent and Family Engagement
	KA	Goals for School-Community Relations
	KN	Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry Information
	KQ	Commercial, Promotional, and Corporate Sponsorships and Partnerships

## GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAM

### School Guidance and Counseling Services

Each school provides the following guidance and counseling services to all students:

- Academic guidance which assists students and their parents to acquire knowledge of the curricula choices available to students, to plan a program of studies, to arrange and interpret academic testing and to seek post-secondary academic opportunities.
- Career guidance which helps students to acquire information and plan action about work, jobs, apprenticeships and post-secondary educational and career opportunities.
- Personal/social counseling which assists a student to develop an understanding of themselves, the rights and needs of others, how to resolve conflict and to define individual goals, reflecting their interests, abilities and aptitudes. Information and records of personal/social counseling will be kept confidential and separate from a student's educational records and not disclosed to third parties without prior parental consent or as otherwise provided by law. Parents may elect, by notifying their child's school in writing, to have their child not participate in personal/social counseling.

No student is required to participate in any counseling program to which the student's parents object.

The guidance and counseling program does not include the use of counseling techniques which are beyond the scope of the professional certification or training of counselors, including hypnosis, or other psychotherapeutic techniques that are normally employed in medical or clinical settings and focus on mental illness or psychopathology.

Parents are notified annually about the counseling programs which are available to their children. The notification will include the purpose and general description of the programs, information regarding ways parents may review materials to be used in guidance and counseling programs at their child's school and information about the procedures by which parents may limit their child's participation in such programs.

### Employment Counseling and Placement Services

The School Board provides to secondary students employment counseling and placement services to furnish information relating to the employment opportunities available to students graduating from or leaving the schools in the school division. Such information includes all types of employment opportunities, including, but not limited to, apprenticeships, the military, career education schools and the teaching profession. In providing such services, the School Board consults and cooperates with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Department of Labor and Industry, local business and labor organizations and career schools.

If the School Board provides access to one or more of its high schools and contact with such high school's student body or other contact with its high school students during a school or school division-sponsored activity to persons or groups for occupational, professional or educational recruitment, it provides equal access on the same basis to official recruiting representatives of the military forces of the Commonwealth and the United States.

Adopted: January 20, 2015  
Revised: July 17, 2018

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-130.1, 22.1-209.

8 VAC 20-620-10.

Cross Ref.:	IGAD	Career and Technical Education
	IJD	College and Career Readiness
	JO	Student Records

## COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Each middle and secondary school provides for the early identification and enrollment of students in a program with a range of educational and academic experiences related to college and career readiness in and outside the classroom, including an emphasis on experiences that will motivate disadvantaged and minority students to prepare for a career or postsecondary education.

Each elementary, middle, and secondary school provides for the identification by all students of personal interests and abilities to support planning for postsecondary opportunities and career preparation. Such support includes provision of information concerning exploration of career cluster areas in elementary schools, and course information and planning for college preparation programs, opportunities for educational and academic experiences in and outside the classroom, including internships and work-based learning, and the multiple pathways to college and career readiness in middle and high school.

Beginning in the elementary school years, students explore the different occupations associated with career clusters and select an area or areas of interest. Students begin the development of an academic and career plan portfolio (ACPP) in elementary grades to include information about interests, values such as dependability and responsibility, and skills supporting decisions about their future interests and goals. The information contained in the ACPP serves as the foundation for creating the Academic and Career Plan (ACP) in grade 7.

In middle school, students complete a locally selected career interest inventory and select a career pathway. To support development of the ACP, students complete at least one course in career investigation selected from the career and technical education state-approved list, or a school division-provided alternative means of delivering the career investigation course content, provided that the alternative is equivalent in content and academic rigor.

The School Board may require such courses in career investigation at the high school level as it deems appropriate, subject to approval by the Board of Education. The School Board may require such courses in career investigation at the elementary school level as it deems appropriate.

All schools continue development of a personal ACP with each seventh-grade student with completion by the end of the fall semester of the student's eighth-grade year. The components of the ACP include the student's program of study for high school graduation and a postsecondary career pathway based on the student's academic and career interests. In high school, a career-related learning experience is chosen by the student and documented in the ACP.

The ACP is developed in accordance with guidelines established by the Board of Education and signed by the student, student's parent or guardian, and school official or

officials designated by the principal. The ACP is included in the student's record and is reviewed and updated annually. Lists, as compiled annually by the Department of Education and provided to the School Board, of 1) the top 100 professions in Virginia by median pay and the education, training and skills required for each such profession and 2) the top 10 degree programs at institutions of higher education in Virginia by median pay of program graduates are included as part of each student's ACP.

Beginning in the middle school years, students are counseled on opportunities for beginning postsecondary education and opportunities for obtaining industry certifications, occupational competency credentials, or professional licenses in a career and technical education field prior to high school graduation as described in Policy LEB Advanced/Alternative Courses for Credit. Such opportunities include access to at least three Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Cambridge courses or three college-level courses for degree credit pursuant to 8 VAC 20-131-100. Students taking advantage of such opportunities are not denied participation in school activities for which they are otherwise eligible. Wherever possible, students are encouraged and afforded opportunities to take college courses simultaneously for high school graduation and college degree credit (dual enrollment), under the following conditions:

- a. Written approval of the high school principal prior to participation in dual enrollment must be obtained;
- b. The college must accept the student for admission to the course or courses; and
- c. The course or courses must be given by the college for degree credits (no remedial courses will be accepted).

Adopted: July 17, 2018

Revised: July 20, 2020

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:3.

8 VAC 20-131-140.

Guidelines for Academic and Career Plans (Adopted by the Virginia Board of Education Sept 17, 2009).

Cross Ref.:	IGAD	Career and Technical Education
	IJ	Guidance and Counseling Program
	JO	Student Records
	LEB	Advanced/Alternative Courses for Credit

## PARENTAL ASSISTANCE WITH INSTRUCTION

The Mecklenburg County School Board encourages parents to provide instructional assistance to their children in the home. The school division may offer a voluntary training program to the parents of children in kindergarten through third grade to assist them in developing the skills necessary to provide effective instructional assistance to their children.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:7.C.5.

Cross Ref.: IGBC            Parental Involvement  
              IKB             Homework

## HOMEWORK

Homework provides an essential communication link between the school and the home. One measure of a program or course is the quality of the work done at home by the student. A strong home-school partnership, with many lasting benefits for the individual student and the student's family, can be greatly enhanced by a sound program of homework. In addition, homework should be an important tool in developing independent thought, self-direction and self-discipline. It assists the student in developing good work habits and in the wise use of time.

Guidelines for homework include:

- Homework should be assigned after introduction and thorough explanation of the skills necessary to successfully complete the assignment.
- Homework should be assigned in such a manner that it will be clearly understood by all students.
- Homework should serve a valid purpose and be closely related to classroom activities.
- A student's access to resource materials should be considered when making assignments.
- Homework should be evaluated promptly and returned to the student. Appropriate rewards should be given to those students who successfully complete assigned work. Effort and competency should be recognized and rewarded.
- Teachers should seek to determine the cause if a student regularly fails to complete assigned work. Teachers should not avoid giving homework because they believe students will not do the work.
- Excessive homework, like the absence of homework, should be avoided.
- Homework should not be used for disciplinary purposes
- Teachers and administrators should take appropriate steps to communicate with parents regarding the division's homework policy and to solicit their support.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

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

Cross Ref.:	IB	Academic Freedom
	IGBC	Parental Involvement
	IKA	Parental Assistance with Instruction



## ACCELERATION

The curriculum and schedule of elementary, middle and high schools provides flexibility in placing certain students in programs or subjects normally considered above their grade level. Scheduling eighth grade students into subjects above the normal grade level is done with counseling based on evidence of ability, past scholastic achievement and cooperation of the individual student and his parents or guardian.

When students below the ninth grade successfully complete courses offered for credit in grades 9 through 12, credit is counted toward meeting the standard units required for graduation provided the courses are equivalent in content and academic rigor as those courses offered at the secondary level. To earn a verified unit of credit for these courses, students below ninth grade level must meet the same requirements applicable to other students.

In any high school credit-bearing course taken in middle school, a parent may request that the grade be omitted from the student's transcript and the student not earn high school credit for the course. Such request shall be made in the format and by the deadline set forth in regulations developed by the superintendent.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: July 20, 2015

Revised: July 17, 2018

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78. 22.1  
253.13:3.

8 VAC 20-131-50.

8 VAC 20-131-51.

8 VAC 20-131-90.

Cross Ref.:	IGBB	Programs for Gifted Students
	JO	Student Records
	JOA	Student Transcripts

## STANDARDS OF LEARNING TESTS AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### Generally

The Board of Education has established educational objectives known as the Standards of Learning (SOLs), which form the core of Virginia's educational program, and other education objectives, which together are designed to ensure the development of the skills that are necessary for success in school and in preparation for life in the years beyond.

The MECKLENBURG COUNTY School Board has developed and implemented a program of instruction that is aligned to the Standards of Learning and that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Board of Education. It awards diplomas to all secondary school students, including students who transfer from nonpublic schools or from home instruction, who meet the requirements prescribed by the Board of Education and meet such other requirements as are prescribed by the school board and approved by the Board of Education.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY School Board awards diplomas and certificates in accordance with state laws and regulations. The requirements for a student to earn a diploma and graduate from high school are those in effect when the student enters ninth grade for the first time.

### Virginia Assessment Program

In kindergarten through eighth grade, where the administration of Virginia Assessment Program tests are required by the Board of Education, each student is expected to take the tests following instruction. Students who are accelerated take the test aligned with the highest grade level, following instruction in the content. No student takes more than one test in any content area in each year, except in the case of expedited retakes as provided for in 8 VAC 20-131-30. Schools use the test results in kindergarten through eighth grade as part of a set of multiple criteria for determining the promotion or retention of students.

Each student in middle and secondary school takes all applicable end-of-course SOL tests following course instruction. The superintendent certifies to the Department of Education that the division's policy for dropping courses ensures that students' course\_schedules are not changed to avoid end-of-course SOL tests. Students who achieve a passing score on an end-of-course SOL test will be awarded a verified unit of credit in that course in accordance with 8 VAC 20-131-110. Students may earn verified credits in any courses for which end-of-course SOL tests are available. Students are not required to take an end-of-course SOL test in an academic subject after they have earned the number of verified credits required for that academic content area for graduation unless such test is necessary in order for the school to meet federal accountability requirements. Middle and secondary schools may consider the student's end-of-course SOL test score in determining the student's final course grade.

Participation in the Virginia Assessment Program by students with disabilities is prescribed by provisions of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan. All students with disabilities are assessed with appropriate accommodations and alternate assessments where necessary.

Any student identified as an English Learner (EL) participates in the Virginia

Assessment Program. A school-based committee convenes and makes determinations regarding the participation level of EL students in the Virginia Assessment Program. In kindergarten through eighth grade, EL students may be granted a one-time exemption from SOL testing in the areas of writing, and history and social science.

## Definitions

### Authentic Performance Assessment

An “Authentic Performance Assessment” is a test that complies with guidelines adopted by the Board of Education that requires students to perform a task or create a product that is typically scored using a rubric.

### Standard Unit of Credit

A “standard unit of credit” or “standard credit” is a credit awarded for a course in which the student successfully completes 140 clock hours of instruction and the requirements of the course. A standard unit of credit may be awarded based on a waiver of the 140 clock hour requirement as provided in Policy IKFD Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit.

### Verified Unit of Credit

A “verified unit of credit” or “verified credit” is a credit awarded for a course in which a student earns a standard unit of credit and completes one of the following:

1. Achieves a passing score on a corresponding end-of-course SOL test.
2. Achieves a passing score on an additional test, as defined in 8 VAC 20-131-5, as a part of the Virginia Assessment Program.
3. Meets the criteria for the receipt of a locally awarded verified credit when the student has not passed a corresponding SOL test.
4. Meets the criteria for the receipt of a verified credit in history and social science by demonstrating mastery of the content of the associated course on an authentic performance assessment that complies with guidelines adopted by the Board of Education.
5. Meets the criteria for the receipt of a verified credit for English (writing) by demonstrating mastery of the content of the associated course on an authentic performance assessment that complies with guidelines adopted by the Board of Education.

Students may also earn verified credits by taking alternative tests to the SOL assessment. Such tests may only be those approved by the Virginia Board of Education, and the student may earn verified credits only by achieving that score established by the Board of Education.

### Virginia Assessment Program

The “Virginia Assessment Program” is a system used to evaluate student achievement that includes SOL tests and additional tests that may be approved from time to time by the Board of Education.

Adopted: January 20, 2015  
Revised: May 20, 2019

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:4.

8 VAC 20-131-5.

8 VAC 20-131-30.

8 VAC 20-131-50.

8 VAC 20-131-51.

8 VAC 20-131-110.

Guidelines for Graduation Requirements; Local Alternative Paths to Standard Units of Credit (Virginia Board of Education Oct. 2015).

Cross Refs.:	IAA	Notification of Learning Objectives
	IKFA	Locally Awarded Verified Credits
	IKFD	Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit
	IKH	Retaking SOL Assessments

## LOCALLY AWARDED VERIFIED CREDITS

### Generally

The Mecklenburg County Public School Board awards verified credits in English, mathematics, science and history and social science in accordance with Board of Education regulations and guidance.

To be eligible to earn locally awarded verified credits, a student must

- pass the high school course and not pass the related Standards of Learning test
- take the Standards of Learning test at least twice
- score within a 375-399 scale score range on any administration of the Standards of Learning test
- demonstrate achievement in the academic content through the appeal process described below

### Locally Awarded Verified Credits as Credit Accommodations

In addition to verified credits in science and history/social sciences, the School Board may also award verified credits toward a standard diploma in reading, writing and mathematics to students with disabilities as credit accommodations for the standard diploma. To be eligible for such credit accommodations, students with disabilities must meet all criteria established by Virginia law or regulation and eligibility for such credit accommodations must be established in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan. There is no maximum number of locally awarded verified credits that a student with a disability may earn toward a standard diploma.

A small number of students with disabilities eligible for credit accommodations may be considered for special permission locally awarded verified credit if they meet the requirements in the Eligibility Criteria Request for Review. This accommodation requires submission of documentation to the Virginia Department of Education.

### Appeal Process

The Mecklenburg County Public School Board shall appoint a review panel comprised of at least three educators. Different panels may be appointed for individual schools or groups of schools.

The review panel will review information which provides evidence of the student's achievement of adequate knowledge of the Standards of Learning content. The panel will have discretion in determining the information it will consider. That information may include, but is not limited to, results of classroom assignments, divisionwide exams, course grades and additional academic assignments (e.g. papers, projects, essays or written questions) as the panel deems appropriate.

Based on the evidence it reviews, the review panel may:

- award the verified credit;

- deny the verified credit;
- suggest participation in a remedial program and retesting; or
- make additional academic assignments prior to determining whether to award the verified credit.

The decision of the review panel will be final.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: December 14, 2015; April 22, 2019

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:3.

8 VAC 20-131-5.

8 VAC 20-131-50.

8 VAC 20-131-110.

Guidelines for Standard Diploma Credit Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (Virginia Department of Education March 28, 2013) (attachment to Virginia Department of Education Superintendent's Memo No. 105-13 (Apr. 19, 2013)).

Additional Guidance on Credit Accommodations for Students with Disabilities July 2013 (Attachment A to Superintendent's Memo No. 191-13 issued July 26, 2013)

Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia 8 VAC 20-131 (as amended by the Board of Education January 13, 2011).

Revised Guidance Governing the Use of Locally-Awarded Verified Credits (Virginia Department of Education May 11, 2018) (attachment to Virginia Department of Education Superintendent's Memo No. 130-18 (May 11, 2018))

## LOCALLY AWARDED VERIFIED CREDITS (COVID)

The Mecklenburg County School Board can award verified credits toward a standard or advanced diploma in reading, writing, math, science, and/or history/social sciences in accordance with this policy. This policy is specifically established to deal with the extraordinary educational circumstances created by the COVID-19 virus and its impact. Emergency guidelines have been revised by the state and are reflected in Superintendent Memo #316-20 dated November 20, 2020.

For the fall 2020 semester only:

The locally-awarded verified credits awarded to students using COVID emergency guidelines **will not count toward the cap on locally-awarded verified credits** (waived from the SOA per Executive Order Fifty-One (2020)). There is no requirement that a student must have previously taken the associated Standards of Learning assessment in order to be eligible for a locally-awarded verified credit under the emergency guidelines. This policy applies for all students, including those with an individualized educational plan or 504.

To be eligible to earn locally awarded verified credits, a student must:

- Be enrolled in any course tied to verified credit AND
- Attempt the SOL and earn a 350-399 AND
- pass the corresponding high school course; AND
- demonstrate mastery of the standards, competencies, and objectives of the entire course through a locally-determined verification process.

### Review Panel

The review panel, made up of three teachers, will review information which provides evidence of the student's achievement of adequate knowledge of the Standards of Learning content. The panel will have discretion in determining the information it will consider. That information may include, but is not limited to, results of classroom assignments, divisionwide exams, course grades and additional academic assignments (e.g. papers, projects, essays or written questions) as the panel deems appropriate.

Based on the evidence it reviews, the review panel may:

- award the verified credit;
- deny the verified credit;
- make additional academic assignments prior to determining whether to award the verified credit.

The decision of the review panel will be final.

Adopted: December 15, 2020

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Legal Refs.: 8 VAC 20-131-5.

## REMEDIATION RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Mecklenburg County School Board supports efforts to provide instructional support to those students who have demonstrated a need for such support by their failure to pass certain Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments. Therefore, in kindergarten through grade 12, students may participate in a remediation recovery program as established by the Board of Education in English (reading) or mathematics or both.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: July 17, 2018; June 15, 2020

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:3.

8 VAC 20-131-30.

Cross Refs.:	IKF	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements
	IKH	Retaking SOL Assessments
	IL	Testing Programs



## RETAKING SOL ASSESSMENTS

Students in kindergarten through grade 8 are not required to retake Virginia Assessment Program tests unless they are retained in grade and have not previously passed the related tests or as otherwise permitted by the Board of Education. Students in high school are required to retake end-of-course SOL tests as determined by the Board of Education.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: July 17, 2018; May 20, 2019

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:3.

8 VAC 20-131-30.

8 VAC 20-131-110.

Cross Refs.:	IKF	The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements
	IKG	Remediation Recovery Program
	IL	Testing Programs

## TESTING PROGRAMS

A program of standardized testing prescribed by the Virginia Department of Education is administered annually. Standardized tests are administered according to state and local directives.

In administering tests or other assessment instruments, School Board employees do not require any public elementary school students being tested to disclose their race or ethnicity on such tests. School division personnel, however, may obtain such information from a student's permanent record and place the information on the test or assessment.

No student or his parent is required to disclose information related to the student's race or ethnicity unless (i) the student or his parent is given an option to designate "other" for the student's race or ethnicity or (ii) such disclosure is required by federal law.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: December 14, 2015

Revised: July 17, 2018

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-4.2, 22.1-253.13:3.

## TEACHING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

The Mecklenburg County School Board recognizes that preparation for effective citizenship is one of the major purposes of education. The preparation for effective citizenship includes the study of issues that are controversial. Such study will be carried out in an atmosphere free from bias, prejudice, or coercion.

In teaching about controversial issues, teachers are expected to

- establish a learning environment where each student can study the issues within a curriculum that is appropriate to the student's knowledge and maturity; and
- provide instruction in an atmosphere that is free from bias, prejudice, or coercion.

Although the instructional program includes study of the political party system in the United States, the School Board does not endorse any political party or candidate.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

Revised: May 17, 2021

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

Cross Ref.: KF                    Distribution of Information/Materials  
              JOB                Administration of Surveys and  
                                          Questionnaires

## RELIGION IN THE SCHOOLS

The Mecklenburg County School Board is neutral in matters of religion. This means that the Mecklenburg County schools

- assume no role or responsibility for the religious training of any student and
- do not become involved in the religious belief, disbelief or doubt of any student.

This neutrality does not preclude or hinder the Mecklenburg County School Division in fulfilling its responsibility to educate students to be tolerant and respectful of religious diversity. The division recognizes that one of its educational responsibilities is to advance the students' knowledge and appreciation of the role that religion has played in the social, cultural and historical development of civilization.

Therefore, the division approaches religion from an objective, curriculum-related perspective, encouraging all students and staff members to be aware of the diversity of beliefs and respectful of each other's religious and/or non-religious views. In that spirit of respect, students and staff members may be excused from participating in activities that are contrary to their religious beliefs.

The School Board may authorize, as an elective in grades nine through 12 with appropriate credits toward graduation, a comparative religion class that focuses on the basic tenets, history, and religious observances and rites of world religions.

Adopted: January 20, 2015

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Legal Refs.: U.S. Const. amend. I.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-202.1.