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SUPPORT SERVICES

The non-instructional operations of the school division are an important component of the educational process and support the instructional program.

The Mecklenburg County Public School Board provides support services necessary for the efficient and cost-effective operation of its schools.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Revised: October 15, 2018

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-79, 22.1-253.13:2.

Cross Refs.: EC

Buildings and Grounds Management and
Maintenance

SCHOOL CRISIS, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND MEDICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Each school develops a written school crisis, emergency management and medical emergency response plan as defined below. The School Board includes the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief of the emergency medical services agency, the executive director of the regional emergency medical services council, and the emergency management official of the locality, or their designees, in the development of such plans. The School Board, the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief of the emergency medical services agency, the executive director of the regional emergency medical services council, and the emergency management official of the locality, or their designees, annually review each school's plan. The Department of Education and the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS) will provide technical assistance to the school division in the development of the plans. In developing these plans, schools may consult the model school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan developed by the Board of Education and the VCSCS.

The School Board designates the Executive Director of Facilities and Management as emergency manager.

Each school annually conducts school safety audits as defined below. The results of such school safety audits are made public within 90 days of completion. The School Board may withhold or limit the release of any security plans, walk-through checklists and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Va. Code § 2.2-3705.2. The completed walk-through checklist will be made available upon request to the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality or that officer's designee. Each school maintains a copy of the school's safety audit, which may exclude such security plans, walk-through checklists and vulnerability assessment components, within the office of the school principal and makes a copy of such report available for review upon written request.

Each school submits a copy of its school safety audit to the superintendent. The superintendent collates and submits all such school safety audits, in the prescribed format and manner of submission, to the VCSCS and shall make available upon request to the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality the results of such audits for the officer's review and recommendation. The superintendent includes the designation of the division safety official, which includes a current mailing address, a current working daytime phone number, a current functional email address, and a current functional fax number, with the school safety audits when they are submitted to VCSCS.

The superintendent establishes a school safety audit committee to include, if available, representatives of parents, teachers, local law-enforcement, emergency services agencies, local community services boards and judicial and public safety personnel. The school safety audit committee reviews the completed school safety audits and submits any plans, as needed, for improving school safety to the superintendent for submission to the School Board.

“School crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan” means the essential procedures, operations, and assignments required to prevent, manage, and respond to a critical event or emergency, including natural disasters involving fire, flood, tornadoes or other severe weather; loss or disruption of power, water, communications or shelter; bus or other accidents; medical emergencies, including cardiac arrest and other life threatening medical emergencies; student or staff member deaths; explosions; bomb threats; gun, knife or other weapons threats; spills or exposures to hazardous substances; the presence of unauthorized persons or trespassers; the loss, disappearance or kidnapping of a student; hostage situations; violence on school property or at school activities; incidents involving acts of terrorism; and other incidents posing a serious threat of harm to students, personnel or facilities. The plan includes a provision that the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund shall be contacted immediately to deploy assistance in the event of an emergency as defined in the emergency response plan when there are victims as defined in Va. Code § 19.2-11.01, as well as current contact information for both.

“School safety audit” means a written assessment of the safety conditions in each public school to (1) identify and, if necessary, develop solutions for physical safety concerns, including building security issues and (2) identify and evaluate any patterns of student safety concerns occurring on school property or at school-sponsored events. Solutions and responses include recommendations for structural adjustments, changes in school safety procedures and revisions to the School Board’s standards for Student Conduct. The audit is consistent with a list of items identified by the VCSCS to be reviewed and evaluated. As part of each audit, the School Board creates a detailed and accurate floor plan for each school building or certifies that the existing floor plan is sufficiently detailed and accurate.

Each school has contingency plans for emergencies that include staff certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the Heimlich maneuver, and emergency first aid.

In addition, the school administration ensures that the school has:

- written procedures to follow in emergencies such as fire, injury, illness, allergic reactions and violent or threatening behavior. The procedures include Policy JHCD Administering Medicine to Students. The plan is outlined in the student handbook and discussed with staff and students during the first week of each school year;
- space for the proper care of students who become ill;
- a written procedure, in accordance with guidelines established by the School Board, for responding to violent, disruptive or illegal activities by students on school property or during a school sponsored activity; and
- written procedures to follow for the safe evacuation of persons with special physical, medical or language needs who may need assistance to exit a facility.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Revised: October 15, 2018; July 29, 2019; July 20, 2020; July 17, 2023

Legal Refs: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.2-3705.2, 22.1-279.8.

8 VAC 20-131-260.

Cross Refs.:	CBA	Qualifications and Duties for the Superintendent
	CLA	Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse
	EBAA	Reporting of Hazards
	EBBA	Emergency First Aid, CPR and AED Certified Personnel
	EBCB	Safety Drills
	EEAB	School Bus Scheduling and Routing
	GBEB	Staff Weapons in School
	JFC	Student Conduct
	JFCD	Weapons in School
	JFCE	Gang Activity or Association
	JHCD	Administering Medicines to Students
	JHH	Suicide Prevention
	JM	Restraint and Seclusion of Students
	JO	Student Records
	KK	School Visitors

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REPORTING OF HAZARDS

Any employee who discovers a dangerous condition should report the condition immediately to the employee's supervisor, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee.

The superintendent shall name a designee to evaluate and label toxicity of all art materials used in the division in accordance with criteria established by the Virginia Department of Education. All materials which meet the criteria as toxic shall be so labeled. Such materials are not used in kindergarten through grade 5.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-274.1.

8 VAC 20-530-10 et seq.

POSSIBLE EXPOSURE TO VIRAL INFECTIONS

Upon notification by a School Board employee who believes the employee has been involved in a possible exposure-prone incident which may have exposed the employee to the blood or body fluids of a student, the superintendent shall contact the local health director who, upon immediate investigation of the incident, shall determine if a potentially harmful exposure has occurred and make recommendations based upon all information available to the health director regarding how the employee can reduce any risks from such exposure.

The superintendent shall share these recommendations with the School Board employee.

The superintendent and the School Board employee shall not divulge any information provided by the local health director regarding the student involved except as described below. The information provided by the local health director is subject to any applicable confidentiality requirements set forth in Va. Code § 32.1-35.

Whenever any School Board employee is directly exposed to body fluids of any person in a manner which may, according to the current guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, transmit human immunodeficiency virus or hepatitis B or C viruses, the person whose body fluids were involved in the exposure shall be deemed to have consented to testing for infection with human immunodeficiency virus or hepatitis B or C viruses. Such person shall also be deemed to have consented to the release of such test results to the School Board employee who was exposed.

If the person whose blood specimen is sought for testing is a minor, consent for obtaining such specimen shall be obtained from the parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis of such minor prior to initiating such testing. If the parent or guardian or person standing in loco parentis withholds such consent, or is not reasonably available, the person potentially exposed to the human immunodeficiency virus or hepatitis B or C viruses, or the employer of such person, may petition the juvenile and domestic relations district court in the county or city where the minor resides or resided, or, in the case of a nonresident, the county or city where the School Board has its principal office, for an order requiring the minor to provide a blood specimen or to submit to testing and to disclose the test results in accordance with this policy.

Whenever any person is directly exposed to the body fluids of a School Board employee in a manner that may, according to the then current guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, transmit human immunodeficiency virus or hepatitis B or C viruses, the School Board employee whose body fluids were involved in the exposure shall be deemed to have consented to testing for infection with human immunodeficiency virus or hepatitis B or C viruses. The School Board employee shall also be deemed to have consented to the release of such test results to the person.

Except if the person to be tested is a minor, if the person whose blood specimen is sought for testing refuses to provide such specimen, any person identified by this policy who was potentially exposed to the human immunodeficiency virus or the hepatitis B or C viruses in the manner described by this policy, or the employer of such person, may petition, on a form to be provided by the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the general district court of the county or city in which the person whose specimen is sought resides or resided, or, in the case of a nonresident, the county or city where the School Board has its principal office, for an order requiring the person to provide a blood specimen or to submit to testing and to disclose the test results in accordance with this policy. A copy of the petition, which shall specify the date and location of the hearing, shall be provided to the person whose specimen is sought. At any hearing before the court, the person whose specimen is sought or the person's counsel may appear. The court may be advised by the State Health Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee prior to entering any testing order. If the general district court determines that there is probable cause to believe that a person identified by this policy has been exposed in the manner prescribed by this policy, the court shall issue an order requiring the person whose bodily fluids were involved in the exposure to provide a blood specimen or to submit to testing and to disclose the test results in accordance with this policy. If a testing order is issued, both the petitioner and the person from whom the blood specimen is sought shall receive counseling and opportunity for face-to-face disclosure of any test results by a licensed practitioner or trained counselor.

Adopted: November 17, 2014
Revised: July 20, 2015; May 18, 2020

Legal Ref: Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, §§ 22.1-271.3, 32.1-45.1.

Cross Refs:	EBBB	Personnel Training-Viral Infections
	GBE	Staff Health
	JHCC	Communicable Diseases
	JHCCA	Blood-Borne Contagious or Infectious Diseases

THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS

The superintendent establishes a threat assessment team for each school. Teams may serve one or more schools as determined by the superintendent. The teams assess and intervene with individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff or students consistent with the model policies developed by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety including procedures for referrals to community services boards or health care providers for evaluation or treatment when appropriate.

Each team includes persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration and law enforcement and in schools in which a school resource officer is employed, at least one such school resource officer. New threat assessment team members complete an initial threat assessment training and all threat assessment team members complete refresher threat assessment training every three years. Each team

- provides guidance to students, faculty and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community, school or self;
- identifies members of the school community to whom threatening behavior should be reported; and
- implements policies adopted by the School Board.

A principal who has received information that a juvenile is a suspect in or has been charged with certain violations of law pursuant to Va. Code § 16.1-301 may provide such information to a threat assessment team. No member of a threat assessment team may disclose any such information or use such information for any purpose other than evaluating threats to students and school personnel.

Upon a preliminary determination that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to self or others, a threat assessment team immediately reports its determination to the superintendent or superintendent's designee. The superintendent or superintendent's designee immediately attempts to notify the student's parent or legal guardian. Nothing in this policy precludes school division personnel from acting immediately to address an imminent threat.

Upon a preliminary determination by the threat assessment team that an individual poses a threat of violence to self or others or exhibits significantly disruptive behavior or need for assistance, a threat assessment team may obtain criminal history record information, as provided in Va. Code §§ 19.2-389 and 19.2-389.1, and health records, as provided in Va. Code § 32.1-127.1:03. No member of a threat assessment team rediscloses any criminal history record information or health information obtained pursuant to this policy or otherwise uses any record of an individual beyond the purpose for which such disclosure was made to the threat assessment team.

Each threat assessment team collects and reports to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (the Center) quantitative data on its activities using the case management tool developed by the Center.

The superintendent may establish a committee to oversee the threat assessment teams or may assign the oversight of the teams to an existing committee. If such a committee is established, it will include individuals with expertise in human resources, education, school administration, mental health and law enforcement.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Revised: July 29, 2019; July 17, 2023

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 16.1-301, 22.1-79.4.

Cross Refs.:	CLA	Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse
	EB	School Crisis, Emergency Management and Medical Emergency Response Plan
	JFC	Student Conduct
	JFCD	Weapons in School
	JFC-R	Standards of Student Conduct
	JFCI	Substance Abuse-Student Assistance Program
	JGD/JGE	Student Suspension/Expulsion
	JDGA	Disciplining Students with Disabilities
	JFCE	Gang Activity or Association
	JFCC	Student Conduct on School Buses
	JHH	Suicide Prevention
	JM	Restraint and Seclusion of Students
	JO	Student Records
	KNAJ	Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities

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EMERGENCY FIRST AID, CPR AND AED CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

In school buildings with an instructional and administrative staff of ten or more, there shall be at least three employees who have current certification or training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). If one or more students diagnosed as having diabetes attend such school, there shall be at least two employees who have been trained in the administration of insulin and glucagon.

In school buildings with an instructional and administrative staff of fewer than ten, there shall be at least two employees who have current certification or training in emergency first aid, CPR and the use of an AED. If one or more students diagnosed as having diabetes attend such school, there shall be at least one employee who has been trained in the administration of insulin and glucagon.

When a registered nurse, nurse practitioner, physician or physician assistant is present, no employee who is not a registered nurse, nurse practitioner, physician or physician assistant shall assist with the administration of insulin or administer glucagon. Prescriber authorization and parental consent shall be obtained for any employee who is not a registered nurse, nurse practitioner, physician or physician assistant to assist with the administration of insulin and administer glucagon.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-274, 22.1-274.4.

Cross Ref.: EB School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical
Emergency Response Plan
JHCD Administering Medicines to Students

PERSONNEL TRAINING-VIRAL INFECTIONS

All school personnel having direct contact with students receive appropriate training in the etiology, prevention, transmission modes, and effects of blood-borne pathogens, specifically, hepatitis B and human immunodeficiency viruses or any other infections that are the subject of regulations promulgated by the Safety and Health Codes Board of the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Program within the Department of Labor and Industry.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Revised: May 21, 2018; April 11, 2022

Legal Ref: Code of Virginia, § 22.1-271.3.

Cross Refs:	EBAB	Reporting of Possible Exposure to Viral Infections
	JHCC	Communicable Diseases
	JHCCA	Blood-Borne Contagious or Infectious Diseases

SAFETY DRILLS

Fire Drills

Each school holds a fire drill at least twice during the first 20 school days of each session. Each school holds at least two additional fire drills during the remainder of the school session. Evacuation routes for students are posted in each room. No fire drills are conducted during periods of mandatory testing required by the Board of Education.

Lock-Down Drills

Each school has a lock-down drill at least once during the first 20 school days of each school session. Each school holds at least one additional lock-down drill after the first 60 days of the school session. Each school provides the parents of enrolled students with at least 24 hours' notice before the school conducts any lock-down drill. Such notice is not required to include the exact date and time of the lock-down drill.

Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students are exempt from mandatory participation in lock-down drills during the first 60 days of the school session. The superintendent develops procedures to implement such exemption. Each pre-kindergarten and kindergarten student will participate in each lock-down drill after the first 60 days of each school session.

School Bus Emergency Drills

Each school having school buses holds a drill in leaving school buses under emergency circumstances at least once during the first ninety calendar days of each school session and more often if necessary.

Tornado Drills

There is at least one tornado drill every school year in every school.

Emergency Situations

In addition to the drills mentioned above, the School Board provides training to each student and employee at least once each school year on safety procedures in the event of an emergency situation on school property.

Adopted: November 17, 20147

Revised: October 15, 2018; July 29, 2019; July 20, 2020; July 19, 2021

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, §§ 22.1-137, 22.1-137.1, 22.1-137.2, 22.1-137.3, 22.1-184.

Acts 2006, c. 164.

8 VAC 20-131-260.

Cross Refs.: EB School Crisis, Emergency Management and Medical
Emergency Response Plan

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ELECTRONIC ROOM PARTITIONS

No school employee opens or closes an electronic room partition in any school building unless

- i. no student is present in such building,
- ii. (a) no student is present in the room or area in which such partition is located and
(b) such room or area is locked or otherwise inaccessible to students, or
- iii. such partition includes a safety sensor that automatically stops the partition when a body passes between the leading edge and a wall, an opposing partition, or the stacking area.

Any annual safety review or exercise for school employees includes information and demonstrations, as appropriate, regarding the provisions of the previous paragraph.

Adopted: July 29, 2019

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, § 22.1-138.

Cross Refs.: EB Safety Drills

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SCHOOL CLOSINGS

The superintendent or superintendent's designee may order the closing, the delay in opening or the early dismissal of any or all schools in order to protect the safety and welfare of the students and staff.

Unless employees are notified that their work schedule is changed because of adverse weather or emergency conditions, it is expected that all employees will work according to the terms of their contract and division policy.

During adverse weather or emergency conditions, employees follow guidelines from the superintendent related to work schedules. The guidelines may be reviewed by the school board.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Revised: May 20, 2019

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-98.

Cross Ref.: GAA Staff Time Schedules

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BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The superintendent has the general responsibility for the care, custody, and safekeeping of all school property. The principal of each school is responsible for the operation, supervision, care and maintenance of the school plant.

Each school maintains records of regular safety, health and fire inspections that have been conducted and certified by local health and fire departments. The frequency of such inspections is determined by the School Board in consultation with the local health and fire departments. In addition, the school administration equips all exit doors with panic hardware as required by the Uniform Statewide Building Code.

The school division maintains documentation of any pesticide application that includes the target pest, the formulation applied and the specific location of the application.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Revised: October 15, 2018; May 18, 2020

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-79, 22.1-132.2, 22.1-293.

8 VAC 20-131-260.

Cross Refs.:	CF	School Building Administration
	EA	Support Services
	EB	School Crisis, Emergency Management and Medical Emergency Response Plan
	EBCB	Safety Drills
	FE	Playground Equipment
	GBEC/JFCH/KGC	Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor Products
	IIBEA-R/GAB-R	Technology Use Guidelines
	KF	Distribution of Information/Materials
	KG	Community Use of School Facilities
	KGB	Public Conduct on School Property
	KJ	Advertising in the Schools
	KL	Public Complaints
	KQ	Commercial, Promotional, and Corporate Sponsorships and Partnerships

INVENTORY AND REPORTING OF LOSS OR DAMAGE

I. Inventories

The superintendent is responsible for implementing a system of inventory of school property to identify items for the purpose of insurance and to control the loss of property.

The inventory shall include, but not be limited to the following: buildings, movable equipment, vehicles and all other items of significant value. Each school shall keep a complete inventory of all equipment, listing make, source, date of purchase, model, serial number, and other identifying data.

II. Reporting Losses

All loss of or damage to school property shall be promptly reported to the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Revised: May 20, 2019

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

Cross Refs.:	EC	Buildings and Grounds Management and Maintenance
	ECAB	Vandalism
	EI	Insurance Management
	JFC-R	Standards of Student Conduct

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VANDALISM

The school board urges staff, students and the public to cooperate in the reduction of vandalism by reporting incidents of vandalism and the name of any person(s) believed to be responsible.

The school board may institute action and recover from the parents or either of them of any minor living with such parents or either of them up to \$2,500 for damages suffered by reason of the willful or malicious destruction of, or damage to, public property by such minor.

In addition, a student who damages or destroys public property is subject to whatever disciplinary action is deemed necessary and advisable by the school principal.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Revised: May 20, 2019

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 8.01-43, 22.1-78, 22.1-253.13:7.

Cross Refs.: ECA Inventory and Reporting of Loss or Damage
 IIBEA/GAB Acceptable Computer System Use
 JFC-R Standards of Student Conduct

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AUTHORIZED USE OF SCHOOL-OWNED MATERIALS

To ensure the security and efficient use of school property, the superintendent shall develop regulations governing the use of all school owned property. The regulations shall address the use of school division facilities, supplies, materials and equipment by employees and outside organizations.

Employees are prohibited from utilizing school property for personal use or gain.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Revised: May 20, 2019; May 18, 2020

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-131, 22.1-132, 22.1-132.01.

Cross Refs.:	DN	Disposal of Surplus Items
	GBEC/JFCH/KGC	Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor Products
	IIBEA/GAB	Acceptable Computer System Use
	KF	Distribution of Information/Materials
	KG	Community Use of School Facilities
	KGA	Sales and Solicitations in Schools

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STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The School Board provides for the transportation of students as required by state and federal laws and regulations.

The superintendent collaborates with the local social services agency to develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin when in their best interest will be provided, arranged and funded for the duration of time in foster care. The procedures ensure that children in foster care needing transportation to the school of origin will promptly receive transportation in a cost-effective manner and in accordance with 42 U.S. C. § 675(4)(A) and ensure that, if there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin, the school division will provide transportation to the school of origin if the local social services agency agrees to reimburse the school division for the cost of such transportation, the school division agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation or the school division and the local social services agency agree to share the cost of such transportation.

Students may be suspended from using school transportation services for violations of the Policy JFC Student Conduct, Standards of Student Conduct or when the student endangers the health, safety or welfare of other riders. In such cases the parent or guardian is responsible for transporting the student to school.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Revised: May 21, 2018; April 11, 2022

Legal Ref.: 20 U.S.C. § 6312.

Code of Virginia, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-176, 22.1-221, 22.1-254.

Cross Refs.:	EEAB	School Bus Scheduling and Routing
	EEAC	School Bus Safety Program
	GDQ	School Bus Drivers
	IICA	Field Trips
	JCA	Transfer Requests by Student Victims of Crime
	JEC-R	School Admission
	JECA	Admission of Homeless Children
	JECB (Opt. 1)	Admission of Nonpublic Students for Part-Time Enrollment
	JEG	Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
	JFC	Student Conduct
	JFCC	Student Conduct on School Buses
	LC-E	Charter School Application Addendum

SCHOOL BUS SCHEDULING AND ROUTING

The operation of school buses is scheduled to maximize safety and efficiency.

School bus routes, school sites and safety of students at designated school bus stops are reviewed at least once each year and as changes occur. Routes are reviewed for safety hazards, fuel conservation and to assure the most efficient use of buses. School administrators evaluate the safety of pupils at bus stops periodically and, at the request of the School Board, report the results annually to the School Board.

A written vehicular and pedestrian traffic control plan for each school is reviewed annually for safety hazards. All new school site plans include provisions that promote vehicular and pedestrian safety.

Adopted: November 17, 2104

Revised: October 15, 2018

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

8 VAC 20-70-150.

8 VAC 20-70-160.

Cross Ref.: EB

School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical
Emergency Response Plan

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROGRAM

All buses and other vehicles owned and operated by the school division are inspected for safety in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the Department of Education.

All accidents, regardless of the amount of damage involved, are reported to the transportation supervisor.

Crashes involving school buses resulting in property damage of \$1,500 or more or personal injury are reported to the Virginia Department of Education at least once per month. The superintendent or superintendent's designee notifies the Virginia Department of Education of any school bus crash involving serious injuries, requiring professional medical treatment, or death within the next working day after the crash.

No person uses any wireless telecommunications device, whether handheld or otherwise, while driving a school bus, except in case of an emergency, or when the vehicle is lawfully parked and for the purposes of dispatching. Nothing in this policy prohibits the use of two-way radio devices or wireless telecommunications devices that are used hands free to allow live communication between the driver and school or public safety officials.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Revised: May 21, 2018; April 11, 2022

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-16, 46.2-919.1.

8 VAC 20-70-130.

8 VAC 20-70-140.

SPECIAL USE OF SCHOOL BUSES

The use of school buses for purposes other than transporting children to and from school for the regular school hours and for extracurricular activities is permitted with prior approval of the superintendent and in accordance with regulations pertaining to field trips.

In addition, the School Board may enter into agreements with its appropriating body, or any state agency or any federal agency established or identified pursuant 42 U.S.C. § 3001 et seq. providing for the use of the school buses of the division by such body or agency for public purposes, including transportation for the elderly. Each such agreement shall provide for reimbursing the school board in full for the proportionate share of any and all costs, both fixed and variable, of such buses incurred by such school board attributable to the use of such buses pursuant to such agreement. The appropriating body, or state or federal agency, shall indemnify and hold harmless the school board from any and all liability of the school board by virtue of use of such buses pursuant to an agreement.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-176, 22.1-182.

Cross Ref.: IICA Field Trips

FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT

The superintendent is authorized to develop and implement an efficient and effective food services system for the students and employees of the school division. From time to time the superintendent shall report to the school board on the financial status of the division's food service operations.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Revised: May 20, 2019; May 18, 2020

Legal Refs.: 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-89.1, 22.1-115.

Cross Refs.:	DI	Financial Accounting and Reporting
	EFB	Food Services
	JHCF	Student Wellness

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STUDENTS WITH INSUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR SCHOOL MEALS AND DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS IN THE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

The National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs are integral in ensuring that students have access to nutritious meals to support their academic success. It is also imperative to protect the financial stability of the school nutrition program.

The intent of this policy is to establish a process and procedure to handle situations when children eligible for reduced-price or full-price meal benefits have insufficient funds to pay for school meals; as well as for the collection of unpaid meal charges and delinquent account debt.

I. Eligibility, reimbursable meals and charging limitations

- 1.a Students who qualify for free meals will not be denied a reimbursable meal even if they have accrued a negative balance on their cafeteria account.
- 1.b Students are allowed to charge up to a maximum of \$25 dollars, after which collection procedures will begin.
- 1.c Students who charge a meal will receive a reimbursable meal.

II. Communicating the Policy

- 2.a The written meal charge policy will be communicated to the household by:
 - i. Posting on the Mecklenburg County Public Schools division website
 - ii. Including in the student information packet distributed on the first day of school
 - iii. Providing access to all transfer students during the school year
 - iv. Attaching to the Household Application.
- 2.b The written meal charge policy will be communicated to all division staff prior to the first day of school.
- 2.c Child Nutrition Program staff will receive training on meal charge policy and record of training will be maintained as part of the professional development portfolio.
- 2.d Documentation of the communication and training plan will be maintained for the Federal Program Administrative Review.

III. Notifying the Household of a Negative Balance in Student Cafeteria Account

- 3.a The School Food Authority (SFA) will notify a household of a negative balance by:
 - i. 1st notice will be via letter
 - ii. 2nd notice will be via school messenger
 - iii. 3rd notice will be via a phone call from the School Nutrition Program office and/or the school principal.
- 3.b Notifications to households will include the amount of unpaid meal charges, expected payment dates, the consequences of non-payment and where to go for questions or assistance.
- 3.c The persons responsible for managing unpaid meal charges are:
 - a. School Nutrition Program school-based staff will collect payment for meals at the Point of Sales (POS).
 - b. School Nutrition Program central office will contact households.

IV. Delinquent debt is allowable in the School nutrition program and may be carried over to one successive school year.

- 4.a The student's household will be notified that the debt has been deemed delinquent after
 - i. The student's charges exceed \$25
 - ii. At least four successive attempts have been made to collect the debt
 - iii. Payment arrangements have not been secured via written agreement.

V. Bad debt is defined as delinquent debt that is deemed uncollectible at the end of the school year. Bad debt is unallowable in the SNP and cannot be carried over to the next school year. Funds resulting from bad debt cannot be recovered using SNP funds. Parents or guardians are responsible for paying the bad debt.

- 5.a At the end of the school year, the School Nutrition Program Supervisor and the Finance Director will evaluate all delinquent debt for conversion to bad debt. Bad debt will be restored to the SNP from the general fund prior to the end of the same fiscal year.
- 5.b Efforts to collect delinquent and/or bad debt will be handled by:
 - i. Send First and Second Letters
 - ii. Phone calls
 - iii. Notice of Adverse Action/potential collections
 - iv. Collection efforts may be enforced

VI. Collection procedures for Delinquent and Bad Debt- Adverse Action

- 6.a When a household has reached a threshold of \$25 dollar amount, the debt has been carried over for more than one successive year, and all attempts to collect the debt in the delinquent phase have been exhausted to no avail, collection procedures will be initiated.
- 6.b The household will receive a Notification/Notice of Adverse Action stating collection procedures have begun.
- 6.c If payment is not received, collection procedure may occur with the Mecklenburg County Court System.

VII. Assistance to Households

Households with questions or needing assistance may contact the school office where their student attends or the School Nutrition Program office at: (434) 738-6111, 175 Mayfield Drive, Boydton, VA 23917, rmoore@mcpsweb.org

Regulations:

2 CFR Part 200 Section 143 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Adopted: June 19, 2017

Revised: February 19, 2019

FOOD SERVICES

Generally

Employees of Mecklenburg County School Board do not require a student who cannot pay for a meal at school or who owes a school meal debt to throw away or discard a meal after it has been served to the student, do chores or other work to pay for such meals, or wear a wristband or hand stamp.

The School Board does not file lawsuits against a student or the student's parent because the student cannot pay for a meal at school or owes a school debt.

Neither the Mecklenburg County School Board nor any employee of the Board denies any student the opportunity to participate in any extracurricular activity because the student cannot pay for a meal at school or owes a school meal debt.

The Mecklenburg County school division provides free and reduced price breakfasts, lunches and milk to students according to the terms of the National School Lunch Program, the National School Breakfast Program and the Special Milk Program.

If any school in the division has a student population that qualifies for free and reduced-price meals at a minimum percentage of 50 percent in the prior school year and simultaneously offers educational or enrichment activities, the School Board applies to the Virginia Department of Education for such school to participate in the Afterschool Meal Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition (FNS) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to subsequently and simultaneously serve federally reimbursable meals and offer an afterschool education or enrichment program pursuant to FNS guidelines and state health and safety standards.

Competitive foods, as defined herein, comply with state and federal requirements.

The Mecklenburg County Public Schools School Board may solicit and receive any donation or other funds for the purpose of eliminating or offsetting any school meal debt at any time and will use any such funds solely for such purpose.

Free and Reduced Price Food Services

School officials determine student eligibility based on guidelines established by federal law. Eligible students are provided nutritionally acceptable meals and milk free or at a reduced cost if state and federal resources for school food programs are available. The superintendent or superintendent's designee establishes regulations or procedures as needed to implement this policy.

The criteria for determining a student's eligibility and the procedures for securing free and reduced price meals and milk is publicly announced at the beginning of each school year and provided to parents of all children in attendance at Mecklenburg County Public Schools.

If the School Board collects information to determine eligibility for participation in the National School Breakfast Program or the National School Lunch Program, it posts prominently on its website a web-based application for student participation in such program and provides a paper-based application.

Each elementary and secondary school processes each web-based and paper-based application for participation in the School Breakfast Program or the National School Lunch Program within six working days after the date of receipt of the completed application.

Employees of Mecklenburg County Public Schools School Board do not physically segregate, overtly identify, or otherwise discriminate against any child eligible for free or reduced price meals.

The superintendent is responsible for establishing procedures by which excess food may be distributed to enrolled students eligible for the School Breakfast Program or National School Lunch Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, saving excess food for later consumption, or donating food. The superintendent's procedures identify which students are eligible to receive excess food.

Definitions

"Competitive food" means all food and beverages other than meals reimbursed under programs authorized by the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day. Competitive foods meet the nutrient guidelines established by the Board of Education, including the guidelines for calories, fat, sugar and sodium.

"Excess food" means any remaining unexpired, unopened, and unconsumed food intended to be served as part of a reimbursable meal that was unable to be utilized for a current or future meal provision after a school has served breakfast and lunch to students during a school day.

"Fundraiser" means a school-sponsored activity where food or nonfood items are sold on the school campus during regular school hours by a school-sponsored organization to raise money for a school-related program or activity. One fundraiser is defined as one or more fundraising activities by one or more school-sponsored organizations that last one school day. If multiple school-sponsored organizations conduct fundraisers on the same day, the combined activities are counted as one fundraiser. If a fundraising activity lasts more than one school day, each subsequent day's activity is considered as one fundraiser and counts toward the total number of permitted fundraisers.

"School campus" means all areas of the property under the jurisdiction of the school that are accessible to students during the school day.

"School day" means the period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.

School Sponsored Fundraisers

Each school may conduct school-sponsored fundraisers per school year during which food that does not meet the nutrition guidelines for competitive foods may be available for sale to students. Fundraisers are not conducted during school meal service times.

Unpaid Meal Charges

Students who do not have money on account or in hand to cover the cost of a meal at the time of service may be given an alternative meal.

Reasonable efforts are used to avoid calling attention to a student's inability to pay.

The superintendent or superintendent's designee ensures that federal child nutrition funds are not used to offset the cost of unpaid meals and that the child nutrition program is reimbursed for bad debt. In order to accomplish those goals, the following procedures are followed:

- At least one written notice is provided prior to the student being denied reimbursable meals for exceeding the division's charge limit.
- If payment of the negative balance is not received within 180 working days of the maximum charge limit being reached, the debt will be turned over to the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection. If the debt is not paid within 60 days of notice being given, it is considered bad debt for the purposes of federal law concerning unpaid meal charges.

Recordkeeping

The Mecklenburg County School Board is responsible for maintaining records that document compliance with this policy. Those records include documentation used to assess the nutritional profile of food items and determine whether a food item is an allowable competitive food, such as recipes, nutrition labels and/or product specifications for the competitive food available for sale to students.

The School Board is also responsible for

- maintaining records documenting compliance with the competitive food nutrition standards for food available for sale in areas that are outside of the control of the school nutrition programs operations,
- ensuring any organization or school activity designated as responsible for food service at the various venues in the school, other than the school nutrition programs, maintains records documenting compliance with the competitive food nutrition standards,
- maintaining records each school year documenting the number of exempt fundraisers, if any, conducted at each school within the division, and
- designating an individual at the division or school level to monitor and ensure compliance with this policy in all areas that are outside the control of the school nutrition programs operation. The designee may not be a school nutrition personnel.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Revised: July 18, 2017; July 29, 2019; July 20, 2020; July 19, 2021; July 17, 2023

Legal Refs.: 42 U.S.C. §§ 1758, 1772 and 1773.
7 C.F.R. §§ 210.9, 210.11, 220.20, 245.5, 245.8.
U.S. Department of Agriculture, SP 23-2017 Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance and Q&A, March 23, 2017.
U.S. Department of Agriculture, SP 47-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments, July 8, 2016.
Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § §§ 22.1-79.7, 22.1-207.2:2, 22.1-207.3, 22.1-207.4, 63.2-1509.
8 VAC 20-740-10.
8 VAC 20-740-30.
8 VAC 20-740-35.
8 VAC 20-740-40.

Cross Refs: GAE Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
JHCF Student Wellness
KH Public Gifts to the Schools

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FOOD SANITATION PROGRAM

The personnel and the facilities used for food services in the school division are subject to state laws regulating restaurants and other food establishments. School dining facilities are also governed by regulations promulgated by the State Board of Health.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Revised: May 20, 2019; May 18, 2020

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 35.1-1.

12 VAC 5-421-10 et seq.

Cross Refs: EF Food Service Management
EFB Food Services

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REPRODUCTION AND USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS

The reproduction and use of copyrighted materials, including computer software, electronic materials, video tapes, compact discs, laser discs and other non-print materials, are controlled by federal law. In general, copyright owners have the exclusive right to use, reproduce and modify their materials. Federal law does provide limited exceptions to this general rule which permit the reproduction and use of copyrighted materials in some circumstances. The superintendent is responsible for promoting an understanding of the applicable law among staff members and students.

The BLANK School Board encourages its staff and students to enrich the educational experience by making proper use of supplementary materials. However, each staff member and student is responsible for complying with copyright law and with any regulations or procedures developed by the superintendent. Any employee or student who is uncertain as to whether reproducing or using copyrighted materials complies with the division procedures or is permissible under law should contact the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction who will provide clarification and assist staff members and students in obtaining proper authorization to copy or use protected material when such authorization is required.

At no time is it necessary for a staff member to violate copyright laws in order to properly perform the staff member's duties. At no time is it necessary for a student to violate copyright laws in order to complete any assigned work. For staff members, violation of copyright laws or division requirements may result in discipline up to and including termination of employment. For students, violation of copyright laws or division requirements may result in discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Revised: July 19, 2021

Legal Ref: 17 U.S.C § 101 et seq.

Cross Ref: GAB/IIBEA Acceptable Computer System Use
GCPD Professional Staff Discipline

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INSURANCE MANAGEMENT

The school board maintains such insurance on school property, including vehicles, as it deems necessary or as is required by law. The school board may provide liability insurance, or may provide self-insurance, for certain or all of its officers and employees and for student teachers and other persons performing functions or services for any school in the school division, regardless of whether payment is made for such functions or services. Such insurance, including workers' compensation and all property and casualty insurance, is placed with insurance companies authorized to do business in Virginia or provided by insurance pools, groups, or self-insured programs authorized by the state Bureau of Insurance.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Revised: May 20, 2019

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 15.2-2703, 15.2-2704, 15.2-2705, 22.1-84, 22.1-188 through 22.1-198.

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EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATIONS AND PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATIONS

The school board may establish educational technology foundations for the express purpose of implementing a public/private partnership to expand access to and improve the quality of educational technology in the division. The school board may also establish public school foundations for the express purpose of implementing a public/private partnership to implement public school improvement projects approved by the school board. Such foundations may be established directly by the school board or by the school board and other organizations or persons, on behalf of the school board by a third party, or through a contract with a corporation as defined by Va. Code § 2.2-212.2:2. The foundations may be established as a cooperative regional effort with other school boards.

I. Requirements

Upon establishing or contracting with a corporation, whether or not other organizations, school boards, or persons are involved, the school board shall:

- Review and approve the articles of incorporation and bylaws
- Establish a system of accounting to protect public funds
- Establish agreement that, upon dissolution of the corporation, any assets remaining after payment of just debts shall be transferred to and become the property of the school board or, if a regional effort, the procedure by which the property may be divided among the school boards
- Require, in any instance in which the school board advances, contributes or loans funds to the corporation, that such contract shall provide for the posting of a bond with surety by the officers of the corporation conditioned to protect the rights of the school board
- Establish terms for the allocation of any profits or revenues between the school board and the corporation
- Take such other steps as may be necessary to comply with applicable law

II. Funding

The school board may (i) advance, contribute or loan funds to such foundations, and (ii) establish an escrow fund for the purpose of funding various educational technology projects.

III. Procurement

In making purchases through its public school foundation or purchasing educational technology through its educational technology foundation, the school board is exempt from the Virginia Public Procurement Act, except, relative to such purchases, the school board shall comply with the provisions of Va. Code §§ 2.2-4311 and 2.2-4367 through 2.2-4377.

Adopted: November 17, 2014

Revised: May 20, 2019

Legal Ref: Code of Virginia, §§ 2.2-4311, 2.2-4343, 2.2-4367 through 2.2-4377, 22.1-212.2:2.

Cross Refs.: JRCA School Providers' Use of Personal Information
KA Goals for School-Community Relations
KH Public Gifts to the Schools
KM Relations with Community Organizations
KQ Commercial, Promotional and Corporate Sponsorships and Partnerships

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