

EXCLUSIONS AND EXEMPTIONS FROM SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The Alexandria City School Board (Board) shall excuse from attendance at school:

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

The Board may excuse from attendance at school:

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

Annually, the school principal shall seek to verify the residency of any person of school age who is not enrolled in a school.

The compulsory education requirements do not apply to

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

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

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48 Home instruction (homeschooling) of students must occur in accordance with Policy LBD - Home
49 Instruction. Home instruction does not require a religious exemption to compulsory attendance.
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51
52 Adopted: December 5, 1996
53 Amended: July 10, 1997
54 Amended: June 18, 1998
55 Amended: June 23, 1999
56 Amended: July 6, 2000
57 Amended: June 21, 2001
58 Amended: June 19, 2003
59 Amended: July 1, 2005
60 Amended: July 1, 2011
61 Amended: June 11, 2015
62

63
64 Legal Ref: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-254, § 22.1-260.
65 Va. Op. Att’y Gen. 1988

66 Cross Refs: JEA Compulsory Attendance JEG-R Regulation for
67 Addressing Requests for Religious Exemption
68 JHCB Immunization of Students
69 JHCC Communicable Diseases
70 LBD Home Instruction

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The School Board may excuse from attendance at school:

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

Annually, the school principal shall seek to verify the residency of any person of school age who is not enrolled in a school. Any request for exemption from attendance shall be presented annually in writing to the Superintendent or designee.

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Commented [1]: Other than where noted, this document is the exact VSBA model policy.

Commented [2]: Should the policy related to home-schooling due to religious exemption be cited here?

Commented [3]: Home schooling doesn't require any reason at all. Added breadcrumbs to the regulation.

Commented [4]: Adjusted based on public feedback.

Commented [5]: Removed this language and added new language after consulting with the Policy committee and counsel for HEAV re imposing extraneous burdens on families who are exempt from attendance for religious reasons.

Commented [6]: Can we assign it to the central office or at least make it more generic instead? It seems like something that could easily be missed at the school level.

Commented [7]: Agree about your concern, but no, the Code says that the principal is supposed to provide the list to the Superintendent.

Commented [8]: Unfortunate.

attend school, may delay the child's attendance for one year.

Home instruction (homeschooling) of students must occur in accordance with Policy LBD - Home Instruction. Home instruction does not require a religious exemption to compulsory attendance.

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Commented [9]: Added to add clarity.

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Cross Refs: JEA Compulsory Attendance ~~Ages~~
JEG-R ~~Regulation Protocol~~ for Addressing Requests for Religious

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JHCC Communicable Diseases
LBD Home Instruction