

SECTION VIII – STUDENTS

ARTICLE I GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

POLICY 8-1.1 SCHOOL BOARD AUTHORITY TO REGULATE STUDENTS

Virginia and federal law give the School Board of the City of Richmond the power to make reasonable rules for the (1) governance of the schools, (2) management of the School Board’s business, and (3) supervision of the schools, including but not limited to the proper discipline of pupils, including their conduct while they are on school property, attending or participating in school activities, and taking the most direct route going to and returning from school. For the purposes of this policy “going to and returning from school” includes the period of time students are traveling to and from the bus stop to their residences and/or while on the school bus.

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

Adopted September 4, 2012

POLICY 8-1.2 EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Policy Statement

The School Board of the City of Richmond’s educational programs and services shall be designed to meet the varying needs of all students and shall not discriminate against any individual for reasons of race, religion, color, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or on any other basis prohibited by law. The School Board also supports equal educational opportunities and treatment of all students regardless of gender expression. Further, no student, on the basis of gender, shall be denied equal access to programs, activities, services or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, advantage or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities. The School Board encourages school division employees, patrons and students to promptly report all incidents of alleged discriminatory conduct.

In furtherance of this policy, the School Board shall: (i) provide facilities, programs and activities that are accessible, usable and available to qualified persons with disabilities; (ii) provide a free, appropriate education, including non-academic and extracurricular services to qualified persons with disabilities; (iii) not exclude qualified persons with disabilities, solely on the basis of their disabilities, from any preschool, daycare, adult education or vocational programs; and (iv) not discriminate against qualified persons with disabilities in the provision of health, welfare or social services.

Complaints

Any student who believes he or she has been the victim of prohibited discrimination or who has knowledge of conduct which may constitute prohibited discrimination should report the alleged discrimination as soon as possible in accordance with the complaint procedure as detailed in Policy 8-1.3 below. Any employee who has knowledge of conduct which may constitute prohibited discrimination against a student shall immediately report such conduct to one of the compliance officers designated in Policy 8-1.3 below.

Application

This policy does not render lawful any conduct prohibited by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 20 U.S.C. §§1681-1688; 29 U.S.C. § 794; 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d-2000d-7; 34 C.F.R. part 106.

Adopted September 4, 2012
Revised/Adopted June 2, 2014
Revised/Adopted July 13, 2015

POLICY 8-1.3 HARASSMENT - STUDENTS

Policy Statement

The School Board of the City of Richmond is committed to maintaining a learning environment free from harassment of any kind. Therefore, the School Board prohibits sexual harassment and harassment based on race, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression (collectively “harassment”) of any student at school or any school sponsored activity.

It shall be a violation of this policy for any student to harass a student or school personnel sexually or based on the above-stated characteristics. Further, it shall be a violation of this policy for any school personnel to tolerate harassment of any kind by students.

For the purpose of this policy, school personnel includes school board members, school employees, agents, volunteers, contractors or other persons subject to the supervision and control of the School Board and Richmond Public Schools.

The school division shall: (1) promptly investigate all complaints, written or verbal, of harassment; (2) promptly take appropriate action to stop any harassment and (3) take appropriate action against any student or school personnel who violates this policy and take any other action reasonably calculated to end and prevent further harassment of students.