

STUDENT CONDUCT

The standards of student conduct are designed to define the basic rules and major expectations of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School students. It is the responsibility of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board to adopt policy and regulations and the administration to issue regulations establishing rules of conduct for student behavior in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of its students. The director has the responsibility and authority to exercise reasonable judgment in enforcing this Code of Conduct. The director is responsible for ensuring that all students, staff members, and parent/legal guardian(s)/legal guardian(s) are provided the opportunity to become familiar with this policy.

The director shall issue Standards of Student Conduct, and a list of possible corrective actions for violation of the Standards of Conduct. Each parent/legal guardian/legal guardian of a Maggie L. Walker Governor's School student has a duty to assist the school in enforcing the standards of student conduct and the compulsory school attendance law in order that education may be conducted in an atmosphere free of disruption and threat to persons or property, and supportive of individual rights. The Standards of Student Conduct, a notice of the requirements of Va. Code § 22.1-279.3, and a copy of the compulsory school attendance law shall be provided to all parent/legal guardians/legal guardians within one calendar month of the opening of school simultaneously with any other materials customarily distributed at that time. A statement for a parent/legal guardian's/legal guardian's signature acknowledging the receipt of the Standards of Student Conduct, the requirements of Va. Code § 22.1-279.3, and the compulsory school attendance law shall also be provided. Parent/legal guardians/legal guardians shall be notified that by signing the statement of receipt, parent/legal guardian they are not deemed to waive, but expressly reserve, their rights protected by the constitution or laws of the United States or Virginia. The school shall maintain records of the signed statements.

The director may request the student's parent/legal guardian /legal guardian or parent/legal guardians/legal guardians, if both have legal and physical custody, to meet with the director or his/her designee to review the Regional School Board's Standards of Student Conduct and the parent/legal guardian's/legal guardian's or parent/legal guardians'/legal guardians' responsibility to participate with the school in disciplining the student and maintaining order, to ensure the student's compliance with compulsory school attendance law, and to discuss improvement of the child's behavior, school attendance, and educational progress. The administrators of the school should exercise reasonable judgment and consider the circumstances in determining the disciplinary action to be administered.

Each student has the right to expect an educational environment in which he or she can strive to achieve his or her intellectual potential. The student is expected to attend school regularly, be diligent in his/her studies, and conduct him/herself in such a way that the rights and privileges of others are not violated. The student is expected to accept and to demonstrate the obligation of good citizenship in order to help prevent problems from happening and to help solve problems if they occur.

All parent/legal guardians/legal guardians are expected to assume responsibility for the student's behavior and to assist the school in enforcing the Standards of Student Conduct and compulsory school attendance law. Parent/legal guardians/legal guardians are also expected to maintain regular communication with school authorities, monitor and require daily attendance, and bring to the attention of the school authorities any problem that affects the student or other

children in the school. It is the parent/legal guardians'/legal guardians' responsibility to notify the school of any unusual behavior pattern or medical problem that might lead to serious difficulties.

The director may notify the parent/legal guardians/legal guardians of any student who violates a Regional School Board policy or the compulsory school attendance requirements when such violation could result in the student's suspension or the filing of a court petition, whether or not the school administration has imposed such disciplinary action or filed such a petition. The notice shall state (1) the date and particulars of the violation; (2) the obligation of the parent/legal guardian to take actions to assist the school in improving the student's behavior and/or ensuring compliance with compulsory school attendance; (3) that, if the student is suspended, the parent/legal guardian may be required to accompany the student to meet with school officials, and (4) in certain cases the notice may also state) that a petition with the juvenile and domestic relations court may be filed to declare the student a child in need of supervision.

The director or his/her designee shall notify the parent/legal guardian of any student involved in an incident required to be reported to the appropriate division superintendent and the Virginia Board of Education.

No suspended student shall be admitted to the school program until such student and his/her parent/legal guardian have met with school officials to discuss improvement of the student's behavior, unless the school director or his/her designee determines that readmission, without parent/legal guardian conference, is appropriate for the student.

If a parent/legal guardian fails to comply with the requirements of this policy, the Regional School Board may ask the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court to proceed against the parent/legal guardian in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Virginia.

Students are subject to corrective action for any misconduct that occurs:

- in school or on school property;
- on a school vehicle;
- while participating in or attending any school sponsored activity or trip;
- on the way to and from school; and
- off school property, when the acts lead to: (1) notification pursuant to Va. Code § 16.1-305.1 or a conviction for an offense listed in Va. Code § 16.1-260, ~~or~~ (2) a charge that would be a felony if committed by an adult, or (3) disruption of the learning environment.

Unlawful acts which will lead to police notification and may lead to suspension from classes, exclusion from activities or expulsion, including but not limited to:

- possession or use of alcohol, illegal drugs, including marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids as defined in Va. Code § 18.2-248.1:1, and anabolic steroids, or drug paraphernalia;
- selling drugs;
- assault/battery;
- sexual assault;
- arson;
- intentional injury (bullying, fighting);
- theft;

- bomb threats, including false threats, against school personnel or school property;
- use or possession of explosives (see Policy *TBD* Weapons in School);
- possession of weapons or firearms (see Policy *TBD* Weapons in School);
- extortion, blackmail, or coercion;
- driving without a license on school property;
- homicide;
- burglary;
- sex offenses (indecent exposure, obscene phone calls, sodomy and child molestation);
- malicious mischief;
- shooting;
- any illegal conduct involving firebombs, explosive or incendiary devices or materials, hoax explosive devices or chemical bombs;
- stabbing, cutting or wounding;
- unlawful interference with school authorities including threats;
- unlawful intimidation of school authorities; and
- other unlawful acts including being an accessory to any of these or other unlawful acts.

Any student involved in a reportable drug or violent incident shall participate in prevention and intervention activities deemed appropriate by the director or his/her designee. Further, any student who has been found to be in possession of or under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school property or at a school sponsored activity may be required to (1) undergo evaluation for drug or alcohol abuse and (2) participate in a drug and/or alcohol treatment program if recommended by the evaluator and if the parent/legal guardian consents.

The director shall issue regulations listing additional actions which may be cause for corrective action and if serious enough or exhibited repeatedly may lead to suspension or expulsion.

The Regional School Board shall biennially review the model student conduct code developed by the Board of Education to incorporate into policy a range of discipline options and alternatives to preserve a safe and non-disruptive environment for effective learning and teaching.

Adopted: January 22, 2015

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§16.1-260, 18.2-308.1, 18.2-308.7, 22.1-78, 22.1-200.1, 22.1-253.13:7.C.3; 22.1-254, 22.1-276.3, 22.1-277, 22.1-277.08, 22.1-277.2, 22.1-279.1, 22.1-279.3, 22.1-279.3:1, 22.1-279.6.

Cross Ref.: TBD Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse
 Pol No. 8032 Vandalism (*under development*)
 Pol No. 2065 Acceptable Computer System Use
 Pol 5011/8000 Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation
 TBD Corporal Punishment

Pol 8090	Student Suspension/Expulsion (<i>under development</i>)
TBD	Disciplining Students with Disabilities
TBD	Discipline of Students with Disabilities for Infliction of Serious Bodily Injury
Pol 4015	Student Fees, Fines and Charges (<i>under development</i>)