

## **ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

The Regional 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 school 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: August 15, 2019

Amended: August 19, 2021

Amended: March 21, 2024

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

Cross Ref.: Pol 3003.4 Religion in School