

## STUDENTS

A. Generally

Virginia law gives the school board the power to make reasonable rules for the government of the schools and to regulate the conduct of students while in school and while going to and returning from school.

B. Board and Parental Responsibility

The distinction between the responsibility that the school division has for students and the responsibility that parents have for their children is difficult to define in some situations in which students are not on school grounds and are not engaged in any school-sponsored activity, but are either traveling to or from school or school-sponsored activities or are maintaining the appearance of being a student of the division's schools.

The following guidelines shall apply:

1. Rules and regulations governing school-sponsored activities that occur off school property shall apply to all students who are either participants in the activity or are spectators. Such rules shall bear a reasonable relationship to the purpose and functions of the activity.
2. For situations in which students are off school property and are not associated with a school-sponsored activity, the school administration will exert its authority over students only insofar as the actions of such students could substantially disrupt the educational process in the schools or deprive other students of their right to an education both in the curricular and extracurricular program.
3. For all situations other than those covered in the above, the parents and legal guardians have full responsibility for their children. These situations where children are outside the scope of school authority include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. When a student leaves the school premises during lunch hour.
  - b. When a student absents himself from the school property during the regular day without authorization from a school official.

Legal Reference:

Code of Va., § 22.1-78. Bylaws and regulations.--"A school board may adopt bylaws and regulations, not inconsistent with State statutes and regulations of the Board of Education, for its own government, for the management of its official business and for the supervision of schools, including but limited to the proper discipline of students,

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### Extent of School Authority (continued)

including their conduct going to and returning from school." (1980)

Adopted by School Board: June 19, 1973

Revised by School Board: January 6, 1981