

STUDENTS

A. Student's Right to an Education

The State of Virginia, as provided for in Article VIII of the Constitution of Virginia, has established and must maintain a public school system. Except as specifically provided for in relevant chapters of the Virginia Code, all residents of the division between the ages of five and twenty are entitled to attend the public schools without charge.

B. Student Rights--Generally

Every elementary and secondary student in this school division will be guaranteed all the rights and freedoms as are applicable and provided by the Constitution of the United States.

Students may express their opinions so long as no evidence exists that they are materially and substantially interfering with appropriate discipline in the operation of the school and are not colliding with the rights of others.

Avenues of communication shall be open to students to discuss, with the administration and faculty, conditions affecting their welfare within each school.

C. General Responsibilities of Students When Asserting a Right to an Education

Along with the right to an education each student has two responsibilities;

1. To apply himself/herself to the best of his/her ability to gain maximum benefit from the educational opportunities guaranteed to citizens, and
2. To act in such a way as not to interfere with rights of others to the same opportunity.

Reasonable and necessary order in the educational institution itself is essential to the fostering and maintaining of educational opportunity. A student may forfeit his or her right to educational opportunities when conduct is such that it substantially disrupts the educational process and deprives others of their rights.

Adopted by School Board: September 17, 1974

Revised by School Board: January 6, 1981