

II. Parents' and Students' Rights and Responsibilities Related to Education

Non-Discrimination and Equal Educational Opportunities

The Culpeper County School Board is committed to nondiscrimination with regard to sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, status as a veteran, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law. This commitment prevails in all of its policies and practices concerning staff, students, educational programs and services, and individuals and entities with whom the Board does business. Inquiries regarding compliance may be addressed to the Executive Director of Special Education at 450 Radio Lane, Culpeper, VA 22701.

Opt Out (Decline) of Selected School Services and Programs

The Culpeper County School Board's policies and procedures allow parents/guardians to excuse their children from the requirements for the described portions of the programs and services listed below (Opt out). Parents/guardians must notify the school principal in writing if they desire to excuse their child from one or more of the programs or services listed below:

*** *Publication of Student Names and Photos***

Parents/guardians may request that the directory information not be released to the public. This will eliminate the child's name from being published for any reason, including honor roll. For a complete list of directory information, see page 9.

*** *Family Life Education***

Parents/guardians may use the opt out option for all or part of the Culpeper County Family Life Education Program. Copies of the program are available for review at each school and the School Board office. Parents/guardians are encouraged to review the complete program before exercising the opt out option.

*** *Guidance and Counseling Services***

The Culpeper County Public School System has a comprehensive counseling program for all students in grades K-12. The program is described in detail in the School Counseling Handbooks located in each school. The overall goal of the program is to assist students to achieve maximum growth in the academic/educational, personal/social and career development domains. Parents or guardians may choose the opt out provision of the School Board policy for all or part of the guidance and counseling program. While not necessary, parents considering "opt out" are encouraged to speak to the school counselor or principal before finalizing the decision. Parents wishing to exercise the "opt out" provision of the policy must do so in writing.

*** *Release of Information to Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Learning***

Federal law requires public schools to release the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and birthdates of juniors and seniors in high school to United States military recruiters and institutions of higher learning unless the parent (or student over age 18) declares in writing to not release such information. Please see the *Opt-Out Form* at the end of this booklet or the CCPS website.

*** *Student Health Services***

Parents/guardians may use the opt out option for Student Health Services. Parents/guardians considering opt out should discuss the specific implications for their child(ren) with the school principal or school health professional.

Pupil Privacy Protection Act (PPRA)

A parental consent must be obtained for a child to participate in or be provided provisions to opt out of certain school activities sponsored/funded by the U.S. Department of Education, such as student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the eight areas of protected information surveys listed below. This also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes and certain physical exams and screenings.

The eight areas of protected information surveys are: political affiliations or beliefs; mental or psychological problems; sex behavior or attitudes; illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior; critical appraisals of others; legally recognized privileged relationships; religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs; and income other than required by law.

Parents/legal guardians will be notified and provided provisions to opt out of participating in certain school surveys analysis, or evaluations sponsored/funded by sources other than the U. S. Department of Education. Parents/legal guardians and eligible students have the right to inspect any survey dealing with the eight areas of protected survey information, regardless of the funding source.

Right to Review Teacher Qualifications

As a parent of a student in Culpeper County Public Schools you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the Virginia Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the Virginia Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.
- If you would like to receive any of this information, please call your schools' principal.

Parental Involvement Policy

The Culpeper County Public School Board recognizes that the education of each student is a responsibility shared by the school and the student's family. The Culpeper County School Board endorses the parental involvement goals outlined in policies IGBC and IGBC-BR1 and encourages regular participation of parents of all children including those eligible for Title I and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) programs. Each school receiving Title I funds has a Title I Parent Advisory Board which all parents are invited to join.

Parental Responsibilities

**** Updated Information***

Parents have the responsibility to complete school registration and student health information forms completely and accurately. Parents are to notify the school office staff in writing of any changes in home address, phone contact, student health concerns, emergency contacts, transportation or custody changes.

**** Rights and Responsibilities of Non-Custodial Parents***

When parents of a student are estranged, separated, or divorced, all school personnel will respect the parental rights of both parents. Unless there is a court order to the contrary, both parents have the right: to view the child's school records; receive school progress reports; receive the school calendar and notices of major school events; visit the school; participate in parent-teacher conferences; receive all notifications in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and receive notice of the student's extended absence.

The custodial parent has the responsibility to provide the current address and phone number of the noncustodial parent at registration unless such address is unknown and the parent signs a statement to that effect. If a court order restricts the educational or contact rights of the noncustodial parent, the custodial parent must provide a copy of any legal document which restricts those rights.

At the request of a noncustodial parent, such parent will be included as an emergency contact for the student's activities unless a court order has been issued to the contrary. The noncustodial parent has the responsibility to keep the school office informed of changes in his or her current phone number and address.