

**STANDARDS
OF STUDENT
CONDUCT**

AND

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S)/ADULT STUDENT

ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS

**BLAND COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

SCHOOL YEAR 2008 - 2009

REVISED 2007

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)/Adult Student:

It is our intention that Bland County Public Schools provide Virginia's best education. That goal can only be achieved if parents, students, and educators work cooperatively to assure that your schools are safe and good places to learn.

The Standard of Student Conduct Handbook and Annual Notifications is designed to serve as a guide for you and your child. It is a source of information regarding student enrollment in school, attendance requirements, expectations for student behavior, and other important aspects of attending the Bland County Public Schools. A shared understanding of the materials contained here will help all of us move our schools toward excellence.

I encourage you to review the handbook with your son or daughter. Please contact your principal if you have any questions regarding information contained in the handbook.

Respectfully,

Donald W. Hodock
Division Superintendent

The Bland County School Board hereby advises the public that the Policy Manual is available for review in the school libraries, central office, public library and on line at www.bland.k12.va.us.

Bland County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Mrs. Sandra Harman, Supervisor of Special Services, Bland County School Board, 361 Bears Trl., Bastian, VA 24314, (276)688-3361.

PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT SUSPENSIONS (OUT OF SCHOOL) AND EXPULSIONS

The principal is authorized by the Code of Virginia (Sec. 22-230.1) to suspend students as a means of disciplinary action. The Bland County School Board authorizes the principal to suspend a student up to ten (10) days. Should the matter be settled with the student and his parents or guardian to the principal's satisfaction, the suspension may be revoked at that point.

In cases of extreme violation, a student may be suspended until the School Board meets at which time a recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the year will be made by the principal. Should such a situation arise, the School Board will be convened within a reasonable time after the suspension.

Steps involved in suspension and expulsion:

1. The student is informed by the principal of the decision to suspend, stating the cause and terms of the suspension. The student may be taken home immediately or allowed to remain at school for the duration of the school day.
2. The principal shall make every effort possible to contact the parent immediately of the suspension. A letter shall be sent to the parent with a copy to the Division Superintendent, describing the violation and conditions of the suspension.
3. Should the principal deem the violation(s) severe enough to warrant expulsion, he may suspend the student until the School Board meets, at which time the School Board shall act on the recommendation for expulsion.

Parents or a guardian dissatisfied with any disciplinary action imposed upon a student regarding violations of the standards of student conduct or attendance are directed to make their dissatisfaction known to the principal. Should the matter not be resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned, parents or a guardian have the right to request a hearing before the School Board. Such a request should be directed in writing to the Division Superintendent of Schools within five (5) school days after receiving the notice of suspension.

Bland County Public Schools

Every student has a right to a quality education in an environment that is conducive to learning and free of disruption. Conversely, every student has the responsibility not to deny that right to others. The Standards of Student Conduct have been formulated in order to encourage good citizenship and to discourage conduct that disrupts the work and discipline of the school or that adversely affects the health and welfare of the students. It is also meant to ensure that parents, students, and school personnel understand their rights and responsibilities in regard to student conduct and to standardize procedures that will be used in responding to specific disciplinary problems.

Students are subject to these standards at all times while they are under the jurisdiction of the school division, including, but not limited to, such times as they are: (1) on school property during school hours, (2) waiting for the school bus at designated bus stops, (3) going to and from school, (4) on the school bus, or (5) participating in or attending school-sponsored or school-related activities such as field trips, conferences, athletic events, and dances, and/or off school property when the acts lead to a violation as listed in § 16.1-305.1. of the Code of Virginia.

The following is a list of the types of misconduct which shall result in disciplinary action. It is generally descriptive of the more obvious types of misconduct, but should not be construed as an exclusive list or as a limitation upon the authority of the School Board or school officials to deal with other types of conduct which interfere with the proper functioning of the schools. If the disciplinary action results in suspension of any kind for any length of time, the student shall not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular activities such as field trips, conferences, dances, and athletic events for the term of suspension. As an initial or first-time violation, consequences for a serious violation and repeated violations are described. In determining which of the disciplinary consequences is most appropriate the principal or other persons shall consider such factors as the nature and seriousness of the violation, the student's age and maturity, previous disciplinary record and any other relevant circumstances.

For each violation of the standards of Student Conduct the principal may notify the student's parents or guardian, and in the case of suspension may require a conference with the parents or guardian prior to readmission when he deems such a conference necessary. The principal may refer any student violating the Standards of Student Conduct to a school guidance counselor, the Youth Services Officer of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for Bland County, and/or School Resource Officer.

The Superintendent reserves the authority, either on the recommendation of the principal, or on his own initiative, to impose or recommend to the School Board, as the case may be, the suspension of a student for any length of time, or to recommend expulsion, when in his opinion of the circumstances surrounding the violation warrant a consequence more severe than that stated in the Standards or imposed by the principal or other persons, regardless of whether the violation is an initial or a repeated violation. The School Board reserves the final authority in all disciplinary matters.

Corporal punishment is prohibited by state law.

School personnel may (1) use incidental, minor or reasonable physical contact or other actions designed to maintain order and control; (2) the use of reasonable and necessary force to quell a disturbance or remove a student from the scene of a disturbance which threatens physical injury to the persons or damage to the property; (3) The use of reasonable and necessary force to prevent a student from inflicting physical harm on himself; (4) the use of reasonable and necessary force for self-defense or the defense of others; or (5) the use of reasonable and necessary force to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects or controlled substances or paraphernalia which are upon the person of the student or within his control.

STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT

1. DEFIANCE OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL'S AUTHORITY

Students shall not violate any oral or written instructions made by school personnel within the scope of their authority.

2. UNEXCUSED ABSENCE OR TARDINESS

Except as otherwise provided by statute, all residents of Bland County between the ages of 5 and 20 are entitled to attend the free public schools of the county and are entitled to the same education opportunities as outlined in 22.1-354 of the Code of Virginia.

Compulsory school attendance is required for all children who have reached their fifth birthday by September 30 and who have not passed their eighteenth birthday. The entrance level into Bland County Schools is kindergarten level.

This policy shall not apply to a child who has reached his/her fifth birthday but not his/her sixth birthday by September 30 if the parent or guardian has notified the school board that they do not wish their child to attend school until the following year.

Students are expected to remain in school for the entire day unless they are ill, have a true family emergency, or have an extenuating circumstance which warrants the school principal's approval of the absence. Valid parent notes of explanation for the student's absence will be necessary for absence not verified by a medical doctor's statement. Under 22.1-258 of the Code of Virginia, whenever any student is absent three (3) consecutive school days, or a total of five (5) school days per month, or an aggregate of seven (7) school days per 45 day period without written notice from the parent, the principal is required to make a written request for the parent/guardian's verification of the absences. Failure by the parent/guardian to honor this request may result in the parent being charged with a misdemeanor (22.1-263, The Code of Virginia).

Elementary guidelines are as follows: After three (3) absences, the teacher or principal will make a phone call or send a letter to the parent, guardian, or designee reminding them of the importance of good attendance. A log will be kept of all contacts. After six (6) absences, the principal and teacher will have a meeting with the School-Based Attendance Committee, student, parent or guardian to develop a written plan and take action. A record of the meeting will be maintained in the student's scholastic record. After ten (10) absences and after the School-Based Attendance Committee has exhausted all efforts to correct the attendance issues, the student may be referred to the 27th District Court Service Unit for action. At the discretion of the principal, exceptions may be made because of justified extenuating circumstances.

Early Check-Out/Tardiness/Perfect Attendance

A student must be present a minimum of one-half (1/2) day in order to be counted present for that day. A total of eight (8) tardies will be counted as one (1) day absence. These absences will be considered when determining Perfect Attendance.

The Superintendent will develop regulations implementing this policy.

3. DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

Students shall not engage in conduct short of physical violence that is or is intended to be disruptive of any school activity, function or the process of the school or is dangerous to the health or safety of others.

4. PROFANE OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE OR CONDUCT

Students shall not use vulgar, profane, or obscene language, or gestures, or engage in conduct that is vulgar, profane, or obscene, or disrupts the teaching and learning environment.

5. BUS-RELATED CONDUCT

Students are required to conduct themselves on school buses in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Students who become disciplinary problems on school buses shall be reported to the principal by the driver and may have their riding privileges suspended. Students are also subject to the same disciplinary action as would be prescribed had the behavior occurred at school.

The students must recognize the bus driver is the authority on the bus. Obey the bus driver and be courteous to him or her and to fellow students. The driver has authority to assign seats to maintain discipline or promote safety.

Students shall:

Go directly to a seat, seating themselves from rear to front, and remain seated until directed by the driver to do otherwise.

Not extend arms, legs, or head out of bus.

Not tamper with the emergency door.

Not wave or shout at pedestrians or passengers in other vehicles.

Not throw objects about the bus or from a window or throw objects at the bus from the outside.

Not carry on the bus oversized objects that would block the aisle, cause loss of passenger seat space, obstruct the driver's view or create a safety hazard. Objects will be permitted only if they can be held in the pupil's lap.

Not sell or consume food or beverages.

Not sit on textbooks or other objects. Standing in the aisle in **not permitted.**

Have written request from parents to an alternate route subject to approval of school principal. Bus driver will be notified by the school office when approval is given to a student to change bus trip.

Be aware that no change will be made in the location of stops or bus turning without the approval of the transportation supervisor.

Ride the bus to which assigned. No change in a bus may be made without the permission of the school principal and/or transportation supervisor.

GENERAL: The Code of Virginia Section 22.1-176 states in part, that "County School Boards may provide for the transportation of pupils, but nothing herein contained shall be construed as requiring such transportation." Bland County Public Schools' Policy provides, in part, that "Daily bus service shall be provided for all elementary pupils living in excess of one and one-half miles from school." Elementary students eligible for transportation may be required to walk up to one mile to reach a bus stop. High school students eligible for transportation may be required to walk up to one and one-half miles to reach a bus stop. Other transportation will be provided at the discretion of the School

Board." These rules are furnished as information for all pupils who ride Bland County Public School buses whether daily on regular runs or only on field trips and for their parents.

While waiting for the bus, students should:

- Be on time. Be at their bus stop at least five minutes before the regular pickup time, but no earlier than 10 minutes before. Remain at the stop until the bus driver arrives.
- Not stand on the traveled portion of the roadway while waiting for the bus.
- Not engage in play or other activities that will endanger themselves or their companions while waiting beside the road.
- Not run along side a moving bus, but wait until it has stopped, then walk to the front door.
- Board bus in an orderly fashion.
- Report immediately to the driver an illness or injury sustained on or around the bus.

6. DRESS STANDARDS

All students are expected to dress appropriately for a K-12 educational environment. Any clothing that interferes with or disrupts the educational environment is unacceptable. Clothing with language or images that are vulgar, discriminatory, or obscene, or clothing that promotes illegal or violent conduct, such as the unlawful use of weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or drug paraphernalia, or clothing that contains threats such as gang symbols is prohibited.

Clothing should fit, be neat and clean, and conform to standards of safety, good taste, and decency. Clothing that exposes cleavage, private parts, the midriff, or undergarments, or that is otherwise sexually provocative, is prohibited. Examples of prohibited clothing include, but are not limited to: sagging or low-cut pants, low-cut necklines that show cleavage, tube tops, halter tops, backless blouses or blouses with only ties in the back, clothing constructed of see-through materials, and head coverings unless required for religious or medical purposes.

Additionally, disciplinary action will be taken against any student taking part in gang-related activities that are disruptive to the school environment, which include the display of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, tattoo, or manner of grooming that, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, or any other attribute, denotes membership in a gang that advocates illegal or disruptive behavior.

Parents of students requiring accommodation for religious beliefs, disabilities, or other good causes should contact the principal. Students not complying with this code will be asked to cover the noncomplying clothing, change clothes, or go home. Repeated infractions will result in disciplinary action.

7. PROPERTY OFFENSES

The following violations shall result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the principal and may require a report to local law enforcement authorities:

- Willful causing or attempting to cause damage to school property
- Theft of, taking, or trying to take another person's property or money by force, fear, or other means
- Vandalism, arson, or any threat or false threat to bomb, burn, damage, or destroy in any manner a school building or school property

A student (or the student's parent) shall be required to reimburse the school board for any actual loss of, breakage or, destruction of, or failure to return property owned by or under the control of the school board caused or committed by such student.

8. ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS

A student may not possess, use, or distribute alcohol, tobacco and/or tobacco products, and other drugs on school grounds, on school buses, or during school activities, on or off school property. This includes, but may not be limited to, smokeless tobacco, anabolic steroids, look-alike drugs, drug paraphernalia, and any drug not prescribed for the student by a physician.

For an initial violation, the parents, police or juvenile authorities shall be notified. Out-of-school suspension shall be assigned for not less than ten days.

For serious or repeated violations, the student shall be suspended out of school for any length of time or expulsion may be recommended. Parents, law enforcement and/or juvenile authorities shall be notified.

Any student who possesses or uses prohibited substances may participate in prevention and intervention activities deemed appropriate by the superintendent.

For sale or distribution of alcohol, illegal drugs or imitation controlled substance, the student shall be recommended for expulsion. Parents, law enforcement, and/or juvenile authorities shall be notified.

9. ASSAULT AND BATTERY

The following violations shall result in disciplinary action and may require mandatory sanctions:

- Threatening or physically assaulting another student or another person (other than a staff member) who has reason to be at school, whether or not causing injury, shall result in disciplinary measures up to and including a 10-day suspension and a recommendation for expulsion.
- Physically assaulting a school staff member shall result in suspension from school for up to 10 days, and the principal may recommend expulsion. In the event of injury to the staff member, expulsion shall be recommended.
- Law enforcement will be involved as appropriate and necessary.

10. FIGHTING

Exchanging mutual physical contact between two or more students by pushing, shoving, or hitting with or without injury is prohibited. Appropriate discipline will be administered to all individuals involved.

11. BULLYING

Students, either individually or as part of a group, shall not harass or bully others. The following conduct is illustrative of bullying:

- Physical intimidation, taunting, name calling, and insults
- Comments regarding the race, gender, religion, physical abilities or characteristics of associates of the targeted person
- Falsifying statements about other persons
- Use of technology such as e-mail, text messages, or Web sites to defame or harm others.

12. STALKING

Students shall not engage in a pattern of behavior that places another person in fear of serious harm.

13. GANG RELATED ACTIVITY

Gang-related activity will not be tolerated. Symbols of gang membership are expressly prohibited.

14. BOMB THREATS

Students shall not engage in any illegal conduct involving firebombs, explosive or incendiary materials or devices, or chemical bombs as defined in the Code of Virginia. Moreover, students shall not make any threats or false threats to bomb other students, school personnel or property.

15. SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcomed verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Any such conduct should be reported immediately to a teacher or principal.

16. COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Students may possess a laser pointer, beeper, cellular telephone, Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), any device capable of receiving or transmitting text messages, or other communications device on school property, including school buses, provided that the device must remain off and out of sight during instructional time. If a student possesses such a device other than as permitted in this policy, in addition to other disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed, the device may be confiscated from the student and returned only to the student's parent.

17. POSSESSION OR USE OF WEAPONS

Students shall not have in their possession any type of unauthorized firearm or other article which may be used as a weapon.

18. HAZING

No student shall engage in hazing. Hazing means to recklessly and intentionally endanger the health or safety of a student or students or to inflict bodily harm on a student or students in connection with or for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for, continued membership in a club, organization, association, fraternity, sorority, or student body, regardless of whether the student or students so endangered or injured participated voluntarily in the activity. Hazing is a Class 1 misdemeanor which may be punished by confinement in jail for up to 12 months and a fine of up to \$2500, or both, in addition to any disciplinary consequences which may be imposed. In addition, any person receiving bodily injury by hazing has a right to sue, civilly, the person or persons guilty thereof, whether adults or minors. The principal of any school at which hazing which causes bodily injury occurs shall report the hazing to the local Commonwealth Attorney.

19. TRESPASSING

A student shall not trespass on school property or use school facilities without proper authority or permission, or during a period of suspension or expulsion. All visitors to a school or its grounds shall report to the main office immediately. Persons who fail to do so may be considered trespassers and subject to legal action, and student visitors who

fail to do so also may be subject to disciplinary action as well as legal action. Any person whose presence or action interferes with or disrupts the operation of the school, its students, or school activities shall be prohibited from entering school or remaining on school property or remaining at a school-sponsored activity, wherever located.

20. OTHER CONDUCT

In addition to those specific standards, students shall not engage in any conduct which materially and substantially disrupts the ongoing educational process or which is otherwise in violation of federal, state, or local law.

21. GAMBLING

Students shall not play, participate in or bet, for money or other things of value, on any game in which the outcome is uncertain or a matter of chance.

22. STEALING, EXTORTION

A student shall not intentionally take the personal property of another person without his or her consent or commit extortion or coercion of property from another, including money or other objects of value.

23. CHEATING

Students shall not cheat, plagiarize or knowingly make false statements with respect to any assigned school work or tests.

24. POSSESSION, EXHIBITION OR DISSEMINATION OF OBSCENE LITERATURE OR MATERIALS/INTERNET USE

Students shall not possess, exhibit, disseminate, or electronically access obscene literature or materials.

25. VERBAL ABUSE

A student shall not engage in verbal abuse of others, for example name calling, ethnic or racial slurs, or derogatory statements publicly addressed to others that may precipitate disruption of the school program or incite violence.

26. VIOLATION OF LOCAL SCHOOL RULES

The principal of each local school in the Bland County School System, upon the review and approval of the Superintendent has the authority to promulgate and publish conduct rules for his/her school in addition to those stated herein.

27. REPEATED MINOR VIOLATIONS

28. IMPROPER OR RECKLESS USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Any student observed operating a vehicle in an unsafe manner while under jurisdiction of the school will be subject to disciplinary measures.

29. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH DISCIPLINARY MEASURES AS IMPOSED BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

1. Suspension from class - Immediate removal of student from class.
2. Suspension from privileges - Range from loss of recess in elementary school to driving privileges and extracurricular activities in secondary school
3. Assigned activities - Range from written assignments to clean-up of school property.
4. Parent / Teacher conference.
5. In-school suspension - student remains in school but is isolated from other students and is restricted from normal school activities. The student is to receive academic assignments and instructions from his/her teacher.
6. In-school suspension (4 - 6 days)
7. After school detention - Students may be detained after school for a length of time to be determined by the Principal.
8. Out of school suspension (up to 10 days) - Determined by school Principal.
9. Out of school suspension (more than 10 days) - Recommended by principal, determined by School Board to range from more than 10 days to the rest of the school year.
10. Court petition - School request court action in requiring compliance with school policy.
11. Expulsion - Permanent cessation of enrollment—determined by School Board.

TO: ALL PARENTS

FROM: Bland County Public Schools

As a parent of a student enrolled in Bland 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:

1. Whether Virginia Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches;
2. Whether 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;
3. The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees; and
4. 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 contact Debbie French at (276) 688-3361 or by mail request at Bland County Public Schools, 361 Bears Trl., Bastian, VA 24314.

Note: In addition, Bland County Public Schools will notify parents in writing if a teacher who is not highly qualified has taught their child for four or more weeks.

**BLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)**

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records.

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the school division receives a request for access. Parent or eligible students should submit to the Principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask Bland County Public Schools to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school division decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school division will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their rights to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s record, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the division as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the division has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school division discloses education records without consent to officials of another school division in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school division to comply with the requirement of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

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TYPES OF RECORDS: Records which include cumulative and confidential information comprised with a student's official school record.

LOCATION: Scholastic records shall be kept in the Administrative Offices of each individual school.

INFORMATION INCLUDED: Any record maintained by Bland County Public Schools which is directly related to a student except:

5. A personal record kept by a staff member if it is kept in the sole possession of the maker of the record and is not accessible or revealed to another person except a temporary substitute for the maker of the record.
6. Records created and maintained by the Bland County Public Schools for law enforcement purposes.
7. An employment record which is used only in relation to a student's employment by the Bland County Public Schools.
8. Alumni records which contain information about a student after he or she is no longer in attendance in Bland County Public Schools and which do not relate to a person as a student.

These include name, address (student and parent), birthday, program of studies plan, scholastic work completed, level of achievement (grades, grade point average), type of diploma, attendance, test data, cumulative health record, immunization record, record of employment counseling and placement, social security number (or waiver), other school related information and a registration document concerning expulsion and school discipline reports. And where appropriate, record of referral, reports of assessment, permission for testing and initial placement, minutes of eligibility committee findings, report of annual review, individualized education program (IEP).

RECORDS RESPONSIBILITY: The principal of each school shall be responsible for the maintenance of the education records, but may be assisted by designees.

Bland High School
31 Rocket Drive
Bland, VA 24315

Rocky Gap High School
P.O. Box 9
Rocky Gap, VA 24366

Bland Elementary School
31 Rocket Drive
Bland, VA 24315

Rocky Gap Elementary School
P.O. Box 339
Rocky Gap, VA 24366

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DIRECTORY INFORMATION PUBLIC NOTICE

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Bland County Public Schools, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Bland County Public Schools may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow Bland County Public Schools to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories - names, addresses and telephone listings - unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.⁽¹⁾

If you do not want Bland County Public Schools to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing within 15 days. Bland County Public Schools has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended

Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)-

1. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
2. Sex behavior or attitudes;
3. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
4. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
5. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
6. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
7. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of -

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

Inspect, upon request and before administration or use -

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

Bland County Public Schools has policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. Bland County Public Schools will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. Bland County Public Schools will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. Bland County Public Schools will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-5901

§ 22.1-279.3. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND INVOLVEMENT REQUIREMENTS.

A. Each parent of a student enrolled in a public school has a duty to assist the school in enforcing the standards of student conduct and compulsory school attendance in order that education may be conducted in an atmosphere free of disruption and threat to persons or property, and supportive of individual rights.

B. A school board shall provide opportunities for parental and community involvement in every school in the school division.

C. Within one calendar month of the opening of school, each school board shall, simultaneously with any other materials customarily distributed at that time, send to the parents of each enrolled student (i) a notice of the requirements of this section; (ii) a copy of the school board's standards of student conduct; and (iii) a copy of the compulsory school attendance law. These materials shall include a notice to the parents that by signing the statement of receipt, parents shall not be deemed to waive, but to expressly reserve, their rights protected by the constitutions or laws of the United States or the Commonwealth and that a parent shall have the right to express disagreement with a school's or school division's policies or decisions.

Each parent of a student shall sign and return to the school in which the student is enrolled a statement acknowledging the receipt of the school board's standards of student conduct, the notice of the requirements of this section, and the compulsory school attendance law. Each school shall maintain records of such signed statements.

D. The school principal may request the student's parent or parents, if both parents have legal and physical custody of such student, to meet with the principal or his designee to review the school board's standards of student conduct and the parent's or parents' 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.

E. In accordance with the due process procedures set forth in this article and the guidelines required by § [22.1-279.6](#), the school principal may notify the parents of any student who violates a 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 a petition. The notice shall state (i) the date and particulars of the violation; (ii) the obligation of the parent to take actions to assist the school in improving the student's behavior and ensuring compulsory school attendance compliance; (iii) that, if the student is suspended, the parent may be required to accompany the student to meet with school officials; and (iv) that a petition with the juvenile and domestic relations court may be filed under certain circumstances to declare the student a child in need of supervision.

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

G. Upon the failure of a parent to comply with the provisions of this section, the school board may, by petition to the juvenile and domestic relations court, proceed against such parent for

willful and unreasonable refusal to participate in efforts to improve the student's behavior or school attendance, as follows:

1. If the court finds that the parent has willfully and unreasonably failed to meet, pursuant to a request of the principal as set forth in subsection D of this section, to review the school board's standards of student conduct and the parent's responsibility to assist the school in disciplining the student and maintaining order, and to discuss improvement of the child's behavior and educational progress, it may order the parent to so meet; or

2. If the court finds that a parent has willfully and unreasonably failed to accompany a suspended student to meet with school officials pursuant to subsection F, or upon the student's receiving a second suspension or being expelled, it may order the student or his parent, or both, to participate in such programs or such treatment, including, but not limited to, extended day programs, summer school, other educational programs and counseling, as the court deems appropriate to improve the student's behavior or school attendance. The order may also require participation in a parenting, counseling or a mentoring program, as appropriate or that the student or his parent, or both, shall be subject to such conditions and limitations as the court deems appropriate for the supervision, care, and rehabilitation of the student or his parent. In addition, the court may order the parent to pay a civil penalty not to exceed \$500.

H. The civil penalties established pursuant to this section shall be enforceable in the juvenile and domestic relations court in which the student's school is located and shall be paid into a fund maintained by the appropriate local governing body to support programs or treatments designed to improve the behavior of students as described in subdivision G 2. Upon the failure to pay the civil penalties imposed by this section, the attorney for the appropriate county, city, or town shall enforce the collection of such civil penalties.

I. All references in this section to the juvenile and domestic relations court shall be also deemed to mean any successor in interest of such court.

(1995, c. 852; 1996, c. 771; 2000, c. 538; 2001, cc. 688, 820; 2004, c. 573.)

§ 22.1-254. Compulsory attendance required; excuses and waivers; alternative education program attendance; exemptions from article.

A. Except as otherwise provided in this article, every parent, guardian, or other person in the Commonwealth having control or charge of any child who will have reached the fifth birthday on or before September 30 of any school year and who has not passed the eighteenth birthday shall, during the period of each year the public schools are in session and for the same number of days and hours per day as the public schools, send such child to a public school or to a private, denominational, or parochial school or have such child taught by a tutor or teacher of qualifications prescribed by the Board of Education and approved by the division superintendent, or provide for home instruction of such child as described in **§ 22.1-254.1**.

As prescribed in the regulations of the Board of Education, the requirements of this section may also be satisfied by sending a child to an alternative program of study or work/study offered by a public, private, denominational, or parochial school or by a public or private degree-granting institution of higher education. Further, in the case of any five-year-old child who is subject to the provisions of this subsection, the requirements of this section may be alternatively satisfied by sending the child to any public educational pre-kindergarten program, including a Head Start program, or in a private, denominational, or parochial educational pre-kindergarten program.

Instruction in the home of a child or children by the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of such child or children shall not be classified or defined as a private, denominational or parochial school.

The requirements of this section shall apply to (i) any child in the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice or the Department of Corrections who has not passed his eighteenth birthday and (ii) any child whom the division superintendent has required to take a special program of prevention, intervention, or remediation as provided in subsection C of § 22.1-253.13:1 and in **§ 22.1-254.01**. The requirements of this section shall not apply to (a) any person 16 through 18 years of age who is housed in an adult correctional facility when such person is actively pursuing a general educational development (GED) certificate but is not enrolled in an individual student alternative education plan pursuant to subsection D, and (b) any child who has obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent, a certificate of completion, or a GED certificate, or who has otherwise complied with compulsory school attendance requirements as set forth in this article.

B. A school board shall excuse from attendance at school:

1. Any pupil who, together with his parents, by reason of bona fide religious training or belief is conscientiously opposed to attendance at school. For purposes of this subdivision, "bona fide religious training or belief" does not include essentially political, sociological or philosophical views or a merely personal moral code; and

2. On the recommendation of the juvenile and domestic relations district court of the county or city in which the pupil resides and for such period of time as the court deems appropriate, any pupil who, together with his parents, is opposed to attendance at a school by reason of concern for such pupil's health, as verified by competent medical evidence, or by reason of such pupil's reasonable apprehension for personal safety when such concern or apprehension in that pupil's specific case is determined by the court, upon consideration of the recommendation of the principal and division superintendent, to be justified.

C. A school board may excuse from attendance at school:

1. On recommendation of the principal and the division superintendent and with the written consent of the parent or guardian, any pupil who the school board determines, in accordance with regulations of the Board of Education, cannot benefit from education at such school; or

2. On recommendation of the juvenile and domestic relations district court of the county or city in which the pupil resides, any pupil who, in the judgment of such court, cannot benefit from education at such school.

D. Local school boards may allow the requirements of subsection A of this section to be met under the following conditions:

For a student who is at least 16 years of age, there shall be a meeting of the student, the student's parents, and the principal or his designee of the school in which the student is enrolled in which an individual student alternative education plan shall be developed in conformity with guidelines prescribed by the Board, which plan must include:

- a. Career guidance counseling;
- b. Mandatory enrollment and attendance in a general educational development preparatory program or other alternative education program approved by the local school board with attendance requirements that provide for reporting of student attendance by the chief administrator of such GED preparatory program or approved alternative education program to such principal or his designee;
- c. Counseling on the economic impact of failing to complete high school; and
- d. Procedures for reenrollment to comply with the requirements of subsection A of this section.

A student for whom an individual student alternative education plan has been granted pursuant to this subsection and who fails to comply with the conditions of such plan shall be in violation of the compulsory school attendance law, and the division superintendent or attendance officer of the school division in which such student was last enrolled shall seek immediate compliance with the compulsory school attendance law as set forth in this article.

Students enrolled with an individual student alternative education plan shall be counted in the average daily membership of the school division.

E. A school board may, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article 3 (§ 22.1-276.01 et seq.) of Chapter 14 of this title and upon a finding that a school-age child has been (i) charged with an offense relating to the Commonwealth's laws, or with a violation of school board policies, on weapons, alcohol or drugs, or intentional injury to another person; (ii) found guilty or not innocent of a crime that resulted in or could have resulted in injury to others, or of an offense that is required to be disclosed to the superintendent of the school division pursuant to subsection G of § 16.1-260; (iii) suspended pursuant to § 22.1-277.05; or (iv) expelled from school attendance pursuant to § 22.1-277.06 or § 22.1-277.07 or subsection B of § 22.1-277, require the child to attend an alternative education program as provided in § 22.1-209.1:2 or § 22.1-277.2:1.

F. Whenever a court orders any pupil into an alternative education program, including a program of general educational development, offered in the public schools, the local school board of the school division in which the program is offered shall determine the appropriate alternative education placement of the pupil, regardless of whether the pupil attends the public schools it supervises or resides within its school division.

The juvenile and domestic relations district court of the county or city in which a pupil resides or in which charges are pending against a pupil, or any court in which charges are pending against a pupil, may require the pupil who has been charged with (i) a crime that resulted in or could have resulted in injury to others, (ii) a violation of Article 1 (§ 18.2-77 et seq.) of Chapter 5 of Title 18.2, or (iii) any offense related to possession or distribution of any Schedule I, II, or III controlled substances to attend an alternative education program, including, but not limited to, night school, adult education, or any other education program designed to offer instruction to students for whom the regular program of instruction may be inappropriate.

This subsection shall not be construed to limit the authority of school boards to expel, suspend, or exclude students, as provided in §§ 22.1-277.04, 22.1-277.05, 22.1-277.06, 22.1-277.07, and 22.1-277.2. As used in this subsection, the term "charged" means that a petition or warrant has been filed or is pending against a pupil.

G. Within one calendar month of the opening of school, each school board shall send to the parents or guardian of each student enrolled in the division a copy of the compulsory school attendance law and the enforcement procedures and policies established by the school board.

H. The provisions of this article shall not apply to:

1. Children suffering from contagious or infectious diseases while suffering from such diseases;
2. Children whose immunizations against communicable diseases have not been completed as provided in § 22.1-271.2;
3. Children under 10 years of age who live more than two miles from a public school unless public transportation is provided within one mile of the place where such children live;
4. Children between the ages of 10 and 17, inclusive, who live more than 2.5 miles from a public school unless public transportation is provided within 1.5 miles of the place where such children live; and
5. Children excused pursuant to subsections B and C of this section.

Further, any child who will not have reached his sixth birthday on or before September 30 of each school year whose parent or guardian notifies the appropriate school board that he does not wish the child to attend school until the following year because the child, in the opinion of the parent or guardian, is not mentally, physically, or emotionally prepared to attend school, may delay the child's attendance for one year.

The distances specified in subdivisions 3 and 4 of this subsection shall be measured or determined from the child's residence to the entrance to the school grounds or to the school bus stop nearest the entrance to the residence of such children by the nearest practical routes which are usable for walking or riding. Disease shall be established by the certificate of a reputable practicing physician in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board of Education.

(Code 1950, § 22-275.1; 1952, c. 279; 1959, Ex. Sess., c. 72; 1968, c. 178; 1974, c. 199; 1976, cc. 681, 713; 1978, c. 518; 1980, c. 559; 1984, c. 436; 1989, c. 515; 1990, c. 797; 1991, c. 295; 1993, c. 903; 1996, cc. 163, 916, 964; 1997, c. 828; 1999, cc. 488, 552; 2000, c. 184; 2001, cc. 688, 820; 2003, c. 119; 2004, c. 251; 2006, c. 335.)

**PARENTAL/STUDENT STATEMENT OF
RECEIPT OF NOTICE OF REQUIREMENTS
OF VIRGINIA CODE 22.1-279.3 AND
SCHOOL BOARD'S
STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT
AND PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S)/ADULT STUDENT
ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS**

SCHOOL YEAR 2008 – 2009

I am the parent/guardian of the below named child and, by my signature, I acknowledge that I have received a copy of Section 22.1-279.3 of the Code of Virginia entitled “Parental Responsibility and Involvement Requirements”, and a copy of the Bland County School Board’s Standards of Student Conduct.

By signing this Statement of Receipt, I do not waive or abdicate, but do expressly reserve, any rights protected by the constitutions or laws of the United States or the Commonwealth of Virginia. I further understand that I have the right to express disagreement with the school’s or school division’s policies or decisions.

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Student if Age of Majority (18)

Name of Child

NOTICE

By signing the above statement or receipt, you shall not be deemed to waive, and you expressly reserve, your rights protected by the constitutions or laws of the United States or the Commonwealth, and you have the right to express disagreement with the school’s or school division’s policies or decisions.

