

VSBA Policy Updates over the past year contained numerous policy revisions. Here's a summary of some of the new and updated policies.

BBFA Conflict of Interests and Disclosure of Economic Interests

Changes to the policy reflect 2023 legislation specifying that

- Anyone who is required to file a Statement of Economic Interests cannot accept gifts valued at more than \$100 from foreign dignitaries who represent a foreign country of concern.
- Appointed school board members are required to get training on the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act (COIA). Elected school board members have been required to get COIA training for several years. Changes reflecting this new requirement were also made to **Policy BHB School Board Members In-Service Activities**.

BDDL Electronic Participation in Committee Meetings from Remote Locations

FOIA has different requirements relating to all-virtual meetings for school board committees and advisory committees than for school boards. If a board wants to permit its committees to conduct all-virtual meetings, there must be a policy addressing such meetings. This new, optional policy was written for boards that want to adopt a policy permitting school board committees and advisory committees to hold all-virtual meetings.

CBA Qualifications and Duties for the Superintendent

The policy now reflects the new requirement that the superintendent must annually designate a division employee to serve as the division safety official who is responsible for receiving reports of certain criminal charges and convictions against school board employees.

DB Annual Budget

The amount of required advance notice for the public hearing on the school board budget has been shortened from 10 days to seven days.

EBB Threat Assessment Teams

New members of threat assessment teams must complete threat assessment training. All team members must complete refresher training every three years.

GAB/IIBEA Acceptable Computer System Use

The February revisions added several types of devices to the list of examples of things included in the division's computer system and also added a provision stating that users of the system agree to indemnify the school board for any losses arising from violation of the policy or the Technology Use Guidelines developed by the superintendent. The May revisions reflect 2023 legislation that prohibits anyone using devices owned by the school board from downloading or using any application, including TikTok and WeChat, developed by certain named corporations.

GCBEB Military Leave and Benefits

The policy now reflects legislation which increases the amount of state-mandated paid military leave from 15 days to 21 days per federally funded tour of duty.

GCDA Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect

For the purposes of making employment decisions, convictions for the solicitation of any offense involving the sexual molestation or physical or sexual abuse or rape of a child are now treated the same way as convictions for the primary offense.

GCE Substitute Teachers

During the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years, long-term substitute teachers may fill a position for up to 180 days, rather than 90 days as has previously been the rule.

IIA Instructional Materials

This policy was updated to help school boards comply with 2022 legislation requiring each school board to adopt a policy consistent with model policies developed by the Virginia Department of Education ensuring parental notification of any instructional material that includes sexually explicit content. Each school board was required to have its local policy in place by January 1, 2023.

IKF The Virginia Assessment Program and Graduation Requirements

The policy reflects special rules designed to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of federal employees whose parents serve under orders pursuant to Title 22 or Title 50 of the United States Code. The rules require the superintendent to waive specific courses required for graduation under certain circumstances and to accept testing from the student's home state instead of tests usually required for graduation in Virginia.

JEC School Admission

Like Policy IKF, this policy now reflects special rules applicable to children whose parents are federal employees serving under orders pursuant to Title 22 or Title 50 of the United States Code. The special rules permit such students, who relocate because of a parent's job, to enroll in a school division to which they will relocate and register for classes and participate in extracurricular activities in the same manner as students who live in the division.

JECA Admission of Homeless Children

The policy now reflects an amendment to federal law which defines "homeless children" to include children experiencing trauma or impacted by domestic violence.

JFC Student Conduct

The principal is required to notify the parent of any student involved in an alleged incident of bullying within 24 hours of learning of the allegation of bullying.

LEB Advanced/Alternative Courses for Credit

Students participating in courses offered by institutions of higher education are permitted to exceed a full course load in order to participate in courses that lead to a degree, certificate, or credential at such institution.

If you have any questions about this Policy Page, please contact Elizabeth Ewing at 434-295-8722 or ewing@vsba.org.