

VIRGINIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

TITLE: Parental Rights and Responsibilities

POLICY NUMBER: G015

Policy Statement:

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind will respect the rights of parents/guardians in order to ensure a safe environment that is conducive to the educational process. The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind will inform parents of their rights and responsibilities regarding special education regulations and laws.

Procedure:

- A. Copies of the *Virginia Special Education Procedural Safeguard Requirements Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* will be given to all parents and students who have reached the age of majority annually (34 CFR 300.504), and with notification of triennial reviews and/or other testing. Parents/guardians may request a copy of this document at any time from the Principal's Office, Office of the Director of Instruction, or Superintendent's Office.
- B. Parents/guardians are expected to work cooperatively with the school to ensure a safe environment conducive to learning for their child and for all students. By teaching respect for school rules and regulations and by supporting the school's mission parents and guardians set a positive example and reinforce the importance of an education. Parental involvement is important for student success in all areas but it is critical in the area of student conduct.
- C. Parents/guardians have a duty to assist the school in enforcing the standards of conduct and 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. (VA Code §22.1-279.3).
- D. Parents/guardians and students must sign and return to school a statement acknowledging the requirements of the Code of Student Conduct and recognizing their responsibility to assist the school in disciplining the student and maintaining order.
- E. When parents of a student are estranged, separated, or divorced, all personnel will respect the parental rights of both parents. Unless there is a court order to the contrary, both parents have the right to:
 1. view the child's school records,
 2. receive school progress reports, the school calendar, and notices of major school events;

3. participate in school events;
4. participate in parent-teacher conferences;
5. receive all notifications in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and
6. receive notice of the student's extended absence, as defined in and pursuant, if both parents have joint physical custody.

F. The custodial parent or legal guardian has the responsibility to:

1. keep the school office informed of his or her current address and how he or she may be contacted at all times;
2. 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, or unless a court order restricts the educational or contact rights of the noncustodial parent; and
3. provide a copy of any legal document which restricts the educational and/or contact rights of the noncustodial parent.

G. The noncustodial parent has the responsibility to keep the school office apprised of changes in his or her current phone number and address. Further, the noncustodial parent may make timely requests to participate in parent-teacher conferences. 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.

<p>Rescission: Revised July 1, 2007; Revised September 16, 2015; BOV Approved 12/10/15</p>
