

982170128

HOUSE BILL NO. 431

Offered January 15, 1998

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-199.2, 22.1-209.1:4, 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:3, 22.1-253.13:7, 22.1-254.01, and 22.1-278 of the Code of Virginia, relating to excellence in the public schools of the Commonwealth.

Patrons—Bennett, Abbitt, Behm, Brink, Christian, Clement, Councill, Crittenden, Deeds, Diamonstein, Dillard, Grayson, Hull, Jackson, Johnson, Phillips, Plum, Puller, Scott, Stump, Tate, Van Landingham, Van Yahres and Watts; Senators: Couric and Reynolds

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 22.1-199.2, 22.1-209.1:4, 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-253.13:3, 22.1-253.13:7, 22.1-254.01, and 22.1-278 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-199.2. Standards for remediation programs established; reporting required.

A. The Board of Education shall establish standards for ~~remedial summer school~~ remediation programs, which shall be designed to strengthen and improve the effectiveness of such programs in increasing the scholastic achievement of students with academic deficiencies. Such standards shall require (i) an evaluation of the ~~remedial summer school~~ remediation program offered by the school division to assess such students' educational needs and program effectiveness, and (ii) that school divisions report, on such forms as may be required by the Board for such purpose, data pertaining to the demographic and educational characteristics of students who have been identified for remediation pursuant to subsection C of § 22.1-253.13:1, or subsection E of § 22.1-254, and § 22.1-254.01. Data submitted to the Board shall include, but not be limited to, the number of students failing the Literacy Passport Test, any or all components, for each administration of the test; *the number of students failing any Standards of Learning end-of-course assessments for grades three, five, and eight*; a demographic profile of the students attending such programs; the academic status of each such student; the types of instruction offered, the length of the program, and the local costs of the program; the number of ungraded and disabled students, and those with limited English proficiency (ESL); and the number of students failing the literacy tests *or the Standards of Learning end-of-course assessments for grades three, five, and eight* who attend ~~remedial summer school~~ remediation programs.

B. The Board of Education shall cause the collection, compilation, and analysis of the data required to be reported by local school divisions in subsection A of this section to accomplish a statewide review and evaluation of ~~remedial summer school~~ remediation programs. The Board shall report its analysis of the data submitted by school divisions and a statewide assessment of ~~remedial summer school~~ remediation programs, and any recommendations, to the Governor and the General Assembly annually, beginning on December 1, ~~1997~~1998.

§ 22.1-209.1:4. Virginia Innovative Remedial Education Pilot Program created.

A. With such funds as may be appropriated for this purpose, the Board of Education shall establish the Virginia Innovative Remedial Education Pilot Program (the "Program") to explore innovative options and instructional approaches for the remediation of students with academic deficiencies. On and after July 1, 1997, the Program shall consist of up to ten pilot projects located in regions throughout the Commonwealth to provide equitable geographical distribution of such projects. Grants for all such projects shall be awarded on a competitive basis to applicants responding to requests for proposals, giving priority to applicant school divisions that propose to explore creative alternatives and new, pedagogically sound instructional methods to address the following: (i) the educational needs of students who are educationally at-risk or who have failed the Literacy Passport Test *or the Standards of Learning end-of-course assessments for grades three, five, and eight*; (ii) students who have been identified for remediation pursuant to §§ 22.1-253.13:1, 22.1-254, and 22.1-254.01; or (iii) barriers to effective remediation of students with academic deficiencies. The Board of Education shall promulgate regulations for the implementation of the Program. The Board shall promulgate such regulations to be effective in 280 days or less of the enactment of this section.

B. Upon appropriation of funds for the purposes of this section, the Department of Education shall issue a request for proposals for projects to pilot creative alternatives and new, pedagogically sound instructional methods for remediating students. The first such grants shall be awarded by January 1, 1999. Applications for grants shall include the following components:

1. Specific, measurable goals and objectives and an evaluation component to determine the effectiveness of such innovative pilot projects in accelerating the academic achievement of participating

INTRODUCED

HB431

60 students, reducing the need for remediation, increasing the number of students who pass the Literacy
61 Passport Test *or the Standards of Learning end-of-course assessments for grades three, five, and eight*,
62 and reducing problems associated with poor student academic performance.

63 2. A plan for the attraction and participation of teachers specially trained to work with at-risk
64 students, and supportive administrators and staff.

65 3. A current program of staff development and training.

66 4. A procedure for obtaining the participation in and support for the pilot project by the pupil's
67 parent and his family.

68 5. A curriculum developed to accommodate new teaching strategies; student-initiated and group
69 learning; intensive, accelerated instruction designed to establish high standards and academic
70 achievement for participating students; mentoring and individual tutoring; and the use of manipulatives
71 and educational technology.

72 6. A low pupil-teacher ratio to promote a high level of interaction between the students and the
73 teacher.

74 7. A procedure for providing pretesting and post-testing and early intervention services at the fourth
75 grade level, and for disseminating the best educational practices resulting from such pilot projects.

76 8. The identification of and solutions to barriers to remediation, such as transportation, length of the
77 remedial summer school program, and attendant social and economic problems of students and their
78 families.

79 9. Community outreach to build strong school, business, and community partnerships; to develop
80 joint ventures and linkages between schools and institutions of higher education; to promote family
81 involvement in the educational process; and to emphasize local solutions to local problems.

82 10. The number of children who may be assigned to the pilot project.

83 11. A plan for transitioning the participating students into the relevant school division's regular
84 program, or into advanced-level classes.

85 C. The Board shall require submission of interim evaluation reports of each pilot project biannually
86 and shall compile these reports and other program materials and report the status of such projects on a
87 periodic basis to the relevant standing committees and subcommittees of the General Assembly. The
88 Board shall report the effectiveness of such projects and their components and the Program annually to
89 the Governor and the General Assembly, beginning on October 1, 1999.

90 § 22.1-253.13:1. Standard 1. Basic skills, selected programs, and instructional personnel.

91 A. The General Assembly and the Board of Education believe that the fundamental goal of the
92 public schools of this Commonwealth must be to enable each student to develop the skills that are
93 necessary for success in school and preparation for life, and find that the quality of education is
94 dependent upon the provision of the appropriate working environment, benefits, and salaries necessary to
95 ensure the availability of high quality instructional personnel and adequate commitment of other
96 resources.

97 B. The Board of Education shall establish educational objectives to implement the development of
98 the skills that are necessary for success in school and for preparation for life in the years beyond. The
99 current educational objectives, known as the Standards of Learning, shall not be construed to be
100 regulations as defined in § 9-6.14:4; however, the Board of Education may, from time to time, revise
101 these educational objectives. In order to provide appropriate opportunity for input from the general
102 public, teachers, and local school boards, the Board of Education shall conduct public hearings prior to
103 establishing new educational objectives. Thirty days prior to conducting such hearings, the Board shall
104 give written notice by mail of the date, time, and place of the hearings to all local school boards and
105 any other persons requesting to be notified of the hearings and publish notice of its intention to revise
106 these educational objectives in the Virginia Register of Regulations. Interested parties shall be given
107 reasonable opportunity to be heard and present information prior to final adoption of any revisions of
108 these educational objectives.

109 The Board shall seek to ensure that any revised educational objectives are consistent with the world's
110 highest educational standards. ~~However, no revisions shall be implemented prior to July 1, 1994.~~ These
111 objectives shall include, but not be limited to, basic skills of communication, computation and critical
112 reasoning including problem solving and decision making, and the development of personal qualities
113 such as self-esteem, sociability, self-management, integrity, and honesty. *The Board shall establish*
114 *Standards of Learning for an articulated technological studies program in grades K-12.*

115 *The Board shall revise the Standards of Learning for vocational education to require the full*
116 *integration of English, mathematics, science and social studies Standards of Learning and to incorporate*
117 *a process for assessments, reporting, and consequences. All occupational vocational programs shall be*
118 *aligned with industry and professional standard certification by the year 2002.*

119 *The Standards of Learning in all subject areas shall be subject to regular review and revision to*
120 *maintain rigor and to reflect a balance between content knowledge and the application of knowledge in*
121 *preparation for eventual employment and lifelong learning.*

School boards shall implement these objectives or objectives specifically designed for their school divisions that are equivalent to or exceed the Board's requirements. Students shall be expected to achieve the educational objectives utilized by the school division at appropriate age or grade levels.

With such funds as are available for this purpose, the Board of Education may prescribe assessment methods to determine the level of achievement of these objectives by all students. *Such assessments shall evaluate critical thinking and the application of knowledge and skills. The Board, with the assistance of independent, nationally recognized testing experts, shall conduct a regular analysis and validation process for these assessments. The first report on this process shall be made to the House Committees on Education and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Education and Health and Finance by December 1998.*

C. Local school boards shall develop and implement a program of instruction for grades K through 12 which emphasizes reading, writing, speaking, mathematical concepts and computations, and scientific concepts and processes; essential skills and concepts of citizenship, including knowledge of history, economics, government, foreign languages, international cultures, health, environmental issues and geography necessary for responsible participation in American society and in the international community; fine arts and practical arts; knowledge and skills needed to qualify for further education and employment or, in the case of some handicapped children, to qualify for appropriate training; and development of the ability to apply such skills and knowledge in preparation for eventual employment and lifelong learning.

Local school boards shall also develop and implement programs of prevention, intervention, or remediation for students who are educationally at-risk including, but not limited to, those whose scores are in the bottom national quartile on Virginia State Assessment Program Tests, ~~or~~ who do not pass the literacy tests prescribed by the Board of Education, *or who fail to achieve a passing score on any Standards of Learning end-of-course assessment in grades three, five, and eight.* Such programs shall include summer school for all elementary and middle school grades and for all high school academic courses, *as defined by regulations promulgated by the Board of Education,* or other forms of remediation. Division superintendents shall require such students to take special programs of prevention, intervention, or remediation which may include attendance in public summer school programs, in accordance with subsection E of § 22.1-254 and § 22.1-254.01. The requirement for remediation may, however, be satisfied by the student's attendance in a program of prevention, intervention or remediation which has been selected by his parent and is either (i) conducted by an accredited private school or (ii) a special program which has been determined to be comparable to the required public school remediation program by the division superintendent. The costs of such private school remediation program or other special remediation program shall be borne by the student's parent. Students required to attend such summer school programs or to participate in another form of remediation shall not be charged tuition by the local school division. Based on the number of students attending and the Commonwealth's share of the per pupil costs, additional state funds shall be provided for summer and other remediation programs as set forth in the appropriation act.

Any student who does not pass the literacy tests *or all Standards of Learning end-of-course assessment in grades three, five, and eight* shall be required to attend a summer school program or participate in another form of remediation. Such summer school program or other form of remediation shall be chosen by the school division to be appropriate to the academic needs of the student, *provided that remediation for students failing any Standards of Learning end-of-course assessment in grades three, five, and eight shall occur outside regular school hours.* State funds shall be provided, as set forth in the appropriation act, for the attendance in remediation programs conducted by local school divisions for those students who do not pass the literacy tests beginning with the 1997-1998 fiscal year *and for students who do not pass all Standards of Learning end-of-course assessments in grades three, five, and eight beginning with the 1998-99 fiscal year.*

To ensure consistency in program quality, each school board may establish a remediation program standards committee which may include, but need not be limited to, the superintendent or his designee, a teacher, a parent, and one representative of the community at large. The remediation program standards committee shall recommend the program components for the remediation programs and shall evaluate the success of the programs. Such program components may include transition mechanisms for children to ensure the smooth movement between remediation programs and regular programs, pupil/teacher ratios, objectives, and time, site, and duration of the various programs.

Such remediation programs shall include, when applicable, a procedure for early identification of students who are at-risk of failure of the literacy tests *or the Standards of Learning end-of-course assessments in grades three, five, and eight.* The identified students shall be provided appropriate remediation activities.

~~Effective on July 1, 1998, the~~ The Board of Education shall establish standards for full funding of summer remedial programs ~~which~~ effective on July 1, 1998, and standards for full funding of all

183 *remediation programs effective on July 1, 1999. All such standards* shall include, but not be limited to,
184 the minimum number of instructional hours or the equivalent thereof required for full funding and an
185 assessment system designed to evaluate program effectiveness. Based on the number of students
186 attending and the Commonwealth's share of the per pupil instructional costs, state funds shall be
187 provided for the full cost of summer and other remediation programs as set forth in the appropriation
188 act, provided such programs comply with such standards as shall be established by the Board, pursuant
189 to § 22.1-199.2.

190 D. Local school boards shall also implement the following:

191 1. Programs in grades K through 3 which emphasize developmentally appropriate learning to enhance
192 success.

193 2. Programs based on prevention, intervention, or retrieval designed to increase the number of
194 students who earn a high school diploma or general education development (GED) certificate. As
195 provided in the appropriation act, state funding, in addition to basic aid, shall be allocated to support
196 programs grounded in sound educational policy to reduce the number of students who drop out of
197 school. From such funds as may be appropriated for this purpose, sufficient funds shall be provided to
198 hold all local school divisions harmless by providing no-loss funding which maintains the level of each
199 school division's funding as allocated for drop-out prevention programs on July 1, 1996, if the level of
200 funding for such school division's drop-out prevention programs would be less than its level of funding
201 for such programs in fiscal year 1995. Effective on and after July 1, 1996, the Board of Education shall
202 develop and implement a funding mechanism to ensure that no school board is penalized in its state
203 funding for drop-out prevention programs for reducing the drop out rate in its school division.

204 3. Career education programs infused into the K through 12 curricula that promote knowledge of
205 careers and all types of employment opportunities including but not limited to, apprenticeships, the
206 military, and career education schools, and emphasize the advantages of completing school with
207 marketable skills. School boards may include career exploration opportunities in the middle school
208 grades.

209 4. Competency-based vocational education programs, which integrate academic outcomes, career
210 guidance and job-seeking skills for all secondary students including those identified as handicapped that
211 reflect employment opportunities, labor market needs, applied basic skills, job-seeking skills, and career
212 guidance. Career guidance shall include employment counseling designed to furnish information on
213 available employment opportunities to all students, including those identified as handicapped, and
214 placement services for students exiting school. Each school board shall develop and implement a plan to
215 ensure compliance with the provisions of this subsection.

216 5. Academic and vocational preparation for students who plan to continue their education beyond
217 secondary school or who plan to enter employment.

218 6. Early identification of handicapped students and enrollment of such students in appropriate
219 instructional programs consistent with state and federal law.

220 7. Early identification of gifted students and enrollment of such students in appropriately
221 differentiated instructional programs.

222 8. Educational alternatives for students whose needs are not met in programs prescribed elsewhere in
223 these standards. Such students shall be counted in average daily membership (ADM) in accordance with
224 the regulations of the Board of Education.

225 9. Adult education programs for individuals functioning below the high school completion level.
226 Such programs may be conducted by the school board as the primary agency or through a collaborative
227 arrangement between the school board and other agencies.

228 10. A plan to make achievements for students who are educationally at-risk a divisionwide priority
229 which shall include procedures for measuring the progress of such students.

230 E. Each local school board shall employ with state and local basic, special education, gifted, and
231 vocational education funds a minimum number of licensed, full-time equivalent instructional personnel
232 for each 1,000 students in average daily membership (ADM) as set forth in the appropriation act.
233 Calculations of kindergarten positions shall be based on full-day kindergarten programs. Beginning with
234 the March 31 report of average daily membership, those school divisions offering half-day kindergarten
235 shall adjust their average daily membership for kindergarten to reflect eighty-five percent of the total
236 kindergarten average daily memberships.

237 F. In addition to the positions supported by basic aid and in support of regular school year remedial
238 programs, state funding, pursuant to the appropriation act, shall be provided to fund certain full-time
239 equivalent instructional positions for each 1,000 students in grades K through 12 estimated to score in
240 the bottom national quartile on Virginia State Assessment Program Tests and those who fail the literacy
241 tests or *Standards of Learning end-of-course assessments for grades three, five, and eight* prescribed by
242 the Board. State funding for remedial programs provided pursuant to this subsection and the
243 appropriation act may be used to support programs for educationally at-risk students as identified by the
244 local school boards. The Board of Education shall establish criteria for identification of educationally

at-risk students, which shall not be construed to be regulations as defined in § 9-6.14:4; however, the Board of Education may, from time to time, revise these identification criteria. In order to provide appropriate opportunity for input from the general public, teachers, and local school boards, the Board of Education shall conduct public hearings prior to establishing or revising such identification criteria. Thirty days prior to conducting such hearings, the Board shall give written notice by mail of the date, time, and place of the hearings to all local school boards and any other persons requesting to be notified of the hearings and publish notice of its intention to establish or revise such identification criteria in the Virginia Register of Regulations. Interested parties shall be given reasonable opportunity to be heard and present information prior to final adoption of any such identification criteria or revisions thereto.

G. Licensed instructional personnel shall be assigned by each school board in a manner that produces divisionwide ratios of students in average daily membership to full-time equivalent teaching positions, excluding special education teachers, principals, assistant principals, counselors, and librarians, that are not greater than the following ratios: (i) twenty-five to one in kindergarten with no class being larger than thirty students; if the average daily membership in any kindergarten class exceeds twenty-five pupils, a full-time teacher's aide shall be assigned to the class; (ii) twenty-four to one in grade one with no class being larger than thirty students; (iii) twenty-five to one in grades two and three with no class being larger than thirty students; (iv) twenty-five to one in grades four through six with no class being larger than thirty-five students; and (v) twenty-four to one in English classes in grades six through twelve.

Further, pursuant to the appropriation act, school boards may implement in kindergarten through third grade, within certain schools, lower ratios of students in average daily membership to full-time equivalent teaching positions by assigning instructional personnel in a manner that produces ratios of students in average daily membership to full-time equivalent teaching positions, excluding special education teachers, principals, assistant principals, counselors, and librarians, as follows: (i) in schools having high concentrations of at-risk students, eighteen to one; and (ii) in schools having moderate concentrations of at-risk students, twenty to one. For the purposes of this subsection, "schools having high concentrations of at-risk students" and "schools having moderate concentrations of at-risk students" shall be defined in the appropriation act.

In addition, instructional personnel shall be assigned by each school board in a manner that produces schoolwide ratios of students in average daily memberships to full-time equivalent teaching positions of twenty-five to one in middle schools and high schools. *Local school boards shall employ at least one full-time educational technology expert to serve the schools in the division.*

H. Students enrolled in a public school on a less than full-time basis shall be counted in average daily membership (ADM) in the relevant school division. Students who are either (i) enrolled in a nonpublic school or (ii) receiving home instruction pursuant to § 22.1-254.1, and who are enrolled in public school on a less than full-time basis in any mathematics, science, English, history, social science, vocational education, fine arts, or foreign language course shall be counted in the average daily membership (ADM) in the relevant school division on a pro rata basis as provided in the appropriation act. However, no such nonpublic or home school student shall be counted as more than one-half a student for purposes of such pro rata calculation. Such calculation shall not include enrollments of such students in any other public school courses.

§ 22.1-253.13:3. Standard 3. Accreditation, other standards and evaluation.

A. The General Assembly recognizes the need for the Board of Education to prescribe requirements to ensure that student progress is measured and that school boards and school personnel are accountable.

B. The Board of Education shall promulgate regulations establishing standards for accreditation pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq.) which shall include, but not be limited to, student outcome measures, requirements and guidelines for instructional programs, administrative and instructional staffing levels and positions, pupil personnel services, special education program standards, auxiliary education programs such as library and media services, course and credit requirements for graduation from high school, community relations, and the philosophy, goals, and objectives of public education in Virginia. In revising the standards for accreditation, the Board shall seek to set pupil-teacher ratios for educable mentally retarded (EMR) pupils that do not exceed the pupil-teacher ratios for self-contained classes for pupils with specific learning disabilities. The Board shall review annually the accreditation status of all schools in the Commonwealth.

The requirements for a standard or advanced studies high school diploma shall include one credit in fine, performing, or practical arts. The requirements for a standard high school diploma shall include a concentration of courses selected from a variety of options. Such concentration shall be planned to ensure the completion of a focused career preparation sequence in career, technical, or arts education developed by the respective school divisions consistent with Board of Education guidelines and shall be approved by the local school board and the Board of Education.

C. The Board shall also establish requirements for certification of teachers, principals, supervisors

and other professional staff and determine eligibility for appointment as a local division superintendent.

D. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall develop and the Board of Education shall approve criteria for determining and recognizing educational performance in the Commonwealth's public school divisions and schools. Such criteria, when approved, shall become an integral part of the accreditation process and shall include student outcome measurements. One year following the approval by the Board of such criteria, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall annually identify to the Board those school divisions and schools that exceed or do not meet the approved criteria. *Such identification shall include an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of public education programs in the various school divisions in Virginia and recommendations to the General Assembly for further enhancing student learning uniformly across the Commonwealth.*

The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall assist local school boards in the implementation of action plans for increasing educational performance in those school divisions and schools that are identified as not meeting the approved criteria. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall monitor the implementation of and report to the Board of Education on the effectiveness of the corrective actions taken to improve the educational performance in such school divisions and schools.

The Department of Education shall conduct technical assistance visits to each school division on an established cycle. Schools accredited with a warning shall be given priority for technical assistance, which shall include an analysis of relevant school data and the development and implementation of improvement plans to assist such schools in improving their accreditation status.

E. In order to assess the educational progress of students, the Board of Education shall also (i) develop appropriate assessments which may include criterion-referenced tests and alternative assessment instruments which may be used by classroom teachers; (ii) prescribe and provide measures, which may include nationally normed tests, to be designated as the Virginia State Assessment Program, which shall be used to identify students who score in the bottom quartile at selected grade levels; and (iii) prescribe and provide literacy tests in reading, writing and mathematics which shall be administered to students in grade six and to students who have not successfully passed them in grades seven and eight.

F. Each local school board shall maintain schools which meet the standards of accreditation as prescribed by the Board of Education. The accreditation status of all schools in each local school division shall be reviewed annually in public session. Within the time specified by the Board of Education, each school board shall submit corrective action plans for any schools within its school division that have been designated as not meeting the criteria for determining effectiveness as approved by the Board. *Principals, teachers, and other professional staff in any school that experiences three or more years of provisional accreditation may be reassigned to other positions within the school division, consistent with the provisions of §§ 22.1-294, 22.1-295, and 22.1-297.*

G. Each local school board shall also provide teachers and principals with (i) periodic in-service training in preparing tests and other assessment measures and (ii) methods for assessing the progress of individual students, including Standards of Learning assessment materials or other criterion-referenced tests which match locally developed objectives.

H. In order to assess the educational progress of students as individuals and as groups, each local school board shall require the administration of appropriate assessments, which may include criterion-referenced tests, teacher-made tests and alternative assessment instruments and shall include the Virginia State Assessment Program, the Virginia Literacy Testing Program, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress state-by-state assessment. Each school board shall analyze and report annually, in compliance with any criteria which may be established by the Board of Education, the results from the Virginia State Assessment Program and the Virginia State Literacy Testing Program to the public.

§ 22.1-253.13:7. Standard 7. Policy manual.

A. The General Assembly and the Board of Education recognize the need to apprise the local school boards of the laws and regulations governing operation of local school divisions.

B. The Board of Education shall, in a timely manner, make available to local school boards copies of current Virginia school laws, Board regulations and revisions, and copies of relevant Opinions of the Attorney General of Virginia.

C. Each local school board shall maintain and follow an up-to-date policy manual. All policy manuals shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed. The policy manual shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Valid copies of Article 3 (§ 22.1-306 et seq.) of Chapter 15 of this title, concerning grievances, dismissals, etc., of teachers, and the implementation procedure prescribed by the General Assembly and the Board of Education; and

2. A cooperatively developed procedure for personnel evaluation appropriate to tasks performed by those being evaluated.

D. Each local school board shall ensure that the policy manual includes the following policies, which shall be developed giving consideration to the views of teachers, parents, and other concerned citizens:

1. A system of two-way communication between employees and the local school board and its

administrative staff whereby matters of concern can be discussed in an orderly and constructive manner;

2. A policy for the selection and evaluation of all instructional materials purchased by the school division, with clear procedures for handling challenged controversial materials;

3. The standards of student conduct and attendance and enforcement procedures designed to provide that public education be conducted in an atmosphere free of disruption and threat to persons or property and supportive of individual rights;

4. A policy for school-community communications and community involvement; and

5. Guidelines to encourage parents to provide instructional assistance to their children in the home, which may include voluntary training for the parents of children in grades K through 3.

Consistent with school board policies designed to improve school-community communications and guidelines for providing instructional assistance in the home, each school division shall establish a voice mail communication system after regular school hours for parents, families, and teachers by the year 2000.

An up-to-date copy of the school division policy manual shall be kept in the library of each school and in any public library in that division and shall be available to employees and to the public. An annual announcement shall be made in each division advising the public that the policy manual is available in such places.

§ 22.1-254.01. Certain students required to attend summer school or after-school sessions; promotion contingent upon remediation.

A. Effective for the 2004-2005 school year, the promotion of any student failing the Standards of Learning end-of-course assessment for English or mathematics for grade five or eight shall be contingent upon the school's provision of, and the student's participation in, a structured remediation program. The school board may grant a subsequent promotion after failing to pass any such assessments for students identified as having special circumstances, such as those students (i) who are either identified as disabled pursuant to Board regulations governing special education programs for students with disabilities in Virginia or (ii) for whom English is not the first or native language who have been identified as having limited English proficiency and who have been enrolled in a public school in the Commonwealth for less than three years. School boards report the number of such exceptions granted annually to the Board of Education and shall make such information available to the public.

B. In the event that a student is required to take a special program of prevention, intervention, or remediation in a public summer school program or to participate in another form of remediation as provided in subsection C of § 22.1-253.13:1 and in accordance with subsection E of § 22.1-254, and the division superintendent determines that remediation of the student's poor academic performance, or passage of the literacy passport test or of a Standards of Learning end-of-course assessment in grade three, five, or eight, or promotion is directly related to the student's attendance in such summer school program or participation in another form of remediation, and after a reasonable effort to seek the student's attendance in such session has failed, including direct notification of the parents or guardians of such student of the attendance requirement and failure of the parents or guardians to secure the student's attendance, the division superintendent may seek immediate compliance with the compulsory school attendance law as set forth in § 22.1-254.

§ 22.1-278. Guidelines for school board policies; school board regulations governing student conduct; Board standards for compliance with federal law requiring expulsion under certain circumstances by school board.

A. The Board of Education shall establish guidelines and develop model student conduct policies to aid local school boards in the implementation of such policies. The guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, (i) criteria for the removal of a student from a class, the use of suspension, expulsion, and exclusion as disciplinary measures, the grounds for suspension and expulsion and exclusion, and the procedures to be followed in such cases, including proceedings for such suspension, expulsion, and exclusion decisions and all applicable appeals processes; (ii) standards, consistent with state, federal and case laws, for school board policies on alcohol and drugs, vandalism, trespassing, threats, search and seizure, disciplining of students with disabilities, intentional injury of others and dissemination of such policies to students, their parents, and school personnel; and (iii) standards for in-service training of school personnel in and examples of the appropriate management of student conduct and student offenses in violation of school board policies. In the case of suspension and expulsion, the procedures set forth in § 22.1-277 shall be the minimum procedures that the school board may prescribe.

School boards shall adopt and revise, in accordance with the requirements of this section, regulations governing student conduct which are consistent with, but may be more stringent than, the guidelines of the Board. School boards shall include, in the regulations governing student conduct, proceedings for suspension, expulsion, and exclusion decisions and shall biennially review the model student conduct code to incorporate a continuum of discipline options and alternatives to preserve a safe, nondisruptive

429 *environment for effective teaching and learning.*

430 B. The Board of Education shall establish standards to ensure compliance with the federal Improving
431 America's Schools Act of 1994 (Part F-"Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994"), in accordance with
432 § 22.1-277.01, to be effective on July 1, 1995.

433 This subsection shall not be construed to diminish the authority of the Board of Education or the
434 Governor concerning decisions on whether, or the extent to which, Virginia shall participate in the
435 federal Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, or to diminish the Governor's authority to coordinate
436 and provide policy direction on official communications between the Commonwealth and the United
437 States government.

438 **2. That the school board of any school division with one or more schools demonstrating a passing**
439 **rate of less than 70 percent on all three Literacy Passport Tests for students taking these tests for**
440 **the first time shall develop a comprehensive corrective action plan with and for each school in the**
441 **division for implementation no later than the 1999-2000 academic year. Such corrective action**
442 **plan shall include specific goals for improvement. The Department of Education shall provide**
443 **technical assistance in the implementation of such plans. From such funds as may be appropriated**
444 **or received for this purpose, the Board of Education shall provide monetary rewards for schools**
445 **achieving the specified goals for improvement.**