



# the Policy Page

A special publication for Virginia School Boards Association's Policy Services subscribers

Number 120, June 2009

*The May 2009 Policy Update contained many new and revised policies. Most of the revisions were based on actions taken by the General Assembly which become effective on July 1. Here's a summary of some of the new and revised policies.*

<i>Policy</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>EB</b>	<b>School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency Response Plan</b> The General Assembly amended the statute requiring divisions to have crisis management plans to require those plans to include provisions requiring two state agencies, the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, to be notified immediately in the event of certain types of emergencies.
<b>EEAB</b>	<b>School Bus Scheduling and Routing</b> The Policy was revised to state that school bus routes must be reviewed every year for safety hazards and fuel consumption. Periodic evaluation of the safety of students at school bus stops is also required.
<b>EEAD</b>	<b>Special Use of School Buses</b> The Policy now states the purposes for which school buses may be used.
<b>GAA</b>	<b>Staff Time Schedules</b> The Policy now reflects a new Virginia statute which requires school divisions to provide elementary school teachers with at least an average of 30 minutes of planning time per day during the students' school week.
<b>GBMA GBMA-R</b>	<b>Support Staff Grievances Procedure for Adjusting Grievances for Support Staff</b> The Policy has been updated to reflect an amendment to Va. Code § 22.1-79(6). The Regulation has been revised to clarify the procedure for support staff grievances.
<b>JCJ</b>	<b>Classroom Assignments for Twins</b> This is a new policy based on a new statute which gives parents of elementary school twins (or higher order multiples) a right to have input into the decision whether the students will be placed in the same or separate classrooms.
<b>JED</b>	<b>Student Absences/Excuses/Dismissals</b> The Policy was revised to reflect a new statute which permits school principals to notify the juvenile and domestic relations court if a student has 10 or more unexcused absences on consecutive school days. After receiving notification, the court may take action to suspend the student's driver's license.

The VSBA attorney provides legal information to School Board Members and Superintendents.