



# the *Policy Page*

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

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The May 2008 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.

## Policy

## Comments

### **BDD**

#### **Electronic Participation in Meetings from Remote Locations**

The General Assembly amended the Freedom of Information Act to permit school boards to hold meetings without a quorum being physically assembled in one VERY limited situation, namely when the Governor has declared a state of emergency which makes it impossible for the board to physically assemble and the school board needs to meet to deal with the emergency.

### **DJF**

#### **Purchasing Procedures**

The Policy was revised to reflect a new Virginia statute which provides that school boards must include a provision in every written contract that states that the contractor does not knowingly employ any unauthorized alien.

### **EEAC**

#### **School Bus Safety Program**

A new Virginia statute states that no one may use any wireless telecommunications device, whether handheld or otherwise, while driving a school bus, except in case of an emergency. The school board may permit bus drivers to use two-way radio devices.

### **EGAA and EGAAA**

#### **Reproduction of Copyrighted Materials**

These two policies, which discuss copyright issues, were substantially updated. EGAAA was deleted and the substance of that policy was combined with EGAA. Policy EGAA requires the Superintendent to ensure that students and staff understand the applicable copyright laws. Some divisions may want to develop regulations in order to accomplish this.

### **GBC**

Options 1 & 2  
and forms

GBC-E1 and  
GBC-E2

#### **Staff Compensation Procedures**

This is a new policy based on Internal Revenue Service rules on deferred compensation.

Option 1 of the Policy (and form GBC-E1) should be used by divisions which permit employees who work less than 12 months to choose whether they are paid over 12 months or over the period they actually work.

Option 2 (and form GBC-E2) should be used by divisions which make the decision for the employees.

**GCDA**

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

When a job applicant has lived in another state in the past five years, the applicant must permit the School Board to obtain information from each state where he or she has lived regarding whether the applicant was the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse or neglect. School boards must take reasonable steps, which include checking a state database, to determine whether applicants have been the subject of founded child abuse/neglect complaints in those other states. If an applicant, or employee, is the subject of a founded complaint, they cannot work for the school division.

**IGAE/IGAF**

**Health Education/Physical Education**

A new statute requires each school division to have a goal of making a physical fitness program available for all students for at least 150 minutes per week. The program may include physical education classes, extracurricular activities, and other activities deemed appropriate by the local school board.

**JHG**

**Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting**

An existing statute requires school divisions and local Departments of Social Services to have written interagency agreements for investigating child abuse/neglect reports including reports of sexual abuse of a student by school personnel.

**Check to be sure your division has such an agreement.**

**LBD**

**Home Instruction**

Statutory changes effect both 1) the qualifications a parent must have to home-school a student and 2) the type of evidence of progress that may be submitted for home-schooled students.

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**VSBA would like to welcome Russell and Chesterfield Counties  
to the Policy Services Program.**

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