

STAFF CONDUCT: EXPECTATIONS AND DISCIPLINE

The School Board requires its employees to conduct themselves in a manner which reflects favorably upon them as representatives of the school division. To this end, the Superintendent will develop and implement regulations which ensure that employees interact with other Board employees, parents, students, or visitors with utmost cooperation, understanding and mutual respect. Standards of conduct including maintaining staff/student boundaries and appropriate use of social media are to be illustrative but not all inclusive of the type of conduct expected of employees. Departures from standards of conduct contained in Administrative Regulation GCPD/GCPF-AR will be deemed misconduct within the meaning of this policy and may subject violators to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

The policy describes several potential actions by the administration or School Board to deal with unsatisfactory performance and/or behavior.

Suspension of Staff Members

Employees of Staunton City School Board, whether full-time or part-time, permanent or temporary, may be suspended for good and just cause

- when the safety or welfare of the school division or the students therein is threatened, or
- when the employee has been charged by summons, warrant, indictment or information with the commission of
 - a felony; or
 - a misdemeanor involving
 - sexual assault as established in Article 7 (§18.2-61 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 18.2, of the Code of Virginia,
 - obscenity and related offenses as established in Article 5 (§18.2-372 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2, of the Code of Virginia,
 - drugs as established in Article 1 (§18.2-247 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title 18.2, of the Code of Virginia,
 - moral turpitude, or
 - the physical or sexual abuse or neglect of a child; or an equivalent offense in another state.

Except when an employee is suspended because of being charged by summons, warrant, indictment or information with the commission of any of the above-listed offenses, the superintendent or appropriate central office designee shall not suspend an employee for longer than sixty (60) days and shall not suspend an employee for a period in excess of five (5) days unless such employee is advised in writing of the reason for the suspension and afforded an opportunity for a hearing before the School Board in accordance with Va. Code §§ 22.1-311 and 22.1-313, if applicable. Any employee so suspended shall continue to receive his then applicable salary unless and until the School Board, after a hearing, determines otherwise. No employee shall be suspended solely on the basis of the employee's refusal to submit to a polygraph examination requested by the School Board.

Any employee suspended because of being charged by summons, warrant, information or indictment with any of the above-listed criminal offenses may be suspended with or without pay. In the event an employee is suspended without pay, an amount equal to the employee's salary while on suspended status shall be placed in an interest-bearing demand escrow account. Upon being found not guilty of one of the above-listed criminal offenses or upon the dismissal or nolle prosequi of the charge, such employee shall be reinstated with all unpaid salary and accrued interest from the escrow account, less any earnings received by the employee during the period of suspension, but in no event shall such payment exceed one year's salary.

In the event an employee is found guilty by an appropriate court of any of the above-listed criminal offenses and, after all available appeals have been exhausted and such conviction is upheld, all funds in the escrow account shall be repaid to the School Board.

If an employee is suspended because of information appearing on his/her criminal history record, the School Board shall provide a copy of the information obtained from the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the employee.

No employee will have his insurance benefits suspended or terminated because of suspension in accordance with this policy.

The placing of a school employee on probation pursuant to the terms and conditions of Va. Code § 18.2-251 shall be deemed a finding of guilt.

Probation and Dismissal

A. Probation and Dismissal

Teachers may be dismissed for incompetency, immorality, non-compliance with school laws and regulations, disability in accordance with State and federal law, conviction of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude or other good and just cause. "Incompetency" includes, but is not be limited to, consistent failure to meet the endorsement requirements for the position or one or more unsatisfactory performance evaluations.

A teacher shall be dismissed if such teacher is or becomes the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse and neglect, pursuant to Va. Code § 63.2-1505, and after all rights to an appeal provided by Va. Code § 63.2-1526 have been exhausted. The fact of such finding, after all rights to an appeal provided by Va. Code § 63.2-1526 have been exhausted, shall be grounds for the School Board to recommend that the Board of Education revoke such person's license to teach.

In those instances when licensed personnel are dismissed or resign due to a conviction of any felony; any offense involving the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse or rape of a child; any offense involving drugs; or due to having become the subject of a founded case of child abuse or neglect, the School Board shall notify the Board of Education within 10 business days of such dismissal or the acceptance of such resignation.

If a current employee is dismissed because of information appearing on his/her criminal history record, the School Board shall provide a copy of the information obtained from the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the employee.

Administrative regulations shall be developed for the dismissal or placing on probation of continuing contract teachers and probationary teachers during the school year.

No teacher shall be dismissed or placed on probation solely on the basis of the teachers' refusal to submit to a polygraph examination requested by the School Board.

B. Suspension

Employees of Staunton City School Board may be suspended as provided in this policy.

C. Failure to Perform Nonemergency Health-Related Services

With the exception of school administrative personnel and employees who have the specific duty to deliver health-related services, no licensed instructional employee, instructional aide, or clerical employee shall be disciplined, placed on probation, or dismissed on the basis of such employee's refusal to (i) perform nonemergency health-related services for students or (ii) obtain training in the administration of insulin and glucagon. However, instructional aides and clerical employees may not refuse to dispense oral medications.

"Health-related services" means those activities which, when performed in a health care facility, must be delivered by or under the supervision of a licensed or certified professional.

D. Effect of Probation Pursuant to Va. Code §18.2-251

For purposes of this policy, a court's placing an individual on probation pursuant to Va. Code §18.2-251 shall be treated as a conviction and as a finding of guilt.

Adopted: APRIL 2016 [combined two policies GCPD (© 5/13 VSBA) and GCPF (© 5/12 VSBA)]

Legal Reference: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended Section 22.1-70, 22.1-78

Cross Reference: GCN Evaluation of Professional Staff
GDN Evaluation of Support Staff