

VIII. Student and School Safety

School Crisis and Emergency Plans

Culpeper County Public Schools has developed School Crisis and Emergency Plans that detail the procedures for a number of emergencies. These include:

- **Fire Drill (Evacuation Drill)** - This drill instructs students and staff on how to evacuate the building quickly and safely in the event of a fire, gas leak, bomb threat, or other cause for evacuation.
- **Lockdown (or Stay In Place) Drill** - This drill instructs students and staff on how to react to a person in the building who may present a threat by quickly securing themselves in rooms and finding cover or concealment. Students and staff are also instructed on how to keep the buildings secure from unauthorized entry, how to identify and report suspicious persons on campus and to report anyone who has a weapon or makes a threat.
- **Tornado Drill**- This drill instructs students and staff on how to find the safest place in the building and proper head covering techniques in the event of a tornado. This drill is conducted annually in March.
- **Bus Evacuation Drill**- This drill instructs students on how to quickly and safely evacuate the school bus. This drill is conducted in September and April each year.
- **Earthquake Drill** - This drill instructs students and staff on how to best protect themselves in the event of an earthquake by seeking cover from falling objects. This drill is conducted annually.

Culpeper County Public Schools in conjunction with law enforcement, emergency management, and fire and rescue personnel conducts periodic exercises to prepare for a variety of emergencies to include severe weather, chemical spills, active shooter, bomb threats, building collapse, and terrorist attacks.

School Security Threats Defined and Clear Communication for Needed Actions

- 1) **High-Level Security Threat and Response:** Presence of person posing immediate threat of violence: “Lockdown Get to a secure location. Lock and barricade doors. Lights out and hide. Lockdown.” Students and staff are only released from this response status by law enforcement.
- 2) **Medium-Level Security Threat and Response:** Presence of person posing possible threat indoors: “Stay in place. Clear hallways and bathrooms and return to class immediately. Lock doors. Continue working in classrooms.” Students and staff are released from this response status by law enforcement and/or school administration
- 3) **Low-Level Security Threat and Response:** Presence of person posing possible threat outdoors: “Remain indoors and secure entrances. All persons outside are to return to the building immediately. Exterior doors are to be locked and monitored. Continue normal operations.” Students and staff are released from this response status by the administration on the advice of law enforcement.

What Parents Need to Know and Do During a School-Based Emergency

- 1) Please know that coming to your child’s school if you hear information regarding a “lockdown” or other security measure will distract and disrupt the operations of school staff, law enforcement, or first responders who are keeping your child safe.
- 2) Please know texting or calling your child during an incident may distract your child from hearing directions from school staff or cause their phone to make a sound which may actually endanger your child.
- 3) Please know your child has limited information about what is happening. Rumors and exaggerations are rampant during events and students often are only repeating a rumor or exaggeration they heard from an unreliable source.
- 4) Please know when calling the school for information during an emergency, the school staff cannot or will not answer the phones and release information during an incident.
- 5) Please sign up for Culpeper County’s 911 text and call alerts as information will be released through law enforcement in serious incidents.
- 6) Please make sure your phone number(s) and your child’s cell phone number is up to date and are given to the school office so school text alerts and calls can be received.
- 7) Please don’t overreact to rumors or social media postings from students or members of the public. Repeating rumors via social media or calling the schools or 911 to relay information you did not personally witness may divert attention and resources of the school staff and law enforcement.
- 8) Please trust the training and experience of law enforcement, school staff, and first responders to keep your child safe.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Virginia Law 63.1-248.3 states that, "... any teacher or other person employed there who has reason to suspect that a child is an abused or neglected child, including any child who may be abandoned, is required to report such suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to local or state social services agencies or the person in charge of the relevant school or his designee."

School Visitors

The Culpeper County School Board recognizes that public schools are a focal point of the community and visitors are welcome in the schools. However, the environment of schools must be safe, secure, and free of disruption. Therefore, upon arriving at a school or department, all visitors must report to the administrative office, identify themselves, state the purpose of their visit, and wear a visitor identification badge, if requested. Any person desiring to tour a facility must make prior arrangements with the administration and be escorted during the tour. All persons on school property or attending a school-related activity must present valid photo identification to any school employee upon request. Administrators or their designees have the authority to remove any person on school property for reasonable cause.

All persons must ensure their presence is not disruptive to the school's operations or the school-sponsored activity. The School Board expects mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct from all individuals on school property and at school events. Unauthorized persons, including suspended and expelled students, will be requested to leave school property or the school event by any school employee or law enforcement officer as the situation requires.

Parents and legal guardians are encouraged to visit the schools on scheduled days for conferences with teachers, assemblies, PTO meetings, volunteer service, and other school programs. Parents are generally welcome to have lunch with their children at elementary schools provided it meets the school schedule of the child. Parents desiring to visit classrooms or meet with teachers must secure the permission of the teacher or principal prior to the visit. Parent attendance at field trips or other off-campus activity may require prior permission by the principal or designee. Principals have the authority to refuse parents, family members, or others admittance to the school or school-related activity for reasonable cause.

Sex Offender Registry and Presence on School Property

At the beginning of each school year, Culpeper County Public Schools shall notify parents and employees of the Division's policy on the dissemination and use of sex offender registry information. (Ref. Policy KN)
Principals will receive automatic electronic notification of the registration or updated registration of sex offenders in the same contiguous zip codes as the schools. Principals will provide registry information to employees who are most likely to observe unauthorized persons on or near school property, including but not limited to: School bus drivers, employees responsible for visitors, employees responsible for bus duty, security staff, coaches, playground supervisors and maintenance personnel.

Registry information may be accessed at the following web site: <http://sexoffender.vsp.virginia.gov/sor/index.html> or by going to the Virginia State Police web site at www.vsp.state.va.us and following the link to the Sex Offender Registry.

Internet Safety

Parents are encouraged to review the Division's technology plan which addresses Internet safety. The plan is on the Division's website, technology page, at http://www.culpeperschools.org/division_technology.php.

School Volunteers - Background Checks

In order to protect the safety and security of Culpeper County Public Schools students and staff, all volunteers shall complete a volunteer application. The principal or designee will conduct reference checks on applicants for volunteer service. VA State Police background checks will be conducted on volunteers who will have extended contact with students or will be alone with children not supervised by CCPS staff members. See School Board policy KA-R1 for more information.

Laws Regarding Prosecution of Juveniles as Adults

Who is a juvenile? Section 16.1-228 of the *Code of Virginia* defines a juvenile as “a person less than 18 years of age.” Section 16.1-269.1 of the *Code* permits juveniles, 14 years of age or older at the time of an alleged offense, to be prosecuted as adults for specific crimes under certain circumstances. This process is called a transfer to the appropriate circuit court for trial as an adult.

Under what circumstances does the law permit the transfer of juveniles for trial as adults?

The *Code of Virginia* permits the transfer of juveniles for trial as adults when a juvenile, who is age 14 or older at the time of the alleged offense, is charged with a crime which would be a felony if committed by an adult (§ 16.1-269.1 A. of the *Code of Virginia*).

The decision regarding whether the juvenile is not a proper person to remain within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court is based upon, but not limited to, the following factors:

- ◆ The juvenile’s age
- ◆ The seriousness and number of alleged offenses
- ◆ Whether the juvenile can be retained in the juvenile justice system long enough for effective treatment and rehabilitation
- ◆ The appropriateness and availability of the services and dispositional alternatives in both the criminal justice and juvenile justice systems needed by the juvenile
- ◆ The record and previous history of the juvenile in the jurisdiction where the alleged crime occurred or in other jurisdictions
- ◆ Whether the juvenile has escaped from a juvenile correctional entity in the past
- ◆ The extent, if any, of the juvenile’s degree of intellectual disability or mental illness
- ◆ The juvenile’s school record and education
- ◆ The juvenile’s mental and emotional maturity
- ◆ The juvenile’s physical condition and maturity

What can happen if a juvenile is tried as an adult?

There are significant differences between a juvenile being tried as a juvenile and a juvenile being tried in the circuit court as an adult. In the juvenile system, a juvenile is given added protections because of his or her youth. First, records pertaining to the charge and adjudication of delinquency are confidential and may not be available to the public unless the crime was a felony. Second, if the adjudication is for a misdemeanor, the juvenile court record is expunged when the juvenile reaches the age of majority and is considered an adult. Third, a juvenile who is adjudicated delinquent remains in the juvenile system where a judge has discretion in the determination of the punishment or consequences to be imposed. In the juvenile system, the emphasis is on treatment and education.

In contrast, if a juvenile is prosecuted as an adult the issues and information related to the charge and the conviction of a crime are part of the public record. Because the information becomes an adult criminal record, it is not expunged when the juvenile reaches the age of 18. Additionally, the judge does not have the same discretion in sentencing. The judge in circuit court must impose at least the mandatory minimum sentence that is prescribed in sentencing guidelines. The circuit court does have the discretionary power to commit the juvenile to the juvenile system even if prosecuted as an adult.

Asbestos Management

All areas of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) within the Culpeper County Public Schools are managed in place as per the Management Plan, laws of Va. and the Environmental Protection Agency. An inspection, required by law, every three years is performed in accordance with paragraph 763.85 (b)(1) of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act by a private contractor.