

...Such contract between the public charter school and the local school board or relevant school boards shall reflect all requests for release of the public charter school from state regulations, consistent with the requirements of subsection B of § [22.1-212.6](#). The local school board or relevant school boards, on behalf of the public charter school, shall request such releases from the Board of Education....

On June 24, 1999, the Board adopted Resolution Number 1999-8 that identified regulations that could be waived for charter schools. The resolution included 8 VAC 20-110-50 of the *Regulations Governing Pupil Accounting Records*. This regulation states:

8 VAC 20-110-50. Approval of school-sponsored field trips and other activities.

All school-sponsored field trips and other activities or events for which pupil attendance may be counted shall be approved through procedures adopted by the school board.

Summary of Major Elements: Richmond City Public Schools (RPS) is requesting approval of a waiver of 8 VAC 20-110-50 of the *Regulations Governing Pupil Accounting Records* for Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts, a charter school serving grades K-5. Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts is a public charter school operating under a contractual arrangement with Richmond City Public Schools. It plans to open this summer for the 2010-2011 school year.

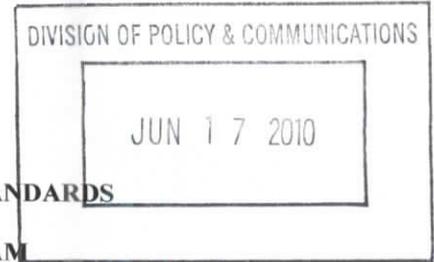
The waiver request from Richmond City Public Schools says that “PHSSA will frequently conduct walking trips and other excursions approved by parents of pupils, but that will not be approved through procedures adopted by the local school board.” The request further states that “PHSSA must develop procedures for planning and approving field trips in place of those already in place for RPS, to include a detailed itinerary, SOL alignment, list of potential hazards and procedures for handling emergency situations, which will be submitted to the local school board.” The procedures will be reported to the Richmond School Board, but will not be approved by the Richmond School Board.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education approve the request from Richmond Public Schools to waive the provisions of 8 VAC 20-110-50 for Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts. The procedures for field trips and other activities and events would be approved by the parents, and would be reported to the Richmond School Board.

Impact on Resources: The impact on resources is not expected to be significant.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: Department of Education staff will notify Richmond City Public Schools of the Board’s decision.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
P.O. Box 2120
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23218-2120



**REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF CERTAIN ACCREDITING STANDARDS
AND/OR APPROVAL
OF AN INNOVATIVE OR EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM**

The *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, (8 VAC 20-131-10 et seq.) set the minimum standards public schools must meet to be accredited by the Board of Education. Accreditation of public schools is required by the Standards of Quality (§§ 22.1-253.13:1 et seq.). The annual accrediting cycle for public schools is July 1 through June 30.

This cover sheet, with the supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Department of Education for review and recommendation to the Board at least 90 days prior to the beginning of an accrediting cycle or the proposed implementation of the program or activity that precipitates the request for the waiver. The types of waivers available and the corresponding section of the standards are indicated below. Please attach additional sheets or information deemed appropriate. (The Board will consider this request in its monthly meeting and school divisions **are required** to appear before the board **in person or electronically** to explain a waiver request.)

SCHOOL DIVISION Richmond Public Schools

TITLE OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts – A Charter School Serving Grades K-5

TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED:

- Approval of an Alternative to the Standard School Year and School Day (8 VAC 20-131-150)
- Approval of an Alternative Accreditation Plan (8 VAC 20-131-280.D)
- Approval of an Experimental Program (8 VAC 20-131-290.D)
- Approval of an Innovative Program (8 VAC 20-131-290.D)
- Approval of a Waiver of Other Provision(s) of the Standards (8 VAC 20-131-350)
(Complete Pages 1 and 3 of the application only.)

SCHOOL(S) INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED PROGRAM/ACTIVITY Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts

March 29, 2010
Date Approved
by the Local School Board

Kimberlye Bridges
Signature
Chairman of the School Board

June 3, 2010
Submission Date

Yvonne W. Grando
Signature
Division Superintendent

SCHOOL DIVISION Richmond Public Schools

TITLE OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts – A Charter School Serving Grades K-5

IF YOU ARE SEEKING A WAIVER OF A PROVISION OR PROVISIONS OF THE ACCREDITING STANDARDS, STATE THE PROVISION AND THE RATIONALE FOR SEEKING A WAIVER FOR EACH.

Provision

8VAC20-110

Regulations Governing Pupil Accounting Records

Section 50: Approval of school-sponsored field trips and other activities

Rationale

PHSSA will frequently conduct walking trips and other excursions approved by parents of pupils, but that will not be approved through procedures adopted by the local school board. Therefore, a waiver of Regulation 20-110-50 is requested.

DESCRIBE THE PROCEDURES THAT WILL BE USED TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WAIVER/PROGRAM/ACTIVITY. (Include information that includes measurable goals, objectives, and student academic achievement that will be expected as a result of the implementation of the program/activity.)

PHSSA must develop procedures for planning and approving field trips in place of those already in place for RPS, to include a detailed itinerary, SOL alignment, list of potential hazards and procedures for handling emergency situations, which will be submitted to the local school board. In addition, PHSSA will use multiple assessment measures to create a comprehensive picture of student achievement and perform grade level assessment. Students will master state objectives for each grade year. PHSSA will utilize an assessment reporting system compiled from standardized assessments and scoring rubrics will be used to determine student performance and mastery of the integrated curriculum content. Assessment data will be provided in the form of Assessment Data Reports that will be submitted to the superintendent each nine weeks, in conjunction with the RPS reporting requirements. These evaluation procedures will ensure that PHSSA meets its stated goals:

- Master State and Federal learning objectives
- Develop reasoning skills through science and arts curriculum
- Acquire problem solving skills through scientific inquiry
- Foster an appreciation of the natural world through environmental studies
- Increase social awareness through the arts and social sciences
- Develop citizenship skills
- Master self discipline
- Develop an appreciation of diversity
- Develop mental creativity and flexibility through an interdisciplinary curriculum

Number of students involved in the program 150

What is the anticipated length of the program or duration of the waiver? 2010-11

Questions should be directed to the Division of Policy and Communications at (804) 225-2092, or by e-mail to policydata@doe.virginia.gov. This application and supporting documentation must be sent to:

Division of Policy and Communications
Department of Education
P. O. Box 2120
Richmond, VA 23218-2120