

Board of Education  
July 26, 2012

Amendments to Agenda Item F  
Denoted by yellow highlight

Second Review of the Proposed  
Regulations Governing Unexcused Absences and Truancy

**Amendment 1**

PART I

DEFINITIONS

8 VAC 20-730-10 Definitions.

“Excused absence” means an absence of an entire assigned instructional school day with a ~~an excuse~~ **reason** acceptable to the school administration **authority** that is provided by the parent. If circumstances permit, the parent should provide the school

**administration** **authority** with the reason for the nonattendance prior to the absence.

Examples of an excused absence may include, but are not limited to, the following reasons: funeral, illness (including mental health and substance abuse illnesses), injury, legal obligations, medical procedures, suspensions, religious observances and military obligation. **Absences resulting from suspensions shall be considered excused.**

**Expelled students continue to remain under the provisions of compulsory school attendance, Code of Virginia, §22.1-254.**

...

“Unexcused absence” is an absence where: ~~(1)~~ **(i.)** ~~either~~ the student misses his/her scheduled instructional school day in its entirety ~~or (2) misses part of the scheduled instructional school day without permission from an administrator~~; and ~~(3)~~ **(ii.)** no indication has been received by school personnel within three days of the absence that the

student's parent is aware and supports the absence, or the parent provides [an excuse] [a reason] that is unacceptable to the school administration [authority]. [An administrator] [The school administration] [authority] may change an unexcused absence to an excused absence when [it determines that] the parent has provided an acceptable [excuse] [reason meeting criteria] for the student's absence or there are extenuating circumstances. [Absences resulting from suspensions shall not be considered unexcused.]

## Amendment 2

### PART II

#### UNEXCUSED ABSENCES INTERVENTION PROCESS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

8 VAC 20-730-20. Unexcused Absences Intervention Process and Responsibilities.

[A. Each local school board shall provide guidance regarding what would constitute an excused absence in order to address when the explanation provided by the parent will be determined to be reasonable and acceptable.]

[B. Each local school board shall develop procedures to ensure that appropriate interventions will be implemented when a student engages in a pattern of absences less than a full day, the explanation for which, if it were a full-day absence, would not be deemed an excused absence.]

[C.A.] The following intervention steps shall be implemented to respond to unexcused absences from school and to engage students in regular school attendance.

...

### **Amendment 3**

[3.] The school principal or designee, or the attendance officer, shall schedule a face-to-face attendance conference within ten school days from the date of the student's sixth unexcused absence for the school year. The attendance conference must be held within [fifteen] [15 school calendar] days from the date of the sixth unexcused absence. The conference shall include the parent, student [~~when applicable~~], and school personnel (which may be a representative(s) from the multidisciplinary team) and may include community service providers.