
SECTION F: Facilities Development

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FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

Any educational program is influenced greatly by the environment within which it functions. The development of a quality educational program and school facilities which help to implement it must go hand in hand.

The School Board's goal is to provide facilities of the kind and size that will best support and accommodate the division's educational program and the number of students enrolled.

The School Board will constantly strive to provide new and remodeled facilities that will offer the best possible physical environment for learning and teaching.

The Board aims specifically toward:

1. New buildings and renovations that will accommodate and facilitate those new organizational and instructional patterns that support the division's educational philosophy and instructional goals.
2. Meeting all safety requirements through the remodeling of older structures.
3. Providing such building renovations as needed to meet requirements on the availability of public school facilities to disabled persons.
4. Building design and construction that will lend themselves to low maintenance costs and the conservation of energy. These two factors will also be given special consideration in the renovation of buildings.
5. Decisions pertaining to educational specifications of new buildings and those undergoing extensive remodeling will be developed and with the viewpoints of teachers, students, and the community considered.

Adopted: July 13, 2004

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-79 (3), 22.1-253.13:6.B.

FACILITIES PLANNING

The School Board is responsible for the regular operation and orderly development of all school facilities. The Board concerns itself with both short and long-range planning.

The superintendent presents to the School Board annually, or as necessary to coordinate with the planning process of the appropriating body, a Capital Improvement Program which includes recommendations regarding timing, location, costs and savings associated with:

- new building requirements
- restoration and renewal of existing school facilities

The superintendent may make recommendations for new buildings and renovations after input concerning facilities utilization, development and closure from a broad based committee representing the staff and community.

Recommendations are supported by data that supports the feasibility and need for construction and/or renovation.

Adopted: JULY 13, 2015

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-79(3).

Cross Ref.: AF Comprehensive Plan
BCF Advisory Committees to the School Board

NAMING OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Responsibility for making nominations of names for new schools and/or components of schools shall reside in a committee composed of Amelia County School Board members, professional staff, students, and/or citizens of the community. The procedure for selection of a school/school component name shall be initiated immediately following Amelia County School Board approval of funds for construction of the new school or school component. Decisions regarding the naming of school components shall be made once a year at a time designated by the School Board.

Adopted: December 9, 2003

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PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

When any playground equipment is installed on School Board property the Board assumes ownership of that equipment unless specifically stated otherwise by agreement. For this reason the maintenance of the playground equipment installed by a school or community group will be the responsibility of the School Board.

Once installed on School Board property, the principal of the school will have the responsibility to inspect the equipment on a regular basis, not less than monthly, and the authority, in his or her opinion if such equipment is unsafe in any way, to order its repair or removal from the school property. The principal may also restrict or deny the use of such equipment until such time, in his or her opinion, it is restored to safe condition.

Adopted: October 2001

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, sections 22.1-78. 22.1-79 (3),
22.1-88, 22.1-293 (B).

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES SPECIFICATIONS

To ensure that all new and remodeled facilities are designed to best implement the educational program, the superintendent will provide for the development of detailed educational specifications to apply to the design and construction of new buildings. Educational specifications are detailed descriptions of:

1. All the activities that will take place in the building;
2. The curriculum to be housed in the building;
3. Specific architectural characteristics desired; and
4. The facilities needed, their equipment requirements and their space relationship to other facility elements.

When educational specifications are prepared, an introductory section will also be included which will be devoted to a brief description of the community and the educational philosophy of the division. Consultants may be used in the development of educational specifications when deemed necessary by the superintendent and approved by the School Board.

Adopted: September 1996

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, sections 22.1-138, 22.1-140.

ENERGY-CONSERVING CONSTRUCTION

Use of energy-conserving construction shall be a high priority. The proposed project which contains the most efficient energy-saving plans within an acceptable budget shall have priority. Energy-saving designs shall be documented in the architectural evaluation and shall comply with educational specifications as determined by the State Department of Education and approved by the School Board.

A continuous study of energy problems and energy sources shall be maintained by the administration for future planning in new construction.

Adopted: September 1996

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, sections 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 36-97 to 36-119.1.

Uniform Statewide Building Code.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE DISABLED

Plans for new buildings and renovations or alterations of existing buildings will offer such design and accommodations as to make the newly constructed buildings and renovated or altered areas accessible to disabled persons. The Board shall require that construction plans for new buildings and renovations or alterations to existing buildings meet accessibility standards as specified in either the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (Appendix to 41 C.F.R. Part 101-119.6) or the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (Appendix A to 28 C.F.R. Part 36).

Adopted: September 1996

Legal Refs.: Rehabilitation Act of 1973 42 U.S.C., section 504, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. sections 12101-12213.

CONSTRUCTION PLANNING

No public school building or addition or alteration thereto, for either permanent or temporary use, is advertised for bid, contracted for, erected or otherwise acquired until the plans and specifications therefor have been approved in writing by the superintendent and are accompanied by a statement by an architect or professional engineer licensed by the Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers and Landscape Architects that such plans and specifications are, in the professional opinion and belief of the architect or professional engineer, in compliance with the regulations of the Board of Education and the Uniform Statewide Building Code. The superintendent's approval, architect's or engineer's statement and a copy of the final plans and specifications are submitted to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Adopted: JULY 13, 2015

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-140.

Cross Ref: FEA Educational Facilities Specifications

PUBLIC DEDICATION OF NEW FACILITIES

The School Board may have a public dedication ceremony following completion of major building projects.

Adopted: May 11, 2004

Legal Ref. Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, section 22.1-78.

Cross Ref.: FFA School Names

NAMING SCHOOL FACILITIES

It is the responsibility of the AMELIA COUNTY School Board to determine the name of schools and school facilities in the division. The Board will solicit and accept input from the public regarding the names of schools and school facilities but reserves the right to make the final decision regarding the name of any school or school facility. Suggestions regarding the name of a school or school facility must be in writing, must state the name of the person or group making the suggestion and must state the reasons supporting the suggestion. The School Board may create a committee to make recommendations to the Board on the naming of any school or school facility.

No school or school facility will be named for a living individual. Schools and school facilities may be named for individuals who have been deceased for at least 10 years.

The Board may rename a school or school facility upon a determination that it is appropriate to do so. The procedure for renaming a school or school facility will be the same as the procedure outlined above.

Adopted: JULY 13, 2015

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-78, 22.1-79.

Cross Ref.: BCE School Board Committees
 FF Public Dedication of New Facilities

RETIREMENT OF FACILITIES

Certain school division buildings become unsuitable for their present use, but may be used to benefit the school division or public in other ways. In determining which facility is to be retired, the School Board may consider the following of factors, among others:

1. The adaptability of the building for continued use of its present purpose;
2. The suitability of the site of the building;
3. The maintenance and upkeep of the building costs; and,
4. The historic value of the building to the community.

The School Board shall invite the viewpoints of community residents and staff in making its decision to retire a school building.

If the School Board determines to close a facility, it will first consider other uses that the school division might make of the building prior to considering relinquishing possession of the building.

Adopted: September 1997

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, sections 22.1-129, 22.1-131, 22.1-135, 22.1-136.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT CONSERVATION POLICY

The Amelia County School Board is committed to a policy that will insure that every effort to conserve energy and natural resources while exercising sound financial management.

The implementation of this policy is the joint responsibility of the board members, administrators, teachers, students and support personnel and its success is based on cooperation at all levels.

Amelia County Public Schools will maintain accurate records of energy consumption and the cost of energy. Information will be provided to the local media on the goals and progress of the energy conservation program.

The principal will be accountable for energy management on his/her campus with energy audits being conducted and conservation program outlines being updated. Judicious use of the various energy systems of each campus will be the joint responsibility of the principal and head custodian to ensure that an efficient energy posture is maintained on a daily basis.

To ensure the overall success of the energy management program, the following specific areas of emphasis will be adopted:

1. Every student and employee will be expected to contribute to energy efficiency in our division. Every person will be expected to be an “energy saver” as well as an “energy consumer.”
2. Effective immediately, all unnecessary lighting in unoccupied areas will be turned off. All lights will be turned off when students and teachers leave school. Custodians will turn on lights only in the areas in which they are working.
3. Energy management on his/her campus will be made a part of the principal’s annual evaluation.
4. The head custodian at each school will be responsible for a complete and total shutdown of the facility when closed each evening.
5. Within sixty - (60) days, administrative guidelines will be adopted that will be the “rules of the game” in implementing our energy program.

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The School Board acknowledges:

1. Responsibility for the best use of tax dollars, and
2. Public education can provide leadership in developing a realistic energy ethic and awareness of energy needs and costs.

The Amelia County School Board directs staff to develop short and long-range strategies in the areas of facilities management and curriculum development dealing with energy awareness and conservation.

Adopted: November 11, 2003

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