Policy 2201.~~8~~7
School Board

SPECIAL SERVICES

Admissions, Residency, and Attendance

Compulsory Attendance Requirements

This policy supersedes Policy 2201.~~7~~6.

I. PURPOSE

To set policy regarding compulsory school attendance pursuant to Code of Virginia requirements.

II. PHILOSOPHY

The Fairfax County School Board shall adhere to ~~affirms its belief in following~~ the Virginia Code requirements regarding compulsory school attendance.

~~II.~~III. SUMMARY OF CHANGES SINCE LAST ~~PUBLICATION~~ REVIEW

~~This policy has been reviewed and there are no changes at this time.~~ A Philosophy section has been added to the policy.

~~III.~~IV. REQUIREMENTS

A. Children who reside with parents or legal guardians in Fairfax County and who have reached their fifth birthdays on or before September 30 of the school year, but have not passed their eighteenth birthdays, except those exempted by the law, are required by the state of Virginia to attend school or its statutory equivalent.

B. Fairfax County Public Schools shall be free to each Fairfax County resident whose fifth birthday falls on or before September 30 of the school year and who has not reached 20* years of age on or before August 1 of the school year.

C. Parents or guardians whose child will not have reached his or her sixth birthday on or before September 30 of the school year may delay the child's attendance for one year by notifying the appropriate school principal in writing that they do not want the child to attend school until the following year because the child, in the opinion of the parent or guardian, is not mentally, physically, or emotionally prepared to attend school.

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*The age limit is extended to 22 years of age for a student for whom English is a second language and who entered school in Virginia for the first time after reaching the twelfth birthday. It is also extended for a student identified as having a disability and in need of special education who has not graduated from high school with a standard or advanced studies high school diploma and who has not reached 22 years of age on or before September 30 of the school year.

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Legal reference: Code of Virginia, Sections 22.1-5, 22.1-199, 22.1-254

Policy adopted:	July 1, 1986
Revised:	June 28, 1990
Revised:	April 28, 1994
Revised:	May 11, 2001
Reviewed:	March 27, 2006
Reviewed:	July 11, 2013
Reviewed:	September 26, 2019
Revised:	January 22, 2026

FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD