

|| **SPECIAL SERVICES**

**Admission, Residency, and Attendance**

**Compulsory Attendance Requirements**

This policy supersedes Policy 2201.3.

**I. PURPOSE**

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

**II. 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.

**III. KINDERGARTEN REQUIREMENTS**

Students enrolled in kindergarten shall be assigned individually to activities and groups best suited to their maturity and achievement levels. Where such assignment results in a temporary or extended placement with a first grade group or ungraded group, the student may, with parental permission, attend school for a full day rather than the regular three-hour session.

|| \*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 to 22 years of age 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.

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

Policy

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