

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 9, ARTICLE 8, SECTION 9-8.1 ENTITLED “PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY; PARENT CONTACT REQUIRED; NOTE REQUIRED” OF THE POLICIES OF THE SUFFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD – FIRST READING AND ADOPTION**

**BE IT ORDAINED, by the School Board of the City of Suffolk, Virginia that Chapter 9, Article 8, Section 9-8.1, entitled “Parental responsibility; parent contact required; note required” of the Policies of the Suffolk City School Board, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:**

**Section 9-8.1. Parental responsibility; parent contact required; note required. —**

A. School attendance is directly related to academic achievement and the development of good habits which are important in the world of work. Optimum student attendance is a cooperative effort and the School Board expects parents and students to take an active role in accepting the responsibility for good attendance.

Each parent/guardian in charge of a child within the compulsory attendance age shall be responsible for such child’s regular and punctual attendance at school as required under the provisions of law.

B. Every reasonable effort will be made to contact a parent/guardian of each absent student every day and a log will be kept of call attempts.

C. When a student is absent from school, the student’s parent or guardian must inform the school of the reason for the absence no later than upon the student’s return to school. Absences can be excused for any of the following:

- for middle and high school students, one school day per school year to engage in a civic event
- funeral, illness (including mental health and substance abuse illnesses), injury, legal obligations, medical procedures, suspensions, expulsions, religious observances, and military obligations.

D. The superintendent, by regulation, will establish procedures for appropriate interventions when a student engages in a pattern of absences for less than a full day, the explanation of which, if it were a full-day absence, would not be an excused absence. The superintendent’s regulations will also include procedures for excusing students who are absent by reason of observance of a religious holiday. Such regulations will ensure that a student is not deprived of any award or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for any award, or of the right to take an alternate test or examination, when the student was not able to do so initially because of the student’s absence from school, if the absence is verified in an acceptable manner and deemed excused. (Adopted February 9, 1995; Revised January 14, 1999; Revised January 11, 2018; Ordinance Number 17/18-36, Effective Date: January 11, 2018)

**Legal Authority** - Virginia Code §§ 22.1-227.1, 22.1-254, 22.1-258, 22.1-260, 22.1-279.3, 46.2-323 and 46.2-334.001, and 54.1-3900 (1950), as amended; 8 VAC 20-730-20 and 8 VAC 20-730-10.

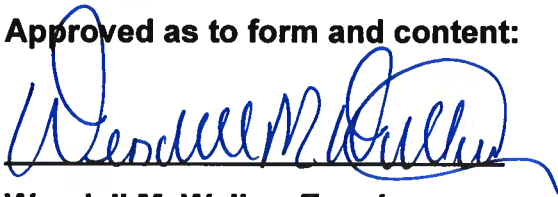
**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that all phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, subsections, sections and chapters of the School Board's Policy Manual not amended or repealed shall remain in full force and effect.

**FIRST READING AND ADOPTION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TESTE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved as to form and content:**



**Wendell M. Waller, Esquire**  
**School Board Attorney**