FOUNDATIONS AND BASIC COMMITMENTS

Prayer at School Functions

As a result of the Supreme Court’s ruling banning prayer at graduation ceremonies, the following guidelines are intended to clarify the use of prayer at school functions.

1. No employee, guest speaker, citizen, or member of the clergy may lead group prayer at graduation exercises.

2. No employee in the course of their duties, shall lead a group in prayer, or designate a student to do so.

3. Student led prayer that is not disruptive of instruction is permissible. Note: The membership on an athletic team is not a necessary condition for establishing the right to student led prayer.

4. If a student’s or a group of students’ beliefs conflict with these regulations, the regulations must accommodate the beliefs. Any such case will be forwarded to the Superintendent for approval.

5. Additional information on issues related to prayer at school functions may be found in the Virginia State Board of Education’s publications “Guidelines Concerning Religious Activity in the Public Schools.”

The Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability (or designee) and the Level Associate Superintendents are responsible for implementing and monitoring this regulation.

The Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability (or designee) is responsible for reviewing this regulation in 2018.