STUDENTS

Students Eighteen Years of Age and Older

I. Rights of Adult Students

Eighteen-year-old students, having attained the age of majority as set forth in §§ 1-203 and 1-204 of the Virginia Code, may act in lieu of their parents or guardians regarding matters related to the following:

A. Attendance and dismissals. In order to authenticate the reason for the absence or dismissal, the student’s principal, or designee, has the authority to contact the student’s parent/guardian, or request a doctor’s note if the absence/dismissal is medically related.

B. Field trips.

C. Permission to access student records by third parties (except those persons who have access without consent).

D. Part-time employment.

E. Use of motor vehicles.

F. Questioning by police.

II. Use of the Eighteen-Year-Old Declaration Form

Prince William County Public Schools students who reach the age of 18 may choose to exercise their rights and responsibilities as adult students by completing the Eighteen-Year-Old Declaration Form (attachment) available at each high school. Students are encouraged to consult with their parents/guardians prior to reaching this decision.

The Declaration Form must be signed by the student, principal, or designee. A copy of this form is retained in the student’s education record and copies are provided to the student and his/her parents/guardians.
The provisions of the declaration shall remain in force until the student graduates or until the principal is notified in writing that the student wants to withdraw his or her declaration.

III. Effects of Signed Declaration for Adult Students and Their Parents/Guardians

A signed Declaration does not alleviate the parent(s)/guardian(s) of their responsibilities under Virginia law to assist the school in enforcing the “Code of Behavior” and compulsory attendance standards. Though adult students are responsible for their own attendance, school officials will continue to make the necessary efforts to notify the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student’s absences, consistent with Virginia law and the School Division’s regulations. This includes involvement of attendance officers as required by Regulation 724-1, “Attendance and Excuses.”

School officials will continue to notify parents about disciplinary matters involving the student, as required by Virginia law.

For adult students with disabilities, federal and state special education laws provide that when the student reaches the age of 18, the procedural safeguards and other rights afforded to parents of a student with a disability transfer to the student. However, notices will continue to be sent to the parents/guardians, in addition to the adult student.

The Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability (or designee) is responsible for implementing and monitoring this regulation.

This regulation and related policy shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD DECLARATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name:</th>
<th>Current Address:</th>
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Does your parent/guardian live with you at the above address?  YES  NO

**Student and Parent/Guardian Read:**

State law establishes the rights of 18-year-olds. With certain exceptions, 18-year-olds are considered adults under the Virginia Code § 1-204. Those 18-year-olds who wish to act in lieu of their parents/guardians in granting permission regarding absence notes and sign outs (except for the purpose of going off the school grounds for lunch), field trips, access to student records by third parties (except those persons who have access without consent), part-time employment, use of motor vehicles, and questioning by police, may do so. As provided by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), parents/guardians of students who are dependents (as defined in § 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) may have access to the student’s record. Further, as required by the Virginia Code § 22.1-277, parents/guardians will be notified by letter of any instance of the student’s suspension or expulsion from school. Therefore, school personnel shall continue to contact the student’s parents/guardians regarding school performance and of any suspension or expulsion from school although this declaration is filed by the student. The school will inform the parents/guardians of this action by sending them a copy of the signed declaration.

**Student Complete:**

I, __________________________________________ having signed this declaration, understand that the school will deal directly with me as an adult, and I will abide by the following:

- If I am to be absent or tardy, I will comply with the established attendance procedures applicable to all students.
- I will accept responsibility for myself in those situations which would ordinarily involve parents/guardians, their permission, or signature. This responsibility includes attendance, field trip permission, athletic physical forms, part-time employment, use of motor vehicles, and questioning by police.
- I understand that each of my teachers will be informed that I have signed this declaration.
- I will carry a copy of this declaration and show it to school personnel upon request.
- I understand that I am required to comply with all policies and regulations of the School Division, except for those instances included in this Declaration.
- **I understand that there may be circumstances for which the school may continue to contact my parent/legal guardian. These circumstances include, but are not limited to, egregious violations of the “Code of Behavior,” suspensions and/or expulsions from school, and concerns for my mental or physical health and well-being. I also understand that my parents/guardians will receive copies of written notifications pertaining to these matters.**

_________________________  ____________________________
Signature of Principal/Designee - Date  Student Signature - Date

FORM No. 7530-0641 (Rev. 7-18)