

## RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION FROM COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

A school board shall excuse from attendance at school:

Any pupil who, together with his/her parents, by reasons of bona fide religious training or belief is conscientiously opposed to attendance at school. For purposes of this subdivision, “bona fide religious training or belief” does not include essentially political, sociological or philosophical views or a merely personal moral code.

Applications for religious exemption from compulsory school attendance shall be approved by the school board on a child-by-child basis. In approving applications, the board may meet with children and must consider the independent religious beliefs of the children in question. The board, or its designee, shall review religious exemptions annually and make recommendations for renewal of the exemptions.

A religious exemption is approved and issued by the school board in the division where a student resides. Religious exemptions are not transferrable from one division to another, and they are granted to the child, not his/her family.

Adopted: June 3, 2014

---

---

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-254(B)(1).