

## Part-Time Enrollment of Non-Public School Students

### A Fact Sheet

#### Definitions

*Home Instruction:* Instructional Services directed and delivered by the parent or guardian of a child who is of compulsory school age and not enrolled in public school.

*Religious Exemption:* Exemption from compulsory attendance for a pupil who, together with his parents, by reason of bona fide religious training or belief is conscientiously opposed to attendance at school. "Bona fide belief" does not include essentially political, sociological or philosophical views, or merely personal code.

#### From Virginia Department of Education Home-School Count (September 2001):

Fauquier County has **366** home-schooled students which is about **3.9%** of Fauquier's Average Daily Membership (ADM), compared to.....

Frederick:	153 – 1.4%
Albemarle:	258 – 2.1%
Culpeper:	156 – 2.7%
Rappahannock:	25 – 2.2%
Loudoun:	720 – 2.5%
Lynchburg:	210 – 2.2%

(These numbers do not include religious exemption students. If religious exemptions are added, Fauquier's numbers rise to 491 (5.2%); the other divisions listed range from 2.2% to 4.7%.

#### The Virginia Code References:

**22.1-254.1 (home instruction)**

**22.1-254 (religious exemption)**

#### State Sales Tax Information

10,093 school age children were reported to the Commonwealth for the 1999 tri-annual census. This reporting allocated to Fauquier County Public Schools .7% of Virginia state sales tax. For FY2001, sales tax in the amount of \$5,593,035.38 was received for a per child amount of \$554.15.

# **Part-Time Enrollment of Non-Public School Students Fauquier County School Board's Decision-Making Process**

## ***A Timeline***

### **May/June 2001**

In its effort to decide whether to permit part-time enrollment of home-school and private school students, the School Board charges the School Board Attorney to survey school divisions in Virginia to determine what districts allow part-time enrollment of nonpublic school students.

The attorney gives the report to the Board. Eighty-one (81) school divisions responded to the FOIA request. Of the 81, 39 indicated that they allow part-time participation in varying degrees; 34 indicated they do not; the other 8 indicated they had no policy at all, like Fauquier.

The Board charges school administrative staff to study the question further asking them to report on the potential impact of part-time enrollment on the school division.

### **Summer 2001**

Discussions are held with various groups; Eric Dalton chairs a focus group in late June to discuss impact; individuals are assigned the duty to examine impact further in preparation for fall presentation.

### **September 2001**

Ed Clymore, Interim Superintendent leads presentation to Board. The following staff members discuss the potential impact to the Board:

*Eric Dalton*, Instructional Coordinator, reviews the potential positive impact of part-time enrollment (.5 benefit in ADM count; diversity, and wider community involvement) as well as the areas that may be adversely impacted by part-time enrollment (class size, attendance/achievement accountability, staffing, etc.).

*Jerry Carter*, Liberty High School's Athletic Director, reviews the VHSL (Virginia High School League) position on part-time enrollment. Essentially, VHSL prohibits part-time enrolled students from participating in VHSL competitions.

*Lynda Carscallen*, Special Education Director, discusses the potential impact on Special Education. Mrs. Carscallen points out that enrollment of part-time regular education students will require that we enroll special education students on a part-time basis as well. Highly specialized teachers and a lower pupil-teacher ratio are often required for students with IEP's. The potential impact on our resources may be significant.

*Dave Bell*, Director of Guidance at LHS, discusses the potential impact on high school scheduling and the academic day in general. He notes that potentially part-time enrollment could impact scheduling decisions at the high school level because numbers impact course offerings and class sizes.

*Marcy Cotov*, Budget Officer, discusses the potential financial impact. See Attachments 1 and 2 for her summation.

Mr. Clymore concludes the presentation and recommends that the Board deny non-public school attendance until such time as the General Assembly legislates and regulates the issue or it is adjudicated in court.

The Board postpones the decision and recommends further study.

**November 2001**

At work session at Fauquier High School, the administration presents a (possible) policy to permit part-time enrollment adapted from a policy from a neighboring school division. School Board asks staff to survey divisions who permit part-time enrollment as well as other appropriate organizations or individuals to determine impact on admissions and on special education.

**December 2001**

Survey is conducted. Presentation is scheduled for the January 29, 2002 work session but is postponed until March 2002 because of budget and policy revision agenda items.

**March/April 2002**

Survey is presented. In general, school divisions report very few part-time requests; therefore, impact is minimal. Also presented is the Virginia Association of School Business Official's position on part-time enrollment and the School Board Attorney's statement regarding the impact on special education. (See Attachment 3.)

After a lengthy discussion, the School Board votes in April to adopt policy JECB (Option 1, from Virginia School Board Association) not permitting the admission of non-public school students for part-time enrollment.

## ***ATTACHMENT 3***

### **Additional Information for Board Consideration (presented at March 25, 2002 Work Session)**

#### **From Virginia Association of School Business Officials**

“VASBO” opposes legislation that would require local school boards to provide for the part-time enrollment of non-public school students. Many issues related to liability, attendance, safety, discipline, transportation, course availability, student morale, and financial costs would have to be addressed prior to considering such a mandate.” (*Winter 2002 newsletter*)

#### **From Mrs. Beane-Williams**

##### ***(impact on special education)***

“I spoke with John [Cafferky] about [this issue]. We agree that if we permit the part-time enrollment of regular education students then we will have to offer that option to special education students. We would have to offer full IEP’s. If the parents do not want complete IEP’s, then we would offer a service plan. Under the IEP or service plan, we would have to offer transportation.”