

**PROCEDURE TO REQUEST A RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION  
FROM  
COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

**Compulsory School Attendance**

The Commonwealth of Virginia requires school attendance for children who reach five years of age on or before September 30 of any school year and who have not passed the eighteenth birthday. §22.1-254 Code of Virginia

**School Attendance Excusal**

The School Board may excuse a child from school attendance at school: Any pupil who, together with his parents, by reason of bona fide religious training or belief is conscientiously opposed to attendance at school. Bona fide religious training or belief does not include essentially political, sociological or philosophical views or a merely personal moral code. §22.1-254(B)(1) Code of Virginia

**Procedure**

To request a religious exemption, please send the following:

1. Parents or guardians shall submit a written request for exemption stating the reasons which indicate the parents and the child are conscientiously opposed to school attendance;
2. Name, age, address and phone number for the student and his or her parents;
3. The residential address of the student if different from his or her parents;
4. Detailed letters or affidavits from friends, relatives or members of a faith or religion, including pastors, deacons or others knowledgeable in the faith system, demonstrating the sincerity of the parents' and child's beliefs and length of time the parents and child have held these beliefs.

The exemption may only be requested for children of compulsory school age.

Once granted, the exemption applies for future years; however, parents or guardians should notify the School Board in writing, referencing their religious exemption status, for younger children as they become of compulsory school attendance age.

*Information may be sent to Gabrielle Carpenter, Acting Pupil Services Coordinator, by:*

*US Mail: Administration Building, 21000 Education Court, Ashburn, VA 20148*

*E mail: Gabrielle.Carpenter@lcps.org*

*Phone: 571-252-1021*

*Fax: 571-252-1242*