

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parent(s)

FROM: Coordinator of Student Services

SUBJECT: RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION REQUEST

Virginia Code § 22.1.254.B.1 states a school board shall excuse from 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. 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 . . .

The request will be presented by the Superintendent of Virginia Beach City Public Schools to the School Board for final action.

Additional information, such as letters of support from your place of worship, pastor, fellow parishioners, etc., is required as supportive documentation to your application. Letters of support should provide religious reasons for requesting exemption from compulsory school attendance.

If you have questions or need additional assistance, please write the Office of Student Leadership, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, Laskin Road Annex, 1413 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23451-6007 or call 757.263.2033.

**VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
APPLICATION FOR RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION FROM SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

Names of Parents: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone Number: _____
(Home) (Work)

<u>Full Names of Children</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Grade</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Are any of your children currently enrolled in a public or private school?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please indicate the name(s) of the child(ren) and the school(s) attended:

Do you have a sincerely held or **bona fide** religious exemption to having your child attend a public school? (A **bona fide** religious exemption shall not include essentially political, sociological, or philosophical views or merely personal moral code per Virginia Code § 22.1-254.B.1.)

Yes _____ No _____

Have you been previously approved for a religious exemption? If yes, please state which public school division and when. _____

Please list your religious reasons for not having your child attend public school.

Please provide additional documentation as attachments to this application.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Please provide the following to be submitted to the Virginia Beach School Board:

- Statement from you in support of your bona fide religious beliefs
- Letter of support from your worship leader
- Letter(s) of support from other sources (neighbors, fellow parishioners, etc.)

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____