

## **Policy Code: 4020 Eighteen-Year Old and Emancipated Students**

Some students may reach the age of eighteen or may become emancipated prior to graduation from the school district. The board recognizes the need to balance the rights of these students with the board's duty to provide an education to all students in a safe and orderly environment. Every student who is eighteen years of age or emancipated will comply with all board policies, administrative regulations and school rules, and will submit to the authority of teachers and other school personnel having authority over students

### **A. EMANCIPATED STUDENTS AND LEGAL DEPENDENTS**

For purposes of this policy, a student will be considered emancipated if (1) the student is eighteen years old and has established a domicile independent of his/her parents or guardians or (2) the student is under eighteen years old and is married or has been declared emancipated by a court. An eighteen-year old student who lives with his/her parents is considered a legal dependent of his/her parents and is not considered emancipated for the purposes of this policy. The school district presumes that all students under the age of 21 are dependents of their parents unless the student provides proof to the contrary.

Emancipated students will have those responsibilities, opportunities and rights granted to parents or guardians under board policies for purposes of consent, decision-making, access to records and domicile, unless otherwise indicated.

### **B. WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL AND ABSENCES**

All students must meet attendance requirements as provided in policy 4400.

Emancipated students may withdraw or be absent from school under their own cognizance. Upon return to school, such students must provide a written excuse signed by the student explaining the reason for the withdrawal or absence.

Eighteen-year old students who are considered legal dependents may withdraw or be absent from school under their own cognizance. However, notification of withdrawal or absence will be sent to parents or guardians and the student will be required to provide a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian to be presented on the day the student returns after the absence or withdrawal, unless the withdrawal or absence is for a medical appointment. If a student withdraws or is absent from school for a medical appointment, the student may request that no notice of withdrawal or absence be sent to parents or guardians, and the student may provide a statement from a physician in lieu of a written excuse signed by a parent.

### **C. PERMISSION TO INSPECT STUDENT RECORDS**

An eighteen-year old or emancipated student will be allowed access to his/her student records upon proper request. Review and release of records by the student will be made pursuant to policy 4700 (Student Records).

### **D. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Eighteen-year old or emancipated students may be held financially responsible for damage to school property.

### **E. SUSPENSION/EXPULSION**

Suspension or expulsion of eighteen-year old students who are legal dependents will be in accordance with board policies for suspension of other students. Parents or guardians of such students will be notified of suspensions or expulsion and requested to attend conferences or hearings.

Emancipated students will be suspended in accordance with board policies for suspensions or

expulsion. However, such students will receive notifications and will be requested to attend conferences or hearings in lieu of a parent or guardian.

Legal References: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, [20 U.S.C. 1232g](#), [-h](#), [34 C.F.R. pt. 99](#); [20 U.S.C.A. § 6083](#); [G.S. ch. 7A](#); [art. 56](#), [14-292](#), [-313](#); [18B-301](#), [-302](#); [ch. 90](#), [art. 5](#); [115C-36](#), [-47](#), [-114](#), [-276\(r\)](#), [-288](#), [-307](#), [-378 to -383](#), [-390](#), [-391](#), [-402](#).

Cross References: Student Behavior Policies (policies 4300 to 4370), Tobacco Products (policy 4320), Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages and Stimulant Drugs (policy 4325), Attendance (policy 4400), Student Records (policy 4700)

Adopted: 11/19/98

### **Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools**

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