

INSTRUCTION

One Minute of Silence P 6-12Generally

The superintendent shall ensure that students observe the moment of silence as required by the Code of Virginia quoted in the legal reference to this policy. Each school shall require each classroom teacher to initiate a one-minute period of silence during the first homeroom period of each school day. All students are required to remain seated and silent and make no distracting display to the end that each pupil may, in the exercise of his or her individual choice, meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity which does not interfere with, distract, or impede other pupils in the like exercise of individual choice.

Legal Reference

Code of Va. § 22.1-203 Daily observance of one minute of silence “In order that the right of every pupil to the free exercise of religion be guaranteed within the schools and that the freedom of each individual pupil be subject to the least possible pressure from the Commonwealth either to engage in, or to refrain from, religious observation on school grounds, the school board of each school division shall establish the daily observance of one minute of silence in each classroom of the division.

During such one-minute period of silence, the teacher responsible for each classroom shall take care that all pupils remain seated and silent and make no distracting display to the end that each pupil may, in the exercise of his or her individual choice, meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity which does not interfere with, distract, or impede other pupils in the like exercise of individual choice.

The Office of the Attorney General shall intervene and shall provide legal defense of this law.”

(Code 1950, § 22-234.1; 1976, c. 103; 1980, c. 559; 2000, c. 1022.)

Adopted by School Board: June 20, 2000