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Board of Education Extends Public Comment Period *Proposed Guidelines Aimed at Preventing Sexual Misconduct in Public Schools*

To allow time for receipt and analysis of additional public comment, Board of Education President Eleanor B. Saslaw has decided to delay for one month final review by the full board of the proposed *Guidelines for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and Abuse in Virginia Public Schools*.

The 2008 General Assembly adopted legislation (HB 1439 and SB 241) amending Standard 7 of the Standards of Quality to require school boards to adopt policies addressing sexual abuse of students by teachers and other school board employees. The proposed guidelines, which had been scheduled for final consideration on January 13, are designed to help school divisions meet their obligation under the law and create policies and procedures that establish clear and reasonable boundaries for interactions between students and teachers, other school board employees, and adult volunteers.

The Board of Education will accept public comment through February 12 and anticipates final review of the proposed *Guidelines for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and Abuse in Virginia Public Schools* at its meeting on February 17 in Richmond.

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