

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION

APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 22.1-254 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA

Virginia Code Section 22.1-254 provides for exemptions from compulsory attendance requirements. If you wish to apply for an exemption based on religious training or beliefs, you must fully complete the following form for consideration by the School Board of the City of Hampton. The application must be signed by the parent(s) and pupil (if applicable). Attach additional sheets as needed. An incomplete application will not be processed and failure to provide all of the required information will result in a denial of the exemption.

Hampton City Schools requires that the parent(s) and pupil (if applicable) reaffirm the contents of this Application annually by completing the Religious Exemption Renewal Form.

I. IDENTIFICATION:

A. Pupil's Name/Address/DOB (required to determine if pupil is in compulsory attendance age group):

Last	First	Middle Initial	Date of Birth
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Address	City	State	Zip Code
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Telephone Number(s)

B. Parent/Guardian's Name/Address/Telephone Contact Number(s):

Last	First	Middle Initial
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Address	City	State	Zip Code
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Telephone Number (Home)	Telephone Number (Work)	Telephone Number (cell)
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Email address

C. Current School (If applicable):

Name of School

Address

City

State

Zip Code

D. Present Grade of Enrollment (if applicable): _____

E. Is this pupil’s religious training complete to the extent that you, the parent, consider the pupil to be self-governing on matters related to religious faith and practice? Yes No

II. BONA FIDE RELIGIOUS TRAINING OR BELIEF

This exemption may be claimed only by those pupils who, together with their parents, are conscientiously opposed to attendance at public school by reason of bona fide religious training or belief. Conscientious opposition for the purposes of this exemption is based on bona fide religious training or belief. It does **not** include essentially political, sociological, philosophical, or merely personal moral codes. This section must be completed by both the pupil and his/her parents or guardian. Applicants should fill out either Section A or B (whichever is applicable). All applicants are encouraged to complete Section C. Self governing students are required to complete Section C.

A. Exemption Sought Based on Participation in Church or Organization

Please fill out this section if you are claiming the exemption based on participation in a church or organization. If you are instead claiming the exemption based on religious training or beliefs held outside of a church or organization please fill out Section B below.

1. Please identify the local church or organization which embodies the religious training or beliefs that you hold:

Name of Church or Organization

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone Number

2. Please identify the pastor, spiritual leader or other person who presides over the church or organization:

Name		Telephone Number	
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Address	City	State	Zip Code
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3. Length of membership, association or affiliation with that church or organization:

Pupil: _____ years _____ months

Parent/Guardian: _____ years _____ months

4. Please attach two letters of affirmation with original signatures from members of the church or organization who can speak to the nature of your affiliation with the church or organization, preferably one from the spiritual leader or other leader associated with the organization (where applicable). The letters should also include the signers name, address, and contact information.

B. Exemption Sought Based On Other Participation

Please fill this section if you are claiming the exemption based on participation in religious training or beliefs held outside of a church or organization. If you are instead claiming the exemption based on religious training or beliefs held as part of a church or organization please fill out Section A above.

1. What is the name of the religious, denomination or belief systems with which you most identify?

Describe

2. How long have you associated with a religious, denomination or belief system which is opposed to public school attendance?

Pupil: _____ years _____ months

Parent/Guardian: _____ years _____ months

3. Please attach two letters of affirmation with original signatures from people who can speak to the sincerity of your beliefs. The letters should also include the signers name, address, and contact information.

C. Additional Information

In providing the information requested in this section, you may attach additional sheets to this form if necessary.

1. Briefly describe in your own words how the beliefs you hold lead you to be opposed to public school attendance:

Pupil (REQUIRED for those who are self-governing on matters related to religious faith and practice):

Parent/Guardian: _____

2. Please provide excerpts, passages or citations from a text or document, if any, that support(s) the beliefs you describe in the previous questions.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Pupil (REQUIRED for those who are self-governing on matters related to religious faith and practice).