



Statement by Bishop Burbidge and Bishop Knestout on Updated Model Policies for Public Schools

July 20, 2023

This week, the Virginia Department of Education released updated “[Model Policies Ensuring Privacy, Dignity, and Respect for All Students and Parents in Virginia’s Public Schools.](#)”

We commend Governor Youngkin and his Administration for issuing these updated policies, which are a considerable improvement and much needed remediation of the policies put in place by the prior Administration. The new policies enhance transparency for parents and restore their primary role in the education, care and health of their children. They affirm and protect the dignity and safety of every student. They also respect the religious liberty and conscience rights of all members of Virginia’s public school community.

We urge parents whose children attend Virginia public schools to become familiar with the updated policies, to engage in discussion about them at the local level, and – most importantly – to embrace their critical role in the lives of their children at home and at school.

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