



To request other curriculum available through the Virginia Rules Program, visit the website at virginiarules.org or call 804-786-2071.

Reducing Gangs in Virginia workbooks are available for elementary, middle and high school students and parents and teachers.

How to Host a Virginia Rules Camp Guide



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Your Job Just Got Easier – And Your Students Safer

Virginia RULES

Teens Learn & Live the Law

virginiarules.org



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



Virginia RULES

Program Overview

- Goal** To educate middle and high-school students about Virginia laws so they can make better life choices
- Topics** Gangs, drugs, driving, family relations, labor laws, bullying, internet safety, dating violence, teens and law enforcement encounters, and many more
- Launched** 1998, by the Office of the Attorney General
- SOL connection** Lesson content correlated with specific grade-level SOL requirements in different categories
- Teaching aids** Website, curriculum guide, lesson plans, student handouts and worksheets



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Virginia RULES

Teens Learn & Live the Law



Resources and Information for School Resource Officers, Teachers, and Administrators Alike.

The Virginia Rules website is where “teens learn and live the law.” But it is also a rich source of information and advice for those whose job it is to ensure that teens actually *do* live the law.

- View the correlation between the Virginia Rules curriculum and current Virginia SOL guidelines.
- Use the list of resources and publications to help make instruction easier.
- Download all teaching materials, including student hand-outs and curriculum guides.
- Take an online quiz to test your own knowledge of the law.
- View videos designed for the classroom.
- Search the Code of Virginia for specific subject areas and details.

Guidance and Reassurance for School Administrators

Donna Michaelis is the director of the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety. One of the most useful tools she provides for school administrators is the Virginia Juvenile Law Handbook. First published in 1997, it is updated regularly.

“Most school administrators do not receive training in criminal law. By providing an abbreviated version of the criminal code that is applicable to students under the age of 18, it helps make the Virginia code accessible and understandable.”

For example, sexual harassment and bullying have been much in the news. The challenge comes when administrators are called upon to draw the line between behavior that is a violation of school policy and behavior that is a criminal offense.

“The Virginia Rules program, and the juvenile law handbook in particular, help principals decide when to pass the baton to law enforcement. The handbook neatly cross-references incidents so administrators can see when a school policy violation turns into a criminal violation.”



Creativity and Ease for Teachers in Class

Mark Fletcher teaches criminal justice at Battlefield High School in Haymarket, Virginia. With a prior career in law enforcement, he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his classroom. During the summer, he travels all over the state training teachers and administrators on how to use the Virginia Rules curriculum.

“Sometimes people are hesitant until they understand how easy it is to teach and how well kids relate to it. The program is structured with a lesson goal, and there’s a pre- and post-test which allows both the teacher and the students to see how much they’ve learned.”

Fletcher has been teaching the Virginia Rules program himself since 2009. He appreciates its SOL correlation, but he especially likes the way it allows for flexibility and creativity.

“I put a little different twist on it. My class has a lot of fun doing a mock trial. I give them a crime scenario and say, ‘You guys create the case.’ Then we videotape it and show it to the school administrators. Recently they dreamed up a car-jacking which turned into a kidnapping case because there was a child in the back seat of the car.”



Everyone Benefits

While the Virginia Rules program is designed to help school resource officers, administrators, parents, and students alike, it is especially useful in schools. Principals and teachers say they appreciate having:

- one accurate, current source for laws that are constantly changing
- statistics that break down the most prevalent behavioral and criminal problems by school district
- many different instructional resources, in the form of websites, publications, and videos
- a curriculum that encourages positive character-building in their students

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