

The Governor's School of Southside Virginia Policy Manual

Section

6.1 Mission statement

The mission of The Governor's School of Southside Virginia is to provide gifted, highly motivated juniors and seniors a challenging, interdisciplinary program of studies that develops leaders who possess the skills, global perspective, and vision needed to address the challenges of a rapidly changing society.

6.2 Objectives

The objectives of the program are to

- create excitement and desire for lifelong learning – focusing on the future,
- elevate the awareness level of students as well as provide practical skills in regard to teamwork and independence,
- enable students to master the tools necessary to use electronic networks,
- help students define and solve real life issues and problems,
- supply students with the means to recognize the interdependence of nations as a part of a new world economy, and,
- serve as a catalyst and through staff and students, be a resource for expanded educational opportunities for all Southside schools.

6.3 Accreditation

Every six years, the Governor's School program is evaluated by the Virginia Department of Education, Gifted Programs Office.

6.4 Calendar

- A. The Director prepares the Governor's School annual instructional calendar for approval by the Governor's School Joint Board at the May meeting each year.
- B. The instructional calendar is designed to meet the needs of the ten participating divisions for reporting grades, and it avoids conflicts with base high school semester exams.

6.5 School Day

Typically, the Governor's School has classes scheduled from 8:00 – 11:00 am each day.

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6.6 Evaluation of Curriculum and Instructional Program

The curriculum and instructional program of the Governor's School is under constant evaluation by the faculty in partnership with SVCC in order to best meet the needs of GSSV students.

With the integrated curriculum, all students are expected to take all classes offered with the instructors offered. If a student enters GSSV having already taken a class in the GSSV curriculum, he/she will work with their school counselor and the director to find a suitable replacement course. Students are not allowed to request a certain teacher or class.

6.7 Field trips

All Governor's School students must have a permission form signed by their parent/guardian for all field trips during the school year. GSSV students on field trips must travel in the company of a GSSV staff member, a staff member of a participating school division, or his/her own parent or guardian. Home schools are also made aware of field trips and are to sign off on their approval.

For overnight trips, the trip must be approved in advance by the Joint Board before permission is given by the school and parent/guardian. Each participating student and his/her parent must sign a form agreeing to abide by the GSSV Overnight Field Trip Guidelines.

6.8 Textbooks

The GSSV Director approves all textbooks used in Governor's School courses. The Governor's School faculty make recommendations on all textbooks for their respective courses.

6.9 Acceptable Use Agreement (AUA)

An acceptable use agreement is a written agreement signed by students, parents, and staff members which outlines the terms and conditions of technology use at the Governor's School and Southside Virginia Community College.

6.10 Student Evaluation and Grading

All Governor's School classes are evaluated on the following scale:

- A 90 – 100
- B 80 – 89
- C 70 – 79
- D 60 – 69
- F Below 60

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Grading practices for each course are explained in the course outline. Progress reports simply reflect progress to date in each course.

Students will receive notification of grades by the Governor's School faculty every nine weeks. All Governor's School students' grades will be reported to their high schools at the end of each nine-week period according to the Governor's School calendar.

Approved by Governor's School Board: 02/16/2022