

Section 9-11.5. Daily minute of silence required; teacher responsibility; personal reflection, prayer, meditation, etc., permitted. — A. ~~The Suffolk City School Board recognizes that a minute of silence before each school day prepares students and staff for their respective work or school days. Therefore, each teacher shall observe a minute of silence at the beginning of the first class of each school day.~~ Suffolk Public Schools will observe one minute of silence in each classroom every day.

B. ~~The teacher responsible for each class shall make sure that each student: (1) remains seated and silent and (2) does not disrupt or distract other students during the minute of silence.~~ During such period of silence, the teacher responsible for each classroom takes care that all pupils remain seated and silent and make no distracting display so that each pupil may, in the exercise of individual choice, meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity which does not interfere with, distract, or impede other pupils in the like exercise of individual choice.

C. ~~The minute may be used for any lawful silent activity, including personal reflection, prayer and meditation. However, the teacher responsible for each class shall not influence, in any way, students to pray or meditate or not to pray or meditate during the minute of silence.~~ Students and employees are prohibited from praying aloud during the minute of silence. (Adopted July 1, 2000; Ordinance Number 00/01-01)

Legal Authority – Virginia Code §22.1-203 (1950), as amended.