



VSBA President
R. Tyrone Foster
(Bristol City School Board)

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DATES TO REMEMBER

July 22, 2019
VSBA Orientation for New
Chairs and Vice-Chairs

VSBA Orientation for New
School Board Members &
Superintendents

July 23, 2019
VSBA Conference on
Education

September 24, 2019
VSBA Legislative Advocacy
Conference

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Colleagues! I sincerely hope that each of you are enjoying the great weather we have had the last few weeks as summer is fast approaching. Speaking of summer, I hope that you all will take the opportunity to spend time with friends, family and loved ones as you recharge from the hard work and goals you accomplished over the last school year. I hope that each school division had a great commencement exercise. As your VSBA President I had the distinct honor and humbling privilege to address the Class of 2019 at my alma mater, Virginia High School in Bristol. If I have not said it enough since my induction as VSBA President, I challenged the graduates to "Be The Difference."

Our last Regional Meetings concluded in May, and I want to say thank you to each of you that made me feel so welcome at your regional events. All the forums were well attended and I couldn't say more about the great student artwork and performances. I was also able to attend and represent the VSBA at the VASS Conference in Roanoke and bring greetings. Congratulations to Dr. Jeffrey Smith of Hampton City on his selection as Virginia Superintendent of the Year.

The VSBA was invited to attend all four of the Virginia Board of Education SOQ Focus Group meetings this past month in Marion, Farmville, Manassas and York County. I represented VSBA at the Marion event and the VSBA was well represented at the remaining meetings and public hearings.

The School Law Conference was held in Richmond earlier this month. We had the distinct honor of hearing from Rodney Robinson. Rodney, who teaches at the Virgie Binford Education Center in Richmond, is not only the Virginia Teacher of the Year but was also selected as the National Teacher of the Year. I want to personally thank Rodney for all he has done and continues to do for the children of this great Commonwealth. Congratulations again Rodney! We also heard from great presenters who gave school law updates at the local and national level, as well as topics on the legal authority and our role as school board members.

As we go further into summer please remember all of the notifications on VSBA Award Programs that you have been receiving. Those award applications are due at the end of July. Also don't forget our Conference on Education which is scheduled for July 23, 2019 at the Richmond Marriott. For the new Board Members and Superintendents, new Chairs and Vice Chairs don't forget the summer Orientation Conference on July 22, 2019. Registration is open and available for all of these events on the VSBA website. Don't forget to sign up for available webinars to assist all of us in being the best board members that we can be. In closing, let me again say thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be your VSBA President. It has been a busy year so far for all of us. I appreciate every opportunity I have to challenge myself and others to "Be The Difference" in the lives of our children in Virginia's public education system.

TF



VSBA President Tyrone Foster with National Teacher of the Year Rodney Robinson at the VSBA School Law Conference.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Role of the School Board Chair

From time to time I get calls from boards wanting to know what is the best way to elect a board chair/vice chair, and if there is a steadfast rule. My answer is always no. How the process is done is as varied as the 133 school boards that make up the Commonwealth. No matter how the process is handled, serving as a school board chair is a taxing job. The board chair is the voice, meeting planner, organizer, delegator, team-builder, parliamentarian, liaison and sounding board. With all these tasks, it is important that everyone know the skills required of school board chairs. It is imperative for every member of the governance team to support the work of the board chair and encourage that person to build the skill sets needed to be as successful as possible.

- ☐ Strong board chairs work well with others.
- ☐ Strong board chairs are good listeners and effective communicators.
- ☐ Strong board chairs are trustworthy.
- ☐ Strong board chairs have the time and the willingness to assume the extra duties associated with the position.
- ☐ Strong board chairs have a tough outer shell, and are able to view disapproval as a legitimate concern for the division, not a personal insult.
- ☐ Strong board chairs require regular communication with the superintendent.
- ☐ Strong board chairs draw a line between being an involved chair and overstepping the role into the job of superintendent.
- ☐ Strong board chairs can work together with the superintendent and vice-chair to set the agenda.
- ☐ Strong board chairs can maintain organized and productive meetings. The chair must be able to maintain a comfortable pace in conducting the meetings, balancing discussion on agenda items, and knowing when it is time to move on and take a vote on a particular issue.
- ☐ Strong board chairs must be knowledgeable in parliamentary procedures.

Remember, the board chair is very important; take the time to evaluate who on your board can bring the greatest benefit to the division by serving in this important role.

If you are a new board chair or vice-chair I would encourage you to attend the [VSBA Orientation for New Chairs/Vice Chairs](#) on July 22nd at the Richmond Marriott.

Thank you for all that you do and we look forward to seeing you soon.

GP

New COIA and FOIA Training Requirements

The 2019 General Assembly passed two bills (SB 1430 and SB 1431) that require all local elected officials, including elected school board members, to receive training on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Conflict of Interests Act (COIA).

The requirement for COIA training goes into effect on July 1, 2019. Elected school board members who are in office on July 1, 2019 will be required to receive training by December 31, 2019.

The requirement for FOIA training has a delayed effective date and will go into effect on July 1, 2020. Elected school board members who are in office on July 1, 2020 will be required to receive training by December 31, 2020.

The COIA training must be provided by the Ethics Council. The FOIA training must be provided by the FOIA Council or your board's attorney.

After the initial training, elected school board members are required to receive additional training at least once every two years.

As a reminder, these requirements are only applicable to ELECTED school boards.

The [VSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference](#) in Chesterfield on September 24 will feature a speaker from the Ethics Council which will fulfill the requirement for COIA training for all elected school board members.



Congratulations 2019 VSBA Regional Student Art Contest Winners!

BLUE RIDGE

First Place Elementary School
Tyler Daniel Peets– Giles County Public Schools

First Place Middle School
Rachel Keffer– Giles County Public Schools

First Place High School
Kyle Jackson– Franklin County Public Schools

CENTRAL

First Place Elementary School
Mya Woodard- Louisa County Public Schools

First Place Middle School
Rowan Eckhart– Albemarle County Public Schools

First Place High School
Cecilia Palomo– Orange County Public Schools

EASTERN

First Place Elementary School
Colton West– Gloucester County Public Schools

First Place Middle School
Victoria Ray O'Shaughnessy Geier– Lancaster County Public Schools

First Place High School
Violet Kagey– Gloucester County Public Schools

NORTHEASTERN

First Place Elementary School
Sophia Metcalfe– Manassas City Public Schools

First Place Middle School
Jason Lee– Fairfax City Public Schools

First Place High School
Jena Bae– Fairfax City Public Schools

SOUTHERN

First Place Elementary School
Paisley Mann– Appomattox County Public Schools

First Place Middle School
Dylan Cook– Mecklenburg County Public Schools

First Place High School
Paul Wendelin– Charlotte County Public Schools

SOUTHSIDE

First Place Elementary School
Ellektra-Lynn Portch– Dinwiddie County Public Schools

First Place Middle School
Sasha Magazine–Prince George County Public Schools

First Place High School
Mandy Newcomb– Powhatan County Public Schools

SOUTHWEST

First Place Elementary School
Bella Olliver– Tazewell County Public Schools

First Place Middle School
Ava Tuell– Smyth County Public Schools

First Place High School
Alura Dutton– Wise County Public Schools

TIDEWATER

First Place Elementary School
Nataleigh Bardeen– Virginia Beach City Public Schools

First Place Middle School
Zoe Valderrama– Chesapeake City Public Schools

First Place High School
Abigail Ford– Suffolk City Public Schools

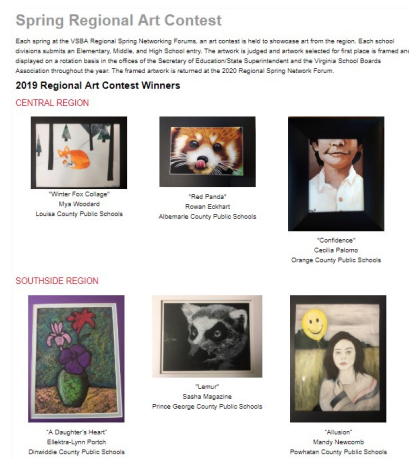
VALLEY

First Place Elementary School
Rowen Grandle– Rockingham County Public Schools

First Place Middle School
Abigail Kauffman– Harrisonburg City Public Schools

First Place High School
Cassidy Trippeer– Augusta County Public Schools

Photos of each of the winning pieces of art are available to view on the [VSBA Website](https://www.vsbavirginia.org/2019-regional-art-contest-winners). For the next year the artwork will be rotated between the VSBA offices in Charlottesville and the state Superintendent's office in Richmond, as well as on display at the VSBA Annual Convention.





What Does It Mean to be an Advocate for Education?

I had the opportunity to speak with Janie Strauss, member of the Fairfax County School Board and recipient of the 2018 VSBA Advocate for Education award, to see what advocacy means to her and what inspires her to serve on the school board. Mrs. Strauss discussed the importance of serving and advocating for all students.



When did you first join the School Board?

I was appointed to the school board in 1991 as an at-large member by a County Supervisor.

Why did you decide to join the School Board?

One of my first jobs out of college was working in an urban children's program that served a housing project in Boston. I was stunned by the many challenges the children and families faced. I was drawn to advocate for those children. I entered graduate school at Harvard in the school of education and became an elementary school teacher. When my family moved to Northern Virginia, I became a PTA leader and in time was appointed to the School Board. I felt that the education of our children and the quality of our public schools was a cornerstone for the success of our communities. Good public schools lay the foundation for an educated citizenry, a strong democracy, and an economy that benefits and respects all. It is in our schools where children learn with and from each other. Through our schools, we have a chance to knit a strong and resilient community fabric that sustains our way of life. Strong, effective school boards are critical to strong effective public schools. I wanted to be a part of this critical advocacy group.

What has been one of the most memorable experiences during your tenure on the School Board?

Moving away from an over emphasis on fact based learning and high stakes testing and moving toward greater problem-based learning, creativity and critical thinking. I am proud of the many school board members and educators I have served with here in Fairfax who have developed a **Portrait of Graduate** that describes the knowledge and skills we want all our children to learn based on what we have all come to describe as the 4 c's.

What do you feel is the most important thing that school boards do?

While School Boards operate at the policy level, we must understand our children, families and teachers well so the policies and budgets we approve actually result in the effective teaching and learning which we say is our goal. We must be learners and listeners. We need to understand best practice, current research and be able to evaluate how well our schools are progressing. We must understand the changing future for which we are preparing our children and listen to what our parents want for their children. VSBA and NSBA teach us that one of the most important decisions for a school board is hiring the right superintendent. But knowing best practice and the needs of our communities, enables us to find and hire that best superintendent.

What does advocacy mean to you?

Advocacy to me means communicating the needs of our children and schools to the broad community. Public schools belong to the public, serve the public good, are accountable to the public and rely on the public for the resources our schools need. Effective advocacy requires strong partnerships with all the various stake holder groups - parents and educators, the business community, elected officials, child/family serving groups as well as residents who do not have children or connections with schools. A school board that develops and sustains a strong community partnership through a consensus on what the children and their schools need, a way to secure the needed resources, and an accountability system that tells the community both progress and lack thereof will be a strong and effective advocate.

What are some ways that school board members can get involved with advocacy at the local, state and national levels?

Know well and partner with your community leaders, civic groups, business associations and elected officials. Be a presence at as many community events as possible to listen and learn. Serve on community committees. Develop joint legislative agendas with your local city council or board of supervisors where you share goals. And of course, participate with the VSBA and NSBA legislative activities in developing legislative positions and attending advocacy events at the state and federal level. Make sure your school board has its own legislative committee that is ready to comment on state and federal proposals and speak at public hearings. Know your PTAs legislative agendas and join with them where your goals connect. While school board members spend countless hours in their own school board meetings, participating beyond your school division grows the advocacy voice for all public schools.

What did it mean to you to receive the 2018 Advocate for Education award?

To be recognized was a surprise. Being an advocate, you don't expect a thank you. It is just a part of what you do. But, just as we teach our children the value of saying thank you, this award reminded me that as school board members we probably don't thank our own colleague board members enough for the work you all do. Advocating for quality public schools is a team effort. Saying thank you to our own team helps motivate us to continue to work hard. Thanks again to my fellow school board members for this recognition and thanks to VSBA for giving boards this chance to honor each other and say thanks to the team.

Janie Strauss, member of the Fairfax County School Board, is the recipient of the 2018 VSBA Advocate for Education Award. Strauss earned a bachelor's degree in history from George Washington University and a master's degree in education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She has previously served as PTA President, Fairfax County Council of PTAs President and has previously served as chair of the school board in 2001 and 2011 and 2017. She will retire from the Fairfax County School Board at the end of 2019 after 26 years of service



Division Spotlight: Franklin City Public Schools

In each newsletter VSBA will spotlight a recent initiative or best practice taking place in a school division in Virginia. If you have a story you would like to submit for inclusion in the spotlight section of the VSBA Newsletter, please contact Samantha Bosserman, director of communications and board development, for more information. We look forward to hearing about the great things going on in your divisions.

Rethinking School Lunch

Submitted by Franklin City Public Schools



The Franklin City Public Schools' nutrition program wanted to bring an innovative way to improve the manner in which our students perceive the school lunch.

Too many people forego nourishing shared meals for the sake of convenience. This is where the vision of having the Family Style Dining came about. In the effort to promote healthy eating habits and strong bodies and minds, this concept was researched. I was impressed with the many benefits Family Style Dining was promoting. It provides adequate time for all students to finish eating versus spending most of their time standing in the lunch line. Child development improves by practicing patience by sharing, passing bowls and platters of food, taking turns, and using appropriate language and manners. It also encourages social interaction with their peers and empowers the students to make their own choices. Family Style Dining creates a much more intimate setting. It promotes learning how to serve themselves and each other, fine motor skills and making meal time just plain fun.

Our dining staff takes careful food safety considerations by keeping food at the proper temperature and using appropriate and clean serving bowls and platters for the students to serve the meal. The dining hall staff has the food placed on the tables at the beginning of the meal, ready for when the students arrive.

We started the Family Style Dining on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2019 in all three dining halls. When the students came into their dining hall, they were greeted by the dining hall staff who were wearing chef coats. Tablecloths were placed on each table. Each table had a flower arrangement with place settings, bowls and platters of food.

The staff commented how much calmer the atmosphere was. They later remarked it had carried over from the dining hall into the classrooms. Students weren't as "wound up" and the transition back to the classrooms was much easier. The students are very appreciative and said that Family Style Dining made them feel good and that someone cares about them.

Our Superintendent and the School Board give us much appreciated support with this program. With such positive feedback, Family Style Dining has been held once a month ever since.





VSBA Profile in Leadership– Meet Teddy Martin, VSBA Blue Ridge Chair

Where is your hometown?

Bassett, Virginia. Home of the world-famous furniture and just a few miles from Martinsville Speedway.

How long have you been a school board member?

2 years. I was appointed in April 2017 and then elected in November 2017.

What/who inspires you?

I am inspired by so many people. In this role, I am inspired by our students and the countless dedicated professionals who deserve the best we can provide them as they represent and serve our community's present and future every day. I am inspired by the memory of my predecessor Betsy Mattox, who served our division for over 40 years as a teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent and then as a board member.

What is your motto as a board member?

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." -John Dewey

What is your advice for new school board members?

Use your resources. Seek a well-experienced mentor on your or another board. Attend VSBA training opportunities. It's been said that I seem to have been on my board longer than I have. It's because I learned from those with vast amounts of knowledge like my mentor Curtis Millner, who served on Henry County's board for 16 years and encouraged my participation in the VSBA.

What do you consider your greatest accomplishment as a board member?

Successfully advocating for both immediate and ongoing capital improvement funds to begin addressing our long-standing school infrastructure issues. We reached an agreement with the Board of Supervisors regarding carryover funding, added a capital improvement line-item to the budget, which was funded, and received our carry-forward funding for capital improvement use.

Was there a teacher or administrator that had a lasting effect on your life?

More teachers and administrators have had a lasting effect than I can list here, but I will begin with my kindergarten teacher Glenda Scott and first principal Walt Turner. They gave me a great foundation and love of school from which other excellent teachers and administrators were able to build.

What do you feel is the best benefit of being a member of VSBA?

The VSBA staff are amazing. They are prompt, provide great guidance, and organize excellent training opportunities. While we have our own divisions, we also have common goals in leading to a better Virginia that we and the staff work tirelessly toward every day.

How do you define advocacy?

I define advocacy broadly as any effort to impact a decision that affects our goals. It's not merely meeting with people in positions of power. Advocacy is communicating our thoughts on an issue to those who can support it- which could include voters, parents and guardians, fellow board members, community partners, and legislators.

Why is advocacy important to you and your role as a school board member?

Advocacy is what being a school board member is all about. Advocacy has a tangible impact in people's lives. Advocacy is how we reached the agreements for capital improvements for our schools. Advocacy is how we came to have a new award-winning Meadowview Elementary School. You may not always win, but you should always be heard. We make our best decisions when we make decisions that are informed. We are best informed when we hear from those who live with the decisions we make everyday.

Advocacy can be intimidating to some people. What advice do you have for them on ways to gradually become more engaged in advocacy?

Understand you already are an advocate. You have the skills. You advocated to become the representative for your district and its schools. Partner with fellow board members to address issues of common concern. Find your preferred medium. Perhaps you advocate best by writing or calling rather than face-to-face meetings. You do not have to fix all the problems over night.

What is the most challenging aspect of advocacy and how do you work to overcome it?

Advocacy is strategic. Not all matters are of equal significance. You may be right but cannot win. You must be able to work to understand the viewpoints and interests of many and know when your advocacy of one issue works against your advocacy of another. You overcome these by prioritizing and by working together to achieve shared goals for the betterment of all.



Teddy D. Martin, II
Henry County School Board
VSBA Board of Directors
Blue Ridge Region Chair



Nominations for Regional Chairs and Vice-Chairs

Nominations for regional chairs and vice-chairs are now open. Persons who wish to be considered by their respective Regional Nominating Committee for the VSBA regional chair position must submit both a completed form and pertinent biographical information.

Since Regional Chair and Vice-Chair positions are two year terms, only the following regions have openings for the Chair positions in 2020: Central Region, Northeastern Region, Southern Region, Southwest Region, and Tidewater Region

All candidates' information must be forwarded no later than two weeks prior to the fall regional meeting held at the VSBA Annual Convention in Williamsburg. The 2019 Regional Nominating Committee Chair information is below. If you have any questions, please call your VSBA Regional Nominating Committee Chair.

For more information, and for the nomination form please review the Regional Candidate Packet sent to board members in the regions above on May 3rd.

Central	Northeastern	Southern	Southwest	Tidewater
Graham Paige 7314 Porters Road Esmont, VA 22937 434.286.3639 gpaige@k12albemarle.org Albemarle County	Robyn Williams 9021 Grant Avenue Manassas, VA 20110 571.377.6008 robynwilliams@hotmail.com Manassas City	Peter Gur 1813 Woodland Trail Farmville, VA 23901 434.391.1082 peter.gur@pecps.k12.va.us Prince Edward County	Bill Brooks 5454 Brooks Way Bristol, VA 24202 276.669.2419 bbrooks@wcs.k12.va.us Washington County	Karen Jenkins P. O. Box 1549 Suffolk, VA 23439 757.809.0808 karenjenkins@spsk12.net Suffolk City



Looking to build board unity?



There's Board Development Training for that.

VSBA provides a customized approach that reduces tension and strengthens communication- whether you're working with a new superintendent, new board members or dysfunction in the board room.

Book your Custom Board Development Training today. Call Samantha Bosserman, Director of Communications and Board Development at 1-800-446-8722.



VSBA

Virginia School Boards Association
Leadership • Advocacy • Support



Advocacy: It Starts With You



J.T. Kessler
VSBA Government
Relations Specialist

Now, more than ever, the need to champion public education is of the greatest importance. With fierce competition for government appropriations combined with school building operations (both academic and non-academic) constantly under the public microscope, it is imperative that local school boards seek out an active role in advocating for the needs of the students and school personnel they are charged to serve.

As members of the local civic community, school board members possess a unique voice in the debates surrounding education policy within all levels of government. Your experience and knowledge are invaluable resources for policymakers as they pursue a course of action that will affect each student, teacher, and administrator in the Commonwealth. Communicating your division's challenges and successes impacts the final decisions made by your local council/board of supervisors, as well as, lawmakers serving in the Virginia General Assembly.

An effective strategy to connect with your Delegate and Senator is to invite them to your schools. To encourage such advocacy efforts, each November, the Virginia School Boards Association promotes Take Your Legislator to School Month. This allows you to showcase your local division and creates a lowkey environment for discussion about challenges your students and staff encounter each day. Holding an event(s) with legislators at your schools can be a powerful step in cementing a lasting relationship between education and political leaders that seeks to ensure opportunities for quality education are available to every student in the Commonwealth. Please watch for information regarding the VSBA Take Your Legislator to School Month initiative later this summer and early fall!

The advocacy you undertake within your local school division complements the efforts of the Virginia School Boards Association. Delegates and Senators want to hear from their constituents regarding proposed legislation. Not every lawmaker in Richmond is an expert on public

education. With hundreds of bills involving education policy sponsored each legislative session, lawmakers are overwhelmed and often seek out opinion from those they consider knowledgeable and trustworthy in this field of study. As constituents and school board members, offering yourself as a resource, as well as contacting your legislators when VSBA sends Action Alerts to its members is a critical piece of advancing VSBA's legislative priorities.

If there is anything I can assist with in planning advocacy efforts with your local school board, please do not hesitate to contact me by calling VSBA at (434) 295-8722 or by email jason@vsba.org.

Looking for more information on advocacy? Check out the New VSBA School Board News Podcast on Advocacy

[VSBA Podcast: Episode 2: Advocacy](#)

NOW OPEN

VSBA

ADVOCATE FOR EDUCATION AWARD



The VSBA would like to invite your board to nominate a board member for the annual Advocate for Education Award.

The nominee must demonstrate significant and outstanding leadership, commitment, and contribution to public education that has had an impact on their region and the Commonwealth

Applications are available online. The deadline to submit a nomination is July 26, 2019.

For questions contact J.T. Kessler, jason@vsba.org or, 1-800-446-8722



Thank You to the 2019 VSBA Business Affiliates

The Virginia School Boards Association appreciates the support for public education shown by its business affiliate members.

[2RW Consultants, Inc.](#)

[ABM Education](#)

[Air Mechanical Sales, Inc.](#)

[Ameresco](#)

[American Fidelity](#)

[Assura, Inc.](#)

[Benefit Plan Administrators, Inc.](#)

[Blue Bird Bus Sales of Virginia](#)

[Branch Builds, Inc.](#)

[Compass/SSC Services for Education](#)

[Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates](#)

[Cunningham Recreation/Game Time](#)

[Education Solutions Services](#)

[English Construction Company](#)

[First Student, Inc.](#)

[Gay and Neel, Inc.](#)

[Get More Math](#)

[GCA Education Services, Inc.](#)

[Grimm + Parker Architects](#)

[HBA Architecture & Interior Design, Inc.](#)

[Hord Coplan Macht, Inc.](#)

[Howard Shockey & Sons, Inc.](#)

[J.A Street & Associates](#)

[JMT](#)

[Johnson Controls, Inc.](#)

[M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc.](#)

[MBP](#)

[Mark III Employee Benefits](#)

[McGraw– Hill Education](#)

[McKissick Stranmyre Architects](#)

[Metz Culinary Management](#)

[Moseley Architects](#)

[Mountain Valley Transportation, Inc.](#)

[OWPR, Inc.](#)

[Pierce Group Benefits](#)

[Quinn Evans Architects](#)

[Roof Consulting Services, Inc.](#)

[RRMM Architects, P.C.](#)

[SB Ballard Construction Company](#)

[Schneider Electric](#)

[Secure Futures LLC](#)

[Securitech Group, Inc.](#)

[Sodexo](#)

[Stantec](#)

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[Skanska USA Building, Inc.](#)

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[VMDO](#)

[VRSA](#)

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[Virginia Lottery](#)



Good Fun For a Great Cause.

How the Virginia Lottery's profits support K-12 public school budgets.

GIVING BACK TO VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Did you know that the Virginia Lottery exists to support K-12 public schools in the Commonwealth? In fact, all Lottery profits go to our schools, representing about 10% of the state's entire budget for education – it's why we create games!



Virginia Lottery

HOW DOES IT ALL WORK?

Keep reading to follow your dollar's journey from point of sale to your local schools.

SALES

One play at a time, one dollar at a time, you contribute to Virginia's future and help the Lottery live its mission.

LOTTERY PROCEEDS FUND

The Lottery deposits 100% of profits from the sale of tickets to the Lottery Proceeds Fund, designated by the Virginia Constitution to support local public education across the Commonwealth.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

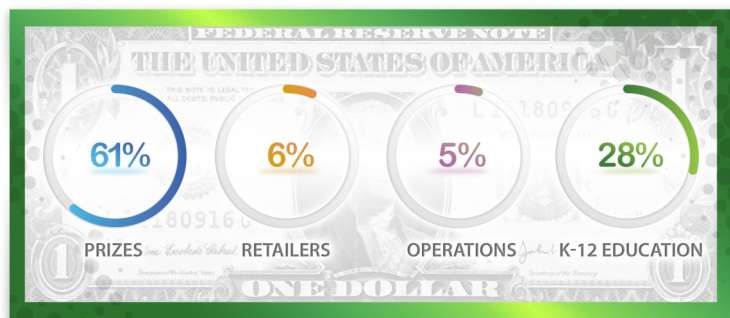
VDOE distributes all education funding, including the Lottery Proceeds Fund dollars, to school divisions across Virginia. Distribution is based on the approved state budget and is based on factors that include student enrollment and prioritized programs.

VIRGINIA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISIONS

Each school division allocates funds to its schools. Since 1999, the Lottery has contributed more than \$9 billion to K-12 public education, funding a variety of programs prioritized by the Governor and General Assembly.

STATEWIDE BUDGETING

Every year, the Governor and General Assembly reevaluate, select and prioritize the educational programs funded with Lottery profits. The exact distribution percentage for each program is reassessed on an annual basis to ensure funding is allocated based on the state's latest needs.



Find the current list of prioritized programs and the latest amount contributed to your school division by visiting valottery.com/playingmatters/givingback.

FOLLOW VSBA ON SOCIAL MEDIA





VSBA: School Board News Podcast

A monthly bite-sized podcast hosted by Executive Director, Gina Patterson.

Join us as we discuss the topics you need to know about to lead, advocate and support your division.

For questions email podcast@vsba.org



Listen by visiting our website!

Also available on:



iTunes



Spotify

Current VSBA Superintendent Searches

Suffolk City

For additional information on the VSBA Superintendent Search Services, please visit the [VSBA Website](http://www.vsba.org).

Delegates and Alternates– VSBA Delegate Assembly

Now is the time for your board to select the delegate and alternate to the VSBA Delegate Assembly and Regional Meeting at the 2019 VSBA Annual Convention.

School Board Chairs and Clerks received the official selection letter on May 28, 2019 via email. If you have any questions or need a copy of this letter, please contact Dorothy Vidano at VSBA Dorothy@vsba.org or 434-295-8722.

Ask the Legal Expert

Q. May students and employees of a school board obtain records pursuant to FOIA?

A. Yes, FOIA permits any citizen of Virginia to obtain public records. Thus, students and school board employees can request records pursuant to FOIA. The purposes for which the records are requested are irrelevant.

See previous "Ask the Legal Experts" online at http://www.vsba.org/services/legal_services/ask_the_experts/



Now Seeking Nominations

The VSBA has three recognition programs that school boards and school board members may apply for each year.

- * VSBA Board of Distinction
- * VSBA School Board of the Year *
- * VSBA Regional School Board Member of the Year *

**Deadline to apply is :
July 19, 2019**



For more information and for applications please visit:
http://www.vsba.org/about/vsba_recognition_programs/



The problem: Rising Healthcare Costs

By Benefit Plan Administrators

The National Health Expenditure Accounts (NHEA) estimated that U.S. healthcare spending grew 3.9 percent in 2017, reaching \$3.5 trillion in 2017. That's \$10,739 a person.

Why does the cost of healthcare keep rising?

There is a vast lack of transparency surrounding the actual price of healthcare services. Medical procedures are often wildly overpriced, sometimes up to 200% more than cost. The issue is, providers keep the actual cost under wraps, leaving employers and employees at the mercy of arbitrary pricing and deceptive discounts.

What do patients do?

The rising cost of care leads people to skip medical care altogether. These people fear that a medical service, often times in which they desperately need, will leave them with an egregious bill that they are unable to pay for years. This fear doesn't only affect the uninsured, statistics show that even those who have insurance also skip care due to cost concerns.

With the cost of healthcare continuing to rise, it leaves employers and employees in a difficult position. However, with a caring plan administrator, there is a powerful solution to these challenges.

The solution: BPA's Reference-based Pricing Structure

Reference-based pricing is a plan structure that reimburses the provider based on fair market pricing, usually based on Medicare. Reference-based pricing allows employers to take control of the cost of claims with a bottom-up pricing method. You can see an example of these drastic price differences in the chart to the right.

Employee Benefits of RBP with BPA

Not only will employer groups benefit with price transparency and control over spending through the BPA RBP structure, but employees will also gain numerous benefits.

No Network Limitations

Reference-based pricing allows employees to choose the provider of their choice. Rather than being limited to in-network options like with traditional PPOs (Preferred Provider Organizations), employees may see the provider of their choice as RBP reimburses any provider a set amount based on the services performed.

No Surprise Charges

Price uncertainty should never keep employees from getting the care they need. Up-front pricing prevents surprise charges, allowing the employee and their provider to move forward with certainty. At the time of service, the employee is only responsible for paying co-insurance, co-pays and/or deductibles determined by their health plan.

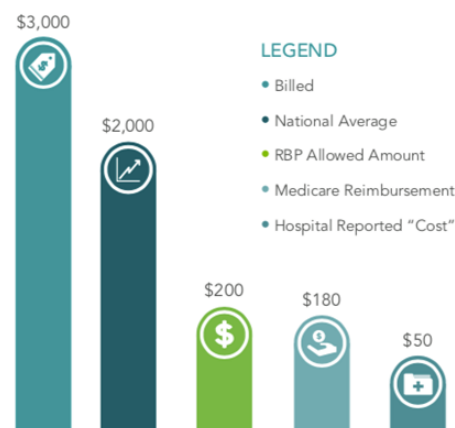
No Balance Bills

Although rare, the employee may receive a bill from the provider for the balance of the care charge. The employee is not required to pay this difference. BPA will step in to handle all balance billing concerns.

Benefit Plan Administrators ensures employers and their employees actually benefit from their benefits plans. Don't let the fear of increasing healthcare prices overwhelm you or your employees. BPA delivers custom health plan solutions to deliver plan savings and the highest quality care. Learn more about our self-funded solutions and talk to the experts at BPA today.

James Blevins | jblevins@bpatpa.com | 434.258.7200
www.bpatpa.com

EXAMPLE: COMMON MEDICAL SCAN



School's Out, But the Doctor is Still in With BPA Telemedicine

Your school employees are always on the move, even during their summer break! With BPA BestLife's Telemedicine Program, your employees have virtual access 24/7 to a board-certified physician from any location.

Learn more at www.bpatpa.com



UPCOMING CONFERENCES, EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

July 22, 2019

VSBA Orientation for Chairs and Vice-Chairs

LOCATION: Richmond Marriott

DETAIL: Have you recently been selected as your school board's new chair or vice-chair? If so, don't miss the VSBA Orientation for New Chairs/Vice-Chairs, which has been especially designed to help you become more comfortable with your new role and responsibilities. Experts in a variety of areas will address many important topics, such as the legal authority of the chair, handling media inquiries, parliamentary procedure, optimizing the chair/superintendent relationship, and ethical considerations as a board chair. Join us for a day filled with learning, as well as an opportunity to network with other new chairs and vice-chairs from across Virginia!

Sponsored by:



July 22, 2019

VSBA Orientation for New School Board Members & Superintendents

LOCATION: Richmond Marriott

DETAIL: Becoming a new school board member or superintendent is an honor and a privilege. Enjoy a successful and less stressful transition by attending the VSBA Orientation for New Board Members & Superintendents. Many important topics will be covered, including ethics, school law, parliamentary procedure, budgets, board/superintendent roles, teamwork, and more. Don't miss this popular event, now with extended sessions, which is a "must" for all new board members and superintendents!

Sponsored by:



July 23, 2019

VSBA Conference on Education

LOCATION: Richmond Marriott

DETAIL: Attendees will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of mini-workshops which highlight successful practices in Virginia's school divisions. Participants will leave with many great insights and practical ideas. After the round table presentations, attendees will break into regional meetings to discuss pertinent issues coming up for their particular regions. During lunch, the Food for Thought awards and the VSBA Excellence in Workforce Readiness Award will be announced.

Sponsored by:



August 9, 2019

FREE WEBINAR: The Shared Responsibility of Cyber Security

LOCATION: Online

DETAIL: Regardless of your size, no organization is immune to the ever more pervasive threat of cyber crime, and your security is only as strong as its weakest link. That is why it is imperative that not only your IT staff, but all employees are educated at every level. This webinar will offer a basic introduction to the world of cyber security while focusing primarily on the practical steps that you can take as an individual as well as an organization in order to avoid being victimized by a cyber attack.

September 24, 2019

VSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference

LOCATION: Chesterfield Career & Technical Center

DETAIL: This conference offers participants the opportunity to learn about upcoming issues for the legislative session, best practices in state-level advocacy, and hot topics in education policy such as equity in rural schools and school safety. Participants will hear straight from legislators, school leaders, and the department of education on these topics, as well as learn how to have their voice heard in Richmond. **This year the conference also includes a session on COIA to meet the new training requirements for elected board members.**

Sponsored by:



October 2, 2019

VSBA Superintendent Evaluation Workshop

LOCATION: VSBA Offices, Charlottesville

DETAIL: What are the requirements? What is the difference between standards and indicators, and how will they be measured? Who establishes the cut scores for performance ratings? This workshop is designed to provide small group support to superintendents and board members responsible for updating their evaluation model. Participants will have the opportunity to review the guidelines in detail and then use them as they draft their own models. Consultation and support will be provided throughout the session as participants work on their revisions, and Dr. Crawley will be available until 3:00 for individual consultation.

School Board Candidates Webinar

Do you have a candidate running for school board in your city or county? VSBA has put together a free webinar that is available on-demand for school board candidates.

To access the webinar, visit: http://www.vsba.org/meetings_conferences/webinars_on_demand/



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MISSION STATEMENT

Virginia School Boards Association, a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of Virginia school boards, promotes excellence in public education through leadership, advocacy and services.

VISION STATEMENT

VSBA is recognized and respected as an innovative leader in public education.