

VSBA President
Bill Kidd
Wythe County School Board

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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DATES TO REMEMBER

April 9-11
NSBA Annual Conference

April 26
Hot Topic Conference

April 28
School Board Clerks Conference

May 5
Superintendent Evaluation Workshop

May 17
Webinar—Equity Policies 101

June 3
School Law Conference

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY SPRING!

The springtime seems to awaken not only our school kids but we as school board members also! After a cold and blustery winter and legislative advocacy issues and budget debates, sunshine seems to brighten our hearts and spirits!

Also, spring initiates our Regional Forums. Three weeks ago in successive evenings, I departed my Southwest Virginia environs to travel to Rappahannock High School (Eastern Region), Culpeper County High School (Central Region), and Fauquier High School (Northeastern Region) to be a part of their special time together. And in spite of the distance involved, I was thrilled to visit places that I had never been and share an evening with some people that I had never met before. Allow me a moment to reflect. So often citizens of SWVA accuse those from other sections of the state (particularly Richmond) of thinking and acting as if the state ended in Roanoke! Unfortunately, much too often those of us from SWVA think and act as if the state ended in Roanoke as well! We live in a beautiful state with wonderful people throughout. We certainly need to have a better understanding of and appreciation for people from every locality. We share so much of what we are doing in education and can learn so much from each other. We are all in this endeavor together of educating our young people. The idea of partnering and collaborating with other individuals and groups for a common cause is refreshing. The thought that the whole is much greater than the sum of its parts is certainly exciting and applicable to being a part of VSBA.

I encourage you who still have upcoming regional meetings to make a special effort to network with those in your region who are carrying on the challenge of taking care of kids in your particular area with mutual passion and dedication.

A special "thank you" to all of you who made an effort to attend the Hot Topic Conference on Workforce Readiness in Wytheville recently. We had some wonderful presentations on this conversation that has become so prevalent not only in our state but across our nation today. As your president, I was especially delighted to host so many of you in my

hometown. Please make every effort to attend the Hot Topic Conference on April 27 in Charlottesville on how local divisions can keep students in schools, off the streets, and out of the justice system; and also on interactive personalized learning. I once again encourage each of you to take your responsibility seriously as a school board member to do everything possible to educate yourself and be involved in training that will enable you to make the best decisions possible in taking care of our children.

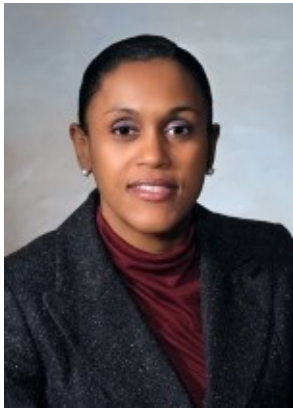
We certainly regret the resignation of Peter Sengenberger from his position as assistant executive director of VSBA. Peter came to us some four years ago at a crucial time in our transformation as an association and was instrumental in partnering with our leadership to help develop a new identity for our organization. His efforts and expertise were invaluable and will have a lasting impact on VSBA. Please join with me in thanking him for his efforts

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March VSBA Hot Topic Conference on Workforce Readiness in Wytheville, VA





Gina G. Patterson
VSBA Executive Director

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

VSBA's Legal Department is here to help

We all know the legal challenges facing public education are difficult and constantly changing. As school divisions confront issues with legal consequences, it's easy to see why VSBA's legal department service has become one of the association's most appreciated and frequently used membership benefits. The fact is reflected in the hundreds of legal phone calls the legal department fields annually.

How can VSBA's legal department help?

Although VSBA's attorneys do not provide legal advice or serve as legal counsel for member divisions, their informational assistance can prove valuable to the board and administrative team. The attorneys have compiled years of resources on many areas of frequently asked questions: opening meetings, closed meetings, freedom of information act, employment issues, board compensation, employing retirees, criminal background checks, technology use and misuses, the latest court decisions and much more. They are happy to share these resources with you and will let you know when it is necessary for your division to consult legal counsel for guidance on specific situations and legal advice.

The Legal Assistance Fund was established to support school boards in cases or controversies of statewide significance. The fund provides financial assistance and amicus curiae briefs on behalf of school divisions. The VSBA Council of School Board Attorneys (COSA) was established to provide a statewide forum on the practical legal problems faced by school attorneys, promote a closer relationship between school attorneys and their client school board members, and improve legal services available to school boards by collecting and disseminating school law information.

Don't hesitate to call.

While the challenges and tasks evolve, VSBA's legal services department enjoys serving members and helping to better public education for all students in Virginia. The next time you or your board need legal information, remember to call VSBA first. Legal calls are available to all members.

The VSBA legal department looks forward to serving your division, so don't hesitate to call 800-446-8722.

2016 NSBA Annual Conference



We look forward to seeing many of you at the NSBA Annual Conference taking place from April 9-11 in Boston, MA. There are several presenters from Virginia school divisions, so be sure to attend some of these sessions and congratulate those presenting on doing a terrific job representing our state.

Thank you once again for the support of VMDO Architects for sponsoring the annual "Virginia Breakfast" taking place on April 9 at the NSBA Annual Conference.

FOLLOW VSBA ON SOCIAL MEDIA





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *(continued from page 1)*

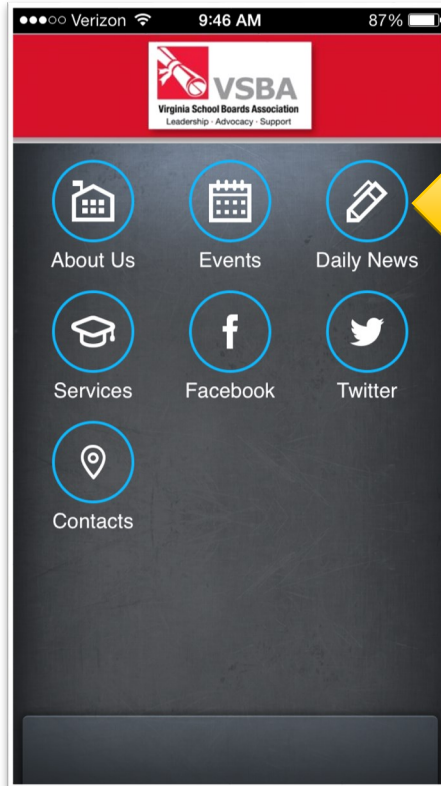
and wishing Peter and his wife much success and happiness in their new endeavors.

On another front, we are delighted to welcome back Samantha Staebell Bosserman to VSBA. Having previously spent six years with our group, Samantha is very familiar with the workings of our association and will be a valuable addition to our continued development in the days ahead. She will be director of communications and board development, with responsibilities for VSBA training programs, as well as directing the association's marketing and communication efforts. Please join with me in giving Samantha a warm welcome in her return to VSBA. We are fortunate to obtain one with her credentials and understanding of what we are about.

Many of us, including leadership of VSBA, will be attending the NSBA Annual Conference in Boston on April 7-11. Some will be involved in the delegate assembly and all of us will be recipients of valuable interaction with school board members from across the United States. If you are attending, we look forward to sharing breakfast with the Virginia delegation on Saturday morning.

Thank you once again for all that you do to provide for effective learning and opportunities for all of our students to be successful in life.

VSBA App—now available!



Receive the VSBA Daily Education News automatically every day on the new VSBA App!



We are pleased to announce the launch of the new VSBA App, which is available for iPhone (in the App Store) and Android (in Google Play) by doing a search for "VSBA". At this time the App is only available for mobile phones.

Highlights Include:

- A direct feed of the Virginia Daily Education News, which will automatically updated every day.
- A calendar of events for upcoming VSBA meetings and conferences.
- Direct connections to the VSBA Twitter feed and Facebook page (*you don't need to be Facebook or Twitter users to use this function*).
- Easy access to VSBA staff contact information.
- Information on VSBA services.

Please note that there are a few compatibility issues with Android devices. In particular, the date on the calendar of events is slightly cut off and the text describing VSBA services is quite small. We are working on solutions for both, but neither impact the function of the App.



THE VALUE OF MENTORING

Quality mentoring relationships can have a direct impact on your effectiveness as a school board member, both as a mentee who is learning the many aspects of school board service and as a mentor who is reflecting on their experience and looking for ways to continue their learning and growth.

To participate as a mentor or mentee, contact Brianna Hundley, coordinator of board development, at brianna@vsba.org or 434-295-8722.



Fairfax County, Henrico County, Henry County, and Newport News City School Divisions Earn National Recognition

Magna Awards recognize innovation and excellence in public schools

The Fairfax County, Henrico County, Henry County, and Newport News City school divisions are being recognized in the 22nd annual Magna Awards program sponsored by the National School Boards Association's *American School Board Journal*. The Magna Awards recognize school divisions and their leaders for taking bold and innovative steps to improve the lives of their students and their communities. An independent panel of school board members, administrators, and other educators selected the winners from nearly 200 submissions. **Only 33 school divisions nationwide were recognized.**

Fairfax County Public Schools is a Magna Award Winner in the over 20,000 enrollment category for their #SaveFCPS community engagement campaign, which included three program components designed to maximize citizen involvement: (1) UserVoice, an online tool that allows citizens to post budget suggestions; (2) a Budget Task Force that provides budget recommendations; and (3) an online Budget Proposal Tool that gathers specific proposals from users who may select different options to close the deficit. See more at <https://www.nsba.org/newsroom/american-school-board-journal/magna-awards/additional-winners/savefcps>

Newport News City Public Schools is a Magna Award Winner in the over 20,000 enrollment category for SPARK: Summer Program for Arts, Recreation, and Knowledge. With 64 percent of Newport News students qualifying as economically disadvantaged, summer can present issues of hunger, learning loss, and security. The

summer program brought together the division in partnership with corporate, nonprofit, state, federal, and city organizations to provide free summer learning for 2,000 K-12 students. See more at <https://www.nsba.org/newsroom/american-school-board-journal/magna-awards/additional-winners/spark-summer-program-arts>

Henrico County Public Schools earned an honorable mention in the over 20,000 enrollment category for *The Un-Initiative*. The school board and superintendent asked all current employees to submit ideas on things they thought the division could stop doing and still be an efficient and effective organization. This program created a way to make the best possible use of the resources, while involving the front-line employees who best understand how to increase their own job efficiency. See more at <https://www.nsba.org/newsroom/american-school-board-journal/magna-awards/honorable-mentions-2016/un-initiative>

Henry County Public Schools earned an honorable mention in the 5,000 to 20,000 enrollment category for its *Engaging the School Community Via Social Media* initiative. Key goals of the district's strategic plan included engaging families and the community to ensure open communication and student success. Sharing student successes with the school community via Facebook, Twitter, and blogs has led to greater interaction and support for programs and school activities from families and school community partners. See more at <https://www.nsba.org/newsroom/american-school-board-journal/magna-awards/honorable-mentions-2016/engaging-school>

Miss a webinar?

No problem!

VSBA webinars are available "on demand" to fit your schedule.

For details, contact Brianna Hundley, coordinator of board development, at brianna@vsba.org or visit

http://www.vsba.org/meetings_conferences/webinars_on_demand/

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Elizabeth Ewing
VSBA Director of Legal & Policy Services

Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit

The 2015 General Assembly expanded the opportunities for students to earn standard units of credit by passing HB 1675/SB 982 which permits school boards to waive the requirement that students receive 140 clock hours of instruction to earn a standard unit of credit. In October 2015, the Board of Education (BOE) adopted *Guidelines for Graduation Requirements: Local Alternative Paths to Standard Units of Credit (Alternatives to the 140-Clock-hour Requirement)* to address how school boards may implement this option, provide latitude for innovative practice and ensure that rigor and quality are maintained and explained.

The Guidelines identify three paths by which school boards may award standard credits via waiver: 1) courses that have less than 140 clocks hours of instruction, 2) independent study, work sample portfolio, demonstrated performance and locally developed or Standards of Learning assessment and 3) demonstrated achievement on national or international assessments. Boards may permit students to pursue standard credits by one, two or all three paths.

Regardless of which path or paths a school board implements, the criteria for awarding a credit by waiver must be clear, objective and clearly communicated to the student and the student's parent before the student begins seeking the credit by waiver.

The Guidelines specify that any division wanting to take advantage of the new flexibility must enact a written policy. VSBA Policy IKFD Alternative Paths to Attaining Standard Units of Credit is designed to help boards implement a waiver program. The policy points out several decisions that must be made by each school board. For example, boards will need to decide

- whether students can earn credits via one, two or three of the paths
- what criteria students must meet in order to be eligible to seek credit via waiver
- how many credits a student may earn via waiver
- whether the student will receive credit on a pass/fail basis or receive a grade for the class and
- the consequences of earning standard units of credit via waiver with regard to class rank, GPA and eligibility for extracurricular activities.

Boards must also adopt an appeal process by which decisions regarding whether a student was properly denied permission to seek a standard unit of credit via waiver and whether a student was properly denied credit after being granted permission to seek the standard unit of credit via waiver may be reviewed.

The waiver option provides school boards the opportunity to better serve students by designing programs which recognize that mastery of content can be achieved in many ways. The BOE Guidelines illustrate how each board can tailor the programs it will offer to the needs of the students in the division. The policy ultimately adopted by each school board will respond to those needs in ways uniquely suited to that division.

Ask the Legal Expert

Q. Is the board required to take action to hire part-time employees?

A. Yes. The board has the responsibility to hire all employees, regardless of whether they are full-time or part-time.

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

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VSBA is proud to announce its partnership with National School Board Association around its School Rx Cooperative!

The Cooperative is a new and innovative pharmacy benefit program that delivers significant cost savings to **self-funded divisions**. Budgets are tight. Student achievement is our priority. This is a way to save money and put it back where it belongs, back to student achievement.

Pharmacy benefits are currently unregulated and big insurance and pharmacy drug companies are able to hide revenue in complicated contract language. School divisions spend millions of dollars on pharmacy benefits and that number is expected to grow drastically. The NSBA School RX Cooperative offers the best of Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) through a unique contract arrangement with Express Scripts with an added industry specific watch dog component that is focused on helping school divisions keep dollars in their pockets, and not go to the insurance and drug company's outrageous profits. The program provides significant and guaranteed improvement in all areas of drug cost management. This includes discounts, dispensing fees, rebates and increased generic utilization. The average savings that divisions can expect range from 10 – 25%. This translates to huge dollars that can and should go back to getting America's children the very best education.

How can we offer this? Here's how:

- Contract transparency
- Volume based pricing
- Aggressive rebate and performance guarantees
- Dedicated resources
- Quarterly audits of EVERY claim

If your division is **self-funded**, we urge you to find out more about this program at <http://www.nsba.org/services/school-rx-cooperative> or contact Gerry Blaum at GBlaum@nsba.org or 484-818-1006.

PR Tip: Sharing Your Story

By Katherine Goff, coordinator of community and public relations, York County Public Schools

A common lament among school district leaders and communication staff is that the media only calls or shows up on school property when something bad happens. "They never cover the good things that are happening," is cried out time and time again. The fact is, local media outlets are facing their own issues when it comes to deciding which stories to cover, such as reduced staffing or pressure to increase sales and ratings. This means school divisions are battling for limited opportunities for "good news" to be covered.

So how do you get *your* good stories told? While there is no magic formula, two key components are consistency and strong relationships. The York County School Division has submitted weekly "tipsheet" email notifications, known as the YCSDDigest, to the media for several years now. The YCSDDigest is a compilation of school stories submitted by school representatives each week. Topics generally include innovative classroom experiences, student/staff accomplishments, upcoming events and activities, etc.

While the YCSDDigest doesn't guarantee that every story submitted will be printed in a local newspaper or picked up for television news coverage, it has resulted in increased coverage this year. Community & Public Relations staff have worked closely with school representatives to identify stories and events that might be likely to capture the community's interest.

As news media are just one component of a successful school-community relations program, the YCSDDigest submissions are also shared with School Board members and included on the division website and social media platforms.

Here are a few insights to help draw the media interest, along with a few of the articles resulting from the YCSDDigest:

Know what's trending: What are the hot topics in education, your community and beyond? These are great opportunities to showcase how the topics affect schools or how schools are responding. <http://wydaily.com/2016/03/07/local-news-york-schools-blend-healthy-eating-exercise-with-new-smoothie-bars/>

Highlight the unique: Pitch projects and programs that have never been done in your school, community, or state. Consider something typically done at the high school level that elementary students are now tackling. <http://www.dailypress.com/videogallery/hrnews-video-york-county-schools-in-20140923-embeddedvideo.html>

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The 2016 General Assembly: *A successful year for public education*

By: Emily V. Webb, director of government relations

I want to start out my update by saying THANK YOU! Thank you to each and every one of you for all of your advocacy efforts over the past few months. While it was a challenging session, your voice was heard loud and clear in Richmond and made a big difference!

Overall, it was a successful year. We were able to defeat several troublesome bills including the charter school constitutional amendment. The outcome of the charter school constitutional amendments is directly related to your unrelenting advocacy efforts. There were a few troublesome bills that did pass the House and Senate, but rest assured that we are still working to defeat them.

- HB389 (LaRock), the Parental Choice Education Savings Account legislation, allows a parent of students with disabilities to receive 90 percent of the SOQ per pupil state funds to use for education-related expenses of the student, including tuition, deposits, fees, transportation and required textbooks at a private, sectarian or nonsectarian elementary or secondary school or a public higher education institution. This bill passed both the House and Senate with a reenactment clause. A reenactment clause requires a bill to pass again next year before becoming law. Having passed both bodies, the bill now goes to the governor's desk for his signature or veto.
- HB8 (D. Bell) establishes the Virginia Virtual School as a full-time virtual school program. Additionally, it requires that any student who enrolls full-time shall have the average state share of the Standards of Quality per pupil funding be transferred to the School. In the conference committee, the bill was amended to: (1) place a cap of enrolled students to 5,000, and (2) delay the implementation date by one year to 2018. With these amendments, HB8 passed both bodies and is now on the governor's desk for his signature or veto.

In addition to these bills, we were able to assist in the passage of a few positive bills.

- HB895 (Greason) and SB336 (Miller) are known as the High School Redesign bills. These bills direct the Board of Education, in establishing school graduation requirements to:
 - * Develop and implement a Profile of a Virginia Graduate that identifies the knowledge and skills that students should attain during high school in order to be successful contributors to the economy of the Commonwealth, giving due consideration to critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship;
 - * Emphasize the development of core skill sets in the early years of high school; and

- * Establish and require students to follow in the later years of high school alternative paths toward college and career readiness that include internships, externships, and credentialing.
- * The final compromise language requires the Board to work with local school boards and the public in developing and implementing these requirements and established that the graduation requirements developed by the Board shall only apply to students who enroll in high school as a freshman after July 1, 2018.

- SB364 (Chafin) gives the Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) the flexibility to create a statewide health insurance plan similar to the state employee health plan for local school divisions and local governments, giving local school boards an option to assist with controlling runaway health insurance costs. After several years of advocating for similar bills, we are pleased that this legislation passed both the House and Senate this year.

Finally, I'll briefly discuss the budget. The budget conferees reached a compromise with little time to spare and the final vote came one-day ahead of schedule. The budget deal:

- Increases direct aid for public education by \$892.3 million over the current biennium, including \$400.5 million for Biennial Re-benchmarking.
- Re-establishes the policy of distributing part of the Lottery Proceeds on a per pupil amount (PPA) basis, providing

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PR TIP *(continued from page 6)*

Find a different angle or focus. You can't expect media excitement about an activity done routinely by many. For example, collecting food or toys for the needy is a popular classroom activity during the winter. What is unique about your drive? Is there a particular neighborhood that will benefit? Are there student accomplishments connected with the activity to recognize? <http://wavy.com/2016/01/28/students-cancer-diagnosis-sparks-special-bond-with-teacher/>

Be purposeful with the date and time for your event. Make sure you share your school's news immediately. Events tied to themes or holidays such as Thanksgiving will lose their luster in mid-December. Don't compete with other school activities or community events if you don't have to.

Don't forget works in progress. Visual appeal is important to electronic media. News agencies are more likely to cover students painting a mural than students unveiling a completed mural. It's always better to alert the media to upcoming and ongoing events than to share what happened yesterday.



2016 GENERAL ASSEMBLY *(continued from page 7)*

\$193.8 million over the biennium. In FY'17, \$36.6 million is provided, which equals \$52.42 PPA. In FY'18, \$157.2 million is provided, which equals \$224.43 PPA. This policy gives local school divisions more local flexibility for spending options, permitting up to 50% of the new lottery PPA allocation to be used on any recurring expenses and at least 50% on non-recurring expenses such as capital, equipment, school buses, and maintenance. These funds do require maintenance of effort so revenue cannot be used to supplant local funding.

- Provides \$49.0 million in the first year and \$85.4 million in the second year for the state's share of a 2% salary increase, for all funded SOQ instructional and support positions, effective December 1, 2016. Participation is optional and requires a local match. Local school divisions must provide at least a 2% salary increase by December 1, 2016 to be eligible for the state funding. School divisions cannot use the phase-in of the VRS swap as part of its local match.
- Includes \$56.8 million in the second year, for the state's share of funding, to advance the VRS scheduled rates to 100%. We know that advancing these rates ahead of schedule is a major concern for our school divisions and we have already been in talks with the budget conferees about potential solutions next year.
- Directs the Department of Education to:
 - * Establish a workgroup to review the transition from the use of computer labs in schools to the use of technology devices such as tablets and similar laptop devices in classrooms.
 - * Complete a statewide review of the use of technology in the classroom, all digital content, and on-line based curriculum to determine best practices and benefits.

For a full budget update, please visit the [VSBA legislative blog](#). Additionally, if you are interested in becoming more involved with VSBA's advocacy efforts, please contact me at emily@vsba.org. Thank you again for your support and active engagement of VSBA's advocacy and legislative initiatives.

VSBA Profile in Leadership



DR. JIM MEYER
Spotsylvania County School Board
VSBA Northeastern Region Chairman

Northeastern Region: Alexandria City, Arlington County, Fairfax City, Fairfax County, Falls Church City, Fauquier County, Fredericksburg City, Loudoun County, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Prince William County, Spotsylvania County, Stafford County

Where is your hometown?

I grew up in a farming community of Evansville, Illinois, however, having completed both undergraduate and graduate studies at Virginia Tech in 1982, Virginia has been my home state.

How long have you been a school board member?

I just completed my first 4-year term.

What/who inspires you?

I was inspired by other board members who have been dedicated to improving the learning environment so that all students can be the best that they can be.

What is your motto as a board member?

Do what is right for students; students come first!

What is your pie-in-the-sky vision for education?

That education be viewed as an investment; not as an expenditure for the future welfare of our students and society. That local school boards in Virginia be given the authority to fund education not at a minimum level but at a level so that educational personnel have the necessary resources to address the needs of all students.

What is your advice for new school board members?

Being a board member requires listening with respect to the differing views from patrons and fellow board members, being willing to compromise and accept consensus of the majority of fellow board members in order to do what is best for students.

What is the primary reason you like being a member of the VSBA?

After serving as an assistant superintendent for operations and clerk of the board for 26 years, serving on the school board and now VSBA gives me the opportunity to give back to the local community and the commonwealth which served me so well.

"I used to dread board packet day - spending hours and hours trying to get everything copied, organized and submitted in a timely manner. With BoardDocs, it is so much easier and more cost effective. The day my division agreed to use BoardDocs was the day I started loving my job!"

Carolyn Bowers, Clerk to the Board, Hampton City Schools

BoardDocs.com 800.407.0141





VSBA Affiliate Member Profiles

In each issue of the VSBA newsletter, we will feature three VSBA Affiliate Members. Thank you for support of VSBA and Virginia's public education system.



RRMM Architects

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Visit http://www.vsba.org/resources/affiliates/affiliate_member_program/ for a complete list of VSBA's 50+ Affiliate Members.



U.S. Communities is excited to announce that Language Select has been awarded a multi-year award to provide interpretation and translation services and related services and solutions. This contract was awarded through a competitive solicitation process conducted by lead public agency, City of Chicago, Illinois. The contract term is for three (X) years with a start date of March 15, 2016, with the option to extend the contract for two (2) additional periods of one year each.

Through this contract, you'll have access to a unique business solution provided by an elite group of language professionals that help agencies:

- Facilitate clear communication eliminating any language or cultural barriers
- Access high-quality interpretation and translation services at competitive rates
- Assist with communication in a life threatening emergency
- Help agencies to complete a business transaction without translation difficulties

NEW Interpretation and Translation Services Contract

Don't miss one of these informational webinars. Register today at <http://www.uscommunities.org/news-events/webinars/?q=e-lsl16st>

Date: **Tuesday, April 5, 2016**
Time: 8:00 a.m. PDT/11:00 a.m. EDT

Date: **Thursday, April 7, 2016**
Time: 11:00 p.m. PDT/2:00 p.m. EDT

Contact

Matt East, program manager
U.S. Communities
meast@uscommunities.org
Mobile: 703-402-9929





UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

April 26, 2016

[VSBA Hot Topic Conference](#)

LOCATION: Holiday Inn, University Area, Charlottesville, VA
 DETAIL: This conference will pull together two hot topic issues from across the Commonwealth. First, attendees will hear from attorneys, education professionals and justice officials on how local divisions can keep students in schools, off the streets, and out of the justice system. In addition, Bedford County Public School representatives (school board member, superintendent, and administrators) will present their story behind the process of integrating personalized learning: where this journey began, how they have implemented this teaching technique, and where their journey will take them in the future.

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April 28, 2016

[VSBA School Board Clerks Conference](#)

LOCATION: VSBA Offices, Charlottesville, VA
 DETAIL: Join us for the third annual school board clerks stand-alone conference, which is being held at the VSBA offices in Charlottesville. This conference will feature topics of interest to new, as well as seasoned, school board clerks. Topics include the Freedom of Information Act, parliamentary procedure, a legal update, and many more. Attendees will also have the chance to share ideas and best practices that have come out of your work as a school board clerk. We hope that you will join us for what is sure to be an exciting conference.

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May 5, 2016

[VSBA Superintendent Evaluation Workshop](#)

LOCATION: VSBA Offices, Charlottesville, VA
 DETAIL: What are the new 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, and individual consultation will be available.

May 17, 2016

[WEBINAR—Equity Policies 101](#)

LOCATION: Webinar
 DETAIL: Is your school division interested in developing an equity policy and doesn't know where to start? Do you have questions about how to get community buy-in? This webinar will feature insights on how to get community support for your policy, how to educate key stake holders, and how to start the conversation and development of a policy in your division.

June 3, 2016

[VSBA School Law Conference](#)

LOCATION: DoubleTree by Hilton, Charlottesville, VA
 DETAIL: Your school division needs you, your superintendent, and your attorney to be at the 2016 VSBA School Law Conference. Why? Because many of the decisions you make have legal implications that will impact your school division for years to come. Be informed and be prepared! Learn best practices for developing a Memorandum for Understanding (MOU) for School Resource Officers. Learn more about the Conflict of Interests Act. Learn about the new Federal education law Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and what it means to your school division. Hear an update on General Assembly bills and how they impact your local division.

SPONSORED BY:



2016 VSBA Regional Spring Network Forum Schedule

These meetings bring together board members, superintendents, and guests for dinner, networking, keynote speakers, legislative updates, and outstanding student entertainment. The Spring Network Forum features the presentation of the Regional Art Contest Winners. This is a great opportunity to network with other board members in your region and share best practices.

TIDEWATER—April 12, 2016 (Host Division: Virginia Beach City)

BLUE RIDGE—April 13, 2016 (Host Division: Pulaski County)

SOUTHSIDE—April 14, 2016 (Host Division: Petersburg City)

VALLEY—April 18, 2016 (Host Division: Winchester City)

SOUTHERN—April 20, 2016 (Host Division: Bedford County)

SOUTHWEST—April 21, 2016 (Host Division: Galax City)

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VSBA

Virginia School Boards Association

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION STATEMENT

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

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