The May 2022 VSBA Policy Update contained numerous policy revisions, many of which were based on legislation from the 2022 General Assembly session. Here’s a summary of a few of the updated policies.

**BDD**  **Electronic Participation in Meetings from Remote Locations**

Revisions to the policy reflect changes to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) that control the conditions under which school board members may participate in meetings remotely. Those changes include the following:

- minutes must reflect the identity of board members who were not present at the location where a quorum was gathered but who monitored the meeting via electronic communication means
- each school board’s policy must specify the number of times each member may participate electronically for personal reasons, subject to a maximum established by FOIA

**BDDG**  **Minutes**

Meeting minutes must be posted on the division’s website within seven working days of their approval.

**CLA**  **Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse**

The policy incorporates changes to the requirements regarding certain types of misconduct that may or must be reported to law enforcement officials.

**EB**  **School Crisis, Emergency Management and Medical Emergency Response Plan**

School safety audits must be conducted in collaboration with the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality and must include detailed floor plans for each school building.

**EBB**  **Threat Assessment Teams**

In schools which have a school resource officer, the officer must be part of the school’s threat assessment team.
IGAE/IGAF  Health Education/Physical Education

Seventh and eighth grade physical education classes must include at least one hour of personal safety training each school year developed and delivered in partnership with the local law-enforcement agency. The training consists of situational safety awareness training and social media education.

IGAG  Teaching about Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

Schools are now required to provide instruction regarding the addictive potential of gambling.

IGAJ  Driver Education
(Optional policy for divisions offering driver education)

The requirement for a parent/student driver education component of driver education that formerly applied only to divisions in Planning District 8 has been expanded to all divisions.

IJD  College and Career Readiness

Schools must distribute information provided by the Virginia Department of Education, including the costs and benefits of educational and certificate programs, to high school students who express an interest in attending an institution of higher education or completing a training program.

JED  Student Absences/Excuses/Dismissals

Schools must excuse absences for students to participate in 4-H activities and pow wow gatherings of their tribal nation.

KBA-E  Rights and Responsibilities

The Statement of Rights and Responsibilities required by FOIA now includes additional information regarding the costs associated with requesting public documents.

If you have any questions about this Policy Page, please contact Elizabeth Ewing at 434-295-8722 or ewing@vsba.org.

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