



VSBA

Virginia School Boards Association

Leadership • Advocacy • Support

**FINAL
LEGISLATIVE
WRAP-UP REPORT
2022 SESSION**



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The 2022 Virginia General Assembly Session: An Overview

The 2022 Session of the Virginia General Assembly convened on Wednesday January 12 with the Senate of Virginia controlled by the Democrats by a 21-19 margin and the Virginia House of Delegates in Republican control by a margin of 52-48. The House elected Delegate Todd Gilbert (R- Shenandoah) as Speaker of the House while Delegate Terry Kilgore (R-Scott) was elected to serve as House Majority Leader.

Senator Richard Saslaw (D- Fairfax) remained Majority Leader in the Senate and Senator Louise Lucas (D- Portsmouth) continued to serve as Senate President pro tempore. The Session began with the transition of President of the Senate from former Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax during the inauguration of Lieutenant Governor Winsome Sears on January 15.

Due to the numerous pieces of legislation with budget implications and the inability to resolve differences in the 2022-2024 biennial budget, each chamber agreed to [House Joint Resolution 455](#) allowing pending legislation before the assembly to be carried over to a Special Session of the legislature to convene in the spring. The 2022 session of the legislature was officially adjourned Sine Die on March 12.

Following lengthy negotiations between members of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, the Virginia General Assembly approved a budget for the 2022-2024 Biennium on June 9. The budget deal was amended by Governor Youngkin and legislators returned to Richmond on June 17 to address these actions. The 2022-2024 Biennial Budget was signed into law by Governor Youngkin on June 22.

At the time of this publication, the general assembly remains in session pending possible adjournment on September 7, 2022. If any further action is taken by the general assembly in September, this document will be updated accordingly.

2022 Session Statistics: Introduced Legislation

Bill Type	Introduced	Passed House	Passed Senate	Passed each Chamber	Continued to 2023	Failed	Approved	Vetoed
House Bills	1364	600	500	469	104	791	455	14
House Joint Resolutions	456	413	410	410	1	45	0	0
House Resolutions	239	232	0	232	0	7	0	0
Senate Bills	777	389	490	371	99	307	352	19
Senate Joint Resolutions	222	203	210	203	8	11	0	0
Senate Resolutions	85	0	82	82	1	2	0	0
Totals	3143	1837	1692	1767	213	1163	807	33

Source: Virginia's Legislative Information System

An Overview of the 2022-2024 Biennial Budget

The following list of budget amendments is a selection of amendments and does not reflect each amendment impacting K-12 public education. [Click here](#) to review the entire 2022-2024 biennial budget.

Item 129 #6c– This amendment provides \$4.8 million the first year and \$4.6 million the second year from the general fund to support implementation of the Virginia Literacy Act, and to prepare for the implementation of science-based literacy instruction beginning in fiscal year 2025. In addition, this amendment directs the University of Virginia’s Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning to create a technical support center to support implementation of the bill and directs the Board of Education to initiate its textbook review process to assist school divisions to obtain materials required by the act.

Item 130 #2c– This amendment provides \$100,000 each year from the general fund to increase support for statewide training programs for school division staff to implement regulations related to the use of restraint and seclusion of students in public schools. This would increase total support for such training to \$592,755 annually.

Item 135 #2c– This amendment clarifies that the “Accreditation Waived” status provided to schools in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years do not apply toward the three years of “Accredited” status required for a school to become eligible for triennial accreditation.

Item 137 #2c– This amendment provides \$400.0 million from the general fund for the School Construction Grant Program. Language allows local school divisions to use the School Construction Grants Program funds, as introduced, for debt service payments on school projects that have been completed or initiated during the last ten years and clarifies that funds shall not be used for repair or replacement of parking lot or for facilities that are predominantly used for extracurricular athletic activities. Additionally, language clarifies that any unexpended funds shall be carried on the books of the locality in local escrow accounts pursuant to § [22.1-175.5](#).

Item 137 #5c– This amendment provides \$10.0 million the first year from the general fund and \$10.2 million the second year from the general fund for the state share of one full-time school principal position for each elementary school. Current law provides that elementary schools with fewer than 300 students are provided a half-time principal position.

Item 137 #6c– This amendment eliminates the Reading Recovery intervention program as a permissible use of At-Risk Add-On Funds to align with Chapter 61, 2022 Acts of Assembly.

Item 137 #9c– This amendment captures \$123.2 million in general fund savings the first year by increasing the At-Risk Add-On maximum add-on percentages from 26.0% to 36.0% beginning in fiscal year 2023. The introduced budget proposed establishing the maximum add-on at 49.5% in fiscal year 2023 and 36.0% in fiscal year 2024.

Item 137 #10c– This amendment provides \$109.4 million from the general fund the first year and \$162.3 million from the general fund the second year to increase the number of funded support positions. Since fiscal year 2010, funded support positions have been calculated as a linear weighted average of support positions to funded SOQ instructional positions as reported by divisions. This would increase the funded ratio from 17.75 support positions per 1,000 students to funded SOQ instructional positions to 20 support positions per 1,000 ADM to funded SOQ instructional positions in the first year, and 21 support positions per 1,000 ADM to funded SOQ instructional positions in the second year. This increases state support for support positions and partially removes the funding cap placed on support positions beginning in fiscal year 2010.

[Item 137 #12c](#)– This amendment provides \$104.1 million from the general fund the first year and \$257.2 million from the general fund the second for the equivalent distribution of the 1% sales tax revenue from food and essential personal hygiene products. The funding for this amendment is fully contained within the introduced budget since the introduced budget contained a hold harmless payment for the loss in dedicated K-12 sales tax from exempting food after the Basic Aid offset and contained the entire distribution of sales tax from essential personal hygiene products. The reductions reflected in this amendment are related to rounding variances when distributing these payments based on school age population and then calculating the Basic Aid state and local shares of cost based on the local composite index.

[Item 137 #13c](#)– This amendment provides that the 5% salary increase in the first year is effective on August 1, 2022 and reduces the compensation supplement funding to reflect this action. It additionally clarifies that local school divisions must use revenues derived from local sources to match the state share of funding for the compensation supplement.

[Item 137 #15c](#)– This amendment provides \$400.0 million the first year from the general fund and \$50.0 million the first year from the Literary Fund to establish the School Construction Assistance Program, to provide competitive grants for school construction and modernization, based on demonstrated poor building conditions, commitment, and need. Grants would cover 10% to 30% of reasonable project costs, depending on a locality's local composite index and fiscal stress score.

[Item 137 #20c](#)– This amendment deposits \$100.0 million the first year into the College Partnership Laboratory Schools (CPLS) Fund and authorizes the Board of Education to award \$5.0 million for planning grants to CPLS applicants, \$20.0 million for startup grants to approved CPLS, and to distribute per pupil funds to approved CPLS. This amendment further requires the Board of Education to establish CPLS Fund guidelines before the release of funds and reverts any unobligated funds at the end of the 2022-24 biennium to the general fund.

Governor Yougkin made two recommendations to the budget regarding CPLS. The first recommendation ([Amendment #33](#)) expanded CPLS eligibility to public community colleges; public higher education centers, institutes, and authorities; and institutions of higher education eligible for the Tuition Assistance Grant Program.

This recommendation was approved by each chamber.

The second recommendation, [Amendment #34](#), added an enactment clause to the budget to amend and reenact § [22.1-349.10](#) of the Code of Virginia adding language directing students of college partnership laboratory schools to be counted in average daily membership and for state funding for Standards of Quality (SOQ), Categorical, Incentive, and Lottery programs that are calculated membership, to be distributed accordingly as well as the proportionate state share of all applicable Categorical, Incentive, and Lottery program funds, as eligible. The recommendation also added language to allow local schools divisions and laboratory schools to enter into a memorandum of understanding to determine the formula by which funding is distributed.

This recommendation was approved by the House by a vote of 50-44 but was Passed by for the Day in the Senate by a 20-19 vote.

[Item 137 #25c](#)– This amendment provides \$30.8 million the first year and \$31.6 million the second year from the general fund to provide one reading specialist for every 550 students in kindergarten through third grade and provides flexibility for school divisions to employ other instructional staff working toward obtaining the training and licensure requirements prescribed in House Bill 319 that will become effective in the 2024-2025 school year. This amendment also eliminates \$31.5 million the first year and \$31.6 million the second year that was included in the introduced budget to expand Early Reading Intervention from kindergarten through third grade to kindergarten through fifth grade. This amendment is net of both actions.

Item 4-14 #7c– This amendment provides an exemption on the 1.5% state sales tax imposed on food purchased for human consumption or essential personal hygiene products effective January 1, 2023. Additionally, it provides that the amount of the 1% dedicated to public education be replaced with a like amount of general fund distributed based on school-age population, consistent with the distribution of sales tax.

School Safety

SB 36 (Norment)/ HB 4 (Wyatt) **Va. Code § 8.01-47, § 22.1-279.3:1, and § 22.1-279.3:3.** Requires that school principals report to law enforcement certain enumerated acts that may constitute a misdemeanor offense and report to the parents of any minor student who is the specific object of such act that the incident has been reported to law enforcement. Under current law, principals are required to make such reports only for such acts that may constitute a felony offense. The bill provides, as an exception to the requirement to report any written threats against school personnel while on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity, that a principal is not required but may report to the local law-enforcement agency any such incident committed by a student who has a disability.

SB 600 (Pillion)/ HB 1129 (Taylor) **Va. Code § 22.1-279.8.** Requires each local school board to require its schools to collaborate with the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality or his designee when conducting required school safety audits. Under current law, the division superintendent is required to make the results of such audits available to the chief law-enforcement officer upon request. The bill also requires that the completed walk-through checklist using the standardized checklist provided by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety be made available to the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality or his designee. Current law requires that the completed walk-through checklist be made available to the chief law-enforcement officer or his designee upon request.

HB 741 (Bell) **Va. Code § 22.1-279.8.** Requires each local school board, as part of each annual school safety audit, to create a detailed and accurate floor plan for each public school building in the local school division or certify that the existing floor plan for each such school is sufficiently detailed and accurate but provides that such floor plan may be withheld from public disclosure.

HB 873 (Greenhalgh) **Va. Code § 9.1-184, § 22.1-79.4, and § 22.1-280.2:3.** Requires, in the case of any public elementary or secondary school in which a school resource officer is employed, the threat assessment team for such school to include at least one such school resource officer. The bill requires the chief local law-enforcement officer for any local school division in which a public elementary or secondary school does not employ a school resource officer to designate a law-enforcement officer to receive, either in-person or online, the school safety training for public school personnel conducted by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety in accordance with relevant law and requires such officer to serve as the law-enforcement liaison for the school administrator in such a school who has also received such training as prescribed by relevant law.

Parental Notification

SB 656 (Dunnavant) **Va. Code § 22.1-16.8.** Requires the Department of Education to develop no later than July 31, 2022, model policies and each local school board to adopt no later than January 1, 2023, policies for ensuring parental notification of any instructional material that includes sexually explicit content and include information, guidance, procedures, and standards relating to (i) ensuring parental notification; (ii) directly identifying the specific instructional material and sexually explicit subjects; and (iii) permitting the parent of any student to review instructional material that includes sexually explicit content and provide, as an alternative, nonexplicit instructional material and related academic activities to any student whose parent so requests. The bill provides that the local school board policies shall be consistent with but may be more comprehensive than the model policies developed by the Department. The bill states that the provisions of the bill shall not be construed as requiring or providing for the censoring of books in public elementary and secondary schools.

Mandates

SB 724 (Pillion) **Va. Code § 9-1-1**. Requires, beginning in the 2022 school year and in each school year thereafter through the 2025 school year, each school board to submit an annual report to the Virginia Department of Education and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development listing each student's 9-1-1 address that does not have broadband access, as defined by the broadband guidelines set out by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for its Virginia Telecommunication Initiative.

SB 737 (Boysko)/ **HB 1328** (Delaney) **Va. Code § 8.01-25, § 54.1-3408, and § 22.1-289.059**. Requires the Board of Education to amend its regulations to require each early childhood care and education entity to implement policies for the possession and administration of epinephrine in every such entity to be administered by any nurse at the entity, employee at the entity, or employee of a local health department who is authorized by a prescriber and trained in the administration of epinephrine to any child believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction. The bill mandates that such policies shall require that at least one school nurse, employee at the entity, or employee of a local health department who is authorized by a prescriber and trained in the administration of epinephrine has the means to access at all times during regular facility hours any such appropriate weight-based dosage of epinephrine that is stored in a locked or otherwise generally inaccessible container or area. This bill shall be known as Elijah's Law.

SB 739 (Dunnavant) **Va. Code § 22.1-2.1**. Requires, except in the case of the 10 unscheduled remote learning days otherwise permitted by law or in certain cases of student discipline, each school board to offer in-person instruction, as defined in the bill, to each student enrolled in the local school division in a public elementary or secondary school for at least the minimum number of required annual instructional hours and to each student enrolled in the local school division in a public school-based early childhood care and education program for the entirety of the instructional time provided pursuant to such program. The bill permits, notwithstanding any other provision of law or any regulation, rule, or policy implemented by a school board, school division, school official, or other state or local authority, the parent of any child enrolled in a public elementary or secondary school, or in any school-based early childhood care and education program, to elect for such child to not wear a mask while on school property. The bill provides that no parent making such an election shall be required to provide a reason or any certification of the child's health or education status and no student shall suffer any adverse disciplinary or academic consequences as a result of this parental election. The bill requires each local school division to comply with the foregoing provisions relating to masks no later than March 1, 2022. The bill clarifies that none of the foregoing provisions shall be construed to affect the authority granted to the Governor to achieve the purposes of relevant emergency services and disaster law with regard to a communicable disease of public health threat.

SB 764 (Barker)/ **HB 1290** (Hayes) **Va. Code § 2.2-603, § 2.2-2009, § 2.2-5514**. Requires every public body to report to the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center all known incidents that threaten the security of the Commonwealth's data or communications or result in exposure of data protected by federal or state laws and all other incidents compromising the security of the public body's information technology systems with the potential to cause major disruption to normal activities of the public body or other public bodies. The bill requires such reports to be made to the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center within 24 hours of the discovery of the incident and that the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center share such reports with the Chief Information Officer promptly upon receipt. The bill requires the Chief Information Officer to convene a work group to review current cybersecurity reporting and information sharing practices and report any legislative recommendations to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology and the House Committee on Communications, Technology and Innovation by November 15, 2022.

HB 127 (Davis) **Va. Code § 22.1-26.2**. Prohibits any academic year Governor's School or governing board member, director, administrator, or employee thereof from discriminating against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the process of admitting students to such school. The bill requires each local school board that jointly manages and controls a regional academic year Governor's school to collaborate to ensure that each public middle school that is eligible to send students to attend such Governor's school offers coursework, curriculum, and instruction that is comparable in content

and in rigor in order to provide each student in each such middle school with the opportunity to gain admission to and excel academically at such Governor's school.

HB 418 (Delaney) **Va. Code § 22.1-199.1**. Removes Reading Recovery from the list of programs and initiatives for which school boards may use at-risk add-on funds.

HB 583 (Roem) **Va. Code § 22.1-79.7**. Requires each school board to adopt policies that prohibit the school board or any school board employee from denying a student the opportunity to participate in any extracurricular school activity because the student cannot pay for a meal at school or owes a school meal debt.

HB 587 (Roem) **Va. Code § 22.1-207.2:2**. Requires each public elementary or secondary school to process each web-based or paper-based application for student participation in the School Breakfast Program or the National School Lunch Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture within six working days after the date of receipt of the completed application. The foregoing provision of the bill has a delayed effective date of August 1, 2023. The bill requires school divisions that cannot currently comply with such requirement to develop a plan for ensuring compliance by August 1, 2023.

Insurance, Wages, and Workers Compensation

SB 351 (Surovell) **Va. Code § 65.2-503**. Requires compensation for permanent and total incapacity to be awarded for the loss of both hands, both arms, both feet, both legs, both eyes, or any two thereof either from the same accident or a compensable consequence of an injury sustained in the original accident.

SB 437 (Dunnavant)/ **HB 223** (Coyner) **Va. Code § 15.2-1517**. Provides that any locality may provide group life, accident, and health insurance programs for employees of certain public school foundations.

SB 631 (Barker)/**HB 1173** (Ware) **Va. Code § 40.1-29, § 40.1-29.1, § 40.1-29.2, and § 40.1-29.3**. Replaces provisions of the Virginia Overtime Wage Act with the provision that any employer that violates the overtime wage requirements of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, and any related laws and regulations, shall be liable to its employee for remedies or other relief available under the Fair Labor Standards Act. The bill requires an employer to compensate employees of a derivative carrier, defined in the bill, at a rate not less than one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay for any hours worked in excess of 40 hours in any one workweek. The bill requires the Secretary of Labor to convene a work group that includes certain industry representatives and legislators to review overtime issues and the Virginia Overtime Wage Act and requires the work group to submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committees on Appropriations and Commerce and Energy and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and Commerce and Labor by November 1, 2022.

SB 677 (Lewis) **Va. Code § 65.2-709**. Provides that cost-of-living supplements shall be payable to claimants who are receiving disability benefits under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act but are not receiving federal disability benefits.

COVID-19

SB 431 (Dunnavant) **Uncodified- Section 1 Legislation**. Requires the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health, to (i) recommend options for isolation and quarantine for students and employees at public schools who contract or are exposed to COVID-19 and (ii) develop guidelines for such schools and recommend such guidelines for use as an alternative to quarantine. The bill requires such guidelines to be immediately distributed to local school boards and reflect the most updated recommendations to limit the amount of time out of the classroom, including options for no quarantine, as recommended for asymptomatic individuals.

FOIA

SB 152 (Locke) **Va. Code § 2.2-3701 and § 30-179**. Defines "official public government website" as it applies to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council as any Internet site controlled by a public body and used, among any other purposes, to post required notices and other content pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act on behalf of the public body. This bill was a recommendation of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

HB 150 (March) **Va. Code § 2.2-3707.2**. Requires, with certain exceptions outlined in the bill, any local public body subject to the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to post meeting minutes on its official public government website, if any, within seven working days of final approval of the minutes. The bill provides that if a local public body does not own or maintain an official public government website, it shall make copies of all meeting minutes available no later than seven working days after the conclusion of a meeting at a prominent public location in which meeting notices are regularly posted, at the office of the clerk of the public body, or, in the case of a public body that has no clerk, at the office of the chief administrator.

HB 307 (Freitas) **Va. Code § 2.2-3704 & § 2.2-3704.1**. Provides that a public body subject to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act shall make all reasonable efforts to supply records requested by a citizen at the lowest possible cost; however, no such public body shall charge for the provision of certain scholastic records, outlined in the bill. The bill requires a public body, prior to conducting a search for records, to notify the requester in writing of the public body's right to make reasonable charges not to exceed its actual cost incurred in accessing, duplicating, supplying, or searching for requested records and inquire of the requester whether he would like to request a cost estimate in advance of the supplying of the requested records. Finally, the bill provides that any costs incurred by a public body in estimating the cost of supplying requested records shall be applied toward the overall charges to be paid by the requester for the supplying of such records.

COIA

SB 57 (Locke)/ **HB 216** (Simonds) **Va. Code § 2.2-3101**. Exempts from the definition of gift tickets and registration or admission fees to an event that are provided by an agency to its own officers or employees for the purposes of performing official duties related to the officer's or employee's public service.

Appointed Board Members Salary

HB 18 (Fowler) **Va. Code § 22.1-32**. Permits any appointed school board to pay each of its members an annual salary that is consistent with the salary procedures and no more than the salary limits provided for local governments in relevant law or as provided by charter, with certain exceptions and conditions.

School Construction

SB 238 (McPike) **Va. Code § 22.1-138.3**. Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of General Services, to develop or adopt and maintain a data collection tool to assist each school board to determine the relative age of each public school building in the local school division and the amount of maintenance reserve funds that are necessary to restore each such building. The bill requires each school board to provide to the Department of Education in a timely fashion the local data that is necessary to ensure that such tool remains relevant and useful for the determination of maintenance reserve needs. The bill requires the Department of Education to consider converting or using as a template the Department of General Services' Real Estate and Assets Management system for tracking buildings and infrastructure maintenance status to meet the above requirement to maintain such a tool. This bill is a recommendation of the Commission on School Construction and Modernization.

School Counselor Staffing Flexibility

HB 829 (Wilt) **Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:2**. Permits school boards to fulfill the staffing ratio requirements for school counselors by (i) employing, under a provisional license issued by the Department of Education for three school years with an allowance for an additional two-year extension with the approval of the division

superintendent, any professional counselor licensed by the Board of Counseling, clinical social worker licensed by the Board of Social Work, psychologist licensed by the Board of Psychology, or other licensed counseling professional with appropriate experience and training, provided that any such individual makes progress toward completing the requirements for full licensure as a school counselor during such period of employment or (ii) in the event that the school board does not receive any application from a licensed school counselor, professional counselor, clinical social worker, or psychologist or another licensed counseling professional with appropriate experience and training to fill a school counselor vacancy in the school division, entering into an annual contract with another entity for the provision of school counseling services by a licensed professional counselor, clinical social worker, or psychologist or another licensed counseling professional with appropriate experience and training.

Teacher Licensure

SB 68 (Favola)/ **HB 979** (Tran) **Va. Code § 22.1.298.1**. Permits the Board of Education to provide for the issuance of a provisional license, valid for a period not to exceed three years, to any individual who has held within the last five years a valid and officially issued and recognized license or certification to teach issued by an entity outside of the United States but does not meet the requirements for a renewable license if the individual's license or certification to teach has been evaluated and verified by an entity approved by the Department of Education.

SB 154 (Locke)/ **HB 230** (Coyner) **Va. Code § 22.1.298.1**. Requires the Board of Education's licensure regulations to provide for licensure by reciprocity for any spouse of an active duty or reserve member of the Armed Forces of the United States or a member of the Virginia National Guard who has obtained a valid out-of-state license, with full credentials and without deficiencies, that is in force at the time the application for a Virginia license is received by the Department of Education. Current law requires such regulations to provide for licensure by reciprocity for any spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States or the Commonwealth. The bill requires such an individual to submit an official copy of the military permanent assignment orders of the individual's spouse as part of the complete application packet. The bill requires the Department to determine and communicate such individual's eligibility for licensure by reciprocity within 15 business days of receipt of the complete application packet.

Students

SB 78 (Norment) **Va. Code § 22.1-205 and § 46.2-1702**. Requires the Board of Education to include an additional minimum 90-minute parent/student driver education component as part of the classroom portion of its driver education program for all public school divisions and provides that participation in such component shall be required in Planning District 8 (Northern Virginia) and shall be encouraged but shall not be required outside of Planning District 8. Under current law, participation in such parent/student driver education component is required in Planning District 8 and optional outside of Planning District 8. The bill also requires such parent/student driver education component to emphasize the dangers of distracted driving.

SB 161 (Hashmi) **Uncodified- Section 1 Legislation**. Directs the Department of Education, in conjunction with stakeholders, to develop guidelines on policies to inform and educate coaches and student athletes and their parents or guardians of the nature and risk of heat-related illness, how to recognize the signs of heat-related illness, and how to prevent heat-related illness to be distributed to local school divisions by August 1, 2022.

SB 596 (Pillion)/ **HB 246** (Kilgore) **Va. Code § 22.1-207.7**. Provides that students who miss a partial or full day of school while participating in 4-H educational programs and activities shall not be counted as absent for the purposes of calculating average daily membership and shall receive course credit in the same manner as they would for a school field trip. The bill directs each local school board to develop policies and procedures for students to make up missed work and may determine the maximum number of school days per academic year that a student may spend participating in 4-H educational programs and activities to not be counted absent.

SB 738 (Morrissey)/ **HB 1299** (Coyner) **Va. Code § 22.1-203 and § 22.1-206.1**. Requires the Department of Education to collect and distribute to public schools and publicly post on its website information that assists

high school students in making more informed decisions about their futures after graduating from high school and in doing so ensure that such students are aware of the costs and benefits of different educational and certificate programs. The bill directs the Department to annually collect and compile such information in consultation with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and any other entity that can assist the Department with collecting and compiling such information and to update its distribution materials accordingly each year. The bill requires the Department to post and distribute the information to school boards, with any relevant updates, no later than October 1 each year and requires each school board to ensure that the information is readily available to each high school student and distributed to each high school student who expresses an interest in attending an institution of higher education or completing another training program as described in the bill.

HB 1022 (Guzman) **Va. Code § 22.1-254**. Provides that, subject to guidelines established by the Department of Education, any student who is a member of a state-recognized or federally recognized tribal nation that is headquartered in the Commonwealth and who is absent from school to attend such tribal nation's pow wow gathering shall be granted one excused absence per academic year, provided that the parent of such student provides to the student's school advance notice of such absence in the manner required by the school.

HB 1023: (Guzman) **Va. Code § 22.1-207.1 and § 22.1-207:1**. Permits any family life education curriculum offered by a local school division in high school to incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention, recognition, and awareness of human trafficking of children.

HB 1108 (Rasoul) **Va. Code § 22.1-206**. Requires instruction concerning gambling and the addictive potential thereof to be provided by the public schools as prescribed by the Board of Education. The bill requires the Board of Education to report to the Chairmen of House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health a description of such instruction.

Assessment

HB 197 (Webert) **Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:3**. Requires the Board of Education, in implementing the through-year growth assessment system for the administration of reading and mathematics assessments in grades three through eight, to seek input and suggestions from each interested local school division in the Commonwealth regarding ways in which the administration of such assessments and the reporting of assessment results can be improved, and shall, to the extent possible, incorporate such input and suggestions into the through-year growth assessment system.

Study Groups and Legislative Commissions

SB 62 (Favola)/ **HB 215** (Robinson) **Va. Code § 30-409 through § 30-413**. Establishes the School Health Services Committee in the legislative branch to review and provide advice to the General Assembly and other policy makers regarding proposals that require local school boards to offer certain health services in a school setting. The bill requires the Committee to submit its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor by October 1 of each year. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2025.

HB 585 Van Valkenburg **Uncodified- Section 1 Legislation**. Directs the Secretary of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to convene and consult a work group to revise the Standards of Learning summative assessments of proficiency and to develop a plan for implementation of such revised assessments that shall consider best practices and innovations in summative assessments of proficiency, alternative approaches to current and new assessment items, assessment items that include open-ended questions, long-form writing, and other tasks, a plan for pilot implementation of such assessment items prior to the 2027–2028 school year, the development of a bank of vetted sample assessment items, recommended legislative and regulatory changes and funding necessary to implement approaches considered by the work group, and a proposed timeline for implementation. The bill requires the Department of Education to submit its initial plan for implementation of revised Standards of Learning summative assessments developed by the work group to the General Assembly no later than November 1, 2023, with annual updates on implementation of such plan no later than November 1 each year thereafter through 2027.

HB 938 (Robinson) **Uncodified- Section 1 Legislation.** Requires the Board of Education to collaborate with the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Secretary of Education to convene a group of stakeholders to include parents, public school principals, public school superintendents, public school board members, public school teachers, institutions of higher education, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, industry partners and employers, and other concerned stakeholders to evaluate, to implement where possible, and to otherwise make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the following goals: (i) promoting excellence in instruction and student achievement in mathematics; (ii) expanding the Advanced Studies Diploma as an option for students in public high schools in the Commonwealth; (iii) increasing the transparency and honesty of performance measures for public elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth; (iv) ensuring that performance measures for public elementary and secondary schools prioritize the attainment of grade-level proficiency and growth during the course of a school year and from school year to school year in reading and mathematics for all students, especially in grades kindergarten through five; (v) ensuring that the Commonwealth's proficiency standards on Standards of Learning assessments in reading and mathematics are maintained; and (vi) ensuring a strong accreditation system that promotes meaningful accountability year-over-year. The bill requires the Secretary of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, no later than November 30, 2022, to report to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health the results of such evaluation and recommendations to achieve such goals.

Legislation Failing to Advance during the 2022 Session

Below is a selection of legislation that failed to advance during the 2022 session of the Virginia General Assembly. It does not contain each piece of K-12 education related legislation that failed to advance during the session.

SB 125 (Obenshain)/ **HB 356** (Tata) Would have authorized the Board of Education (the Board) to establish regional charter school divisions consisting of at least two but not more than three existing school divisions in regions in which each underlying school division has (i) an enrollment of more than 3,000 students and (ii) one or more schools that have accreditation denied status for two out of the past three years. The bill requires such regional charter school divisions to be supervised by a school board that consists of eight members appointed by the Board and one member appointed by the localities of each of the underlying divisions. The bill authorizes the school board, after a review by the Board, to review and approve public charter school applications in the regional charter school divisions and to contract with the applicant. The bill requires that the state share of Standards of Quality per pupil funding of the underlying school district in which the student resides be transferred to such school.

SB 415 (DeSteph) Would have required each school board to enter into a collaborative agreement with the local law-enforcement agency to employ at least one school resource officer in each public elementary and secondary school in the local school division. The bill provides that no school board shall be granted any full or partial waiver from such staffing requirements and that no school board that fails to fully comply with such staffing requirements is eligible for any grant or waiver from the Commonwealth, Board of Education, or Department of Education. The bill also requires each division superintendent to include on the threat assessment team established for each public elementary and secondary school in the local school division at least one school resource officer employed in the school.

SB 570 (Kiggans) Would have required each public elementary or secondary school principal to ensure that no curriculum utilized or instruction delivered in the school includes inherently divisive concepts, as that term is defined in the bill, regardless of whether such curriculum or instruction is provided by a school board employee or any other individual or entity.

SB 635 (Chase) Would have permitted the Board of Education (the Board) to receive, review, and rule upon applications for public charter schools and enter into agreements for the establishment of public charter schools. Under current law, the power to grant or deny a public charter school application and enter into an agreement for the establishment of a public charter school rests solely with local school boards. The bill also provides that the decision of the Board or a local school board to grant or deny a public charter school application or to revoke or fail to renew a public charter school agreement is final and is not subject to appeal. Current law contains an appeal process for such decisions.

HB 8 (Anderson) Would have provided that each school security officer, in addition to performing each enumerated duty, is responsible for carrying out any other duty assigned to him by the local school board, excluding enforcement of discipline reserved solely and exclusively to school administrators. The bill permits a school security officer to carry a firearm in the performance of his duties if (i) within 10 years immediately prior to being hired by the local school board or private or religious school, he was an active duty member in the Armed Forces of the United States who served on active duty for at least 10 years and received an honorable discharge from such service and (ii) he has provided proof of completion of the required training course.

HB 12 (Anderson) Would have required each local school board to (i) limit to the lowest feasible number the entry points in each public school building in the local school division, (ii) ensure that each individual who seeks to enter any school building in the local school division is screened with a handheld metal detector wand by a school security officer or another appropriate school board employee who is appropriately trained in such method of screening, (iii) require each such school security officer or other appropriate school board employee to implement further screening according to a protocol that it deems appropriate in any case in which the school board employee who conducts the initial screening has reason to believe that the individual who seeks to enter the school building is in possession of a weapon, and (iv) prohibit any individual from entering any school building in the local school division if the individual fails or refuses to submit to the screening required in clauses (ii) and (iii).

HB 89 (Walker) Would have provided that the crime of disorderly conduct shall not apply to any student in grades kindergarten through eight if the disorderly conduct occurred on the property of any elementary or secondary school, on a school bus, or at any activity conducted or sponsored by any elementary or secondary school. Current law provides that disorderly conduct shall not apply to any elementary or secondary school student in such locations and at such activities.

HB 154 (March) Would have required the establishment of a publicly available, centralized database for all public records. All public bodies will be required to transfer any public records in its possession to the database. The bill directs VITA, in consultation with the FOIA Council, to (i) convene a workgroup consisting of representatives from state and local public bodies in every region of the Commonwealth to conduct research, evaluate data, and determine a plan for implementation of the database and (ii) report its recommendations to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology on or before December 1, 2022. The provisions of the bill that establish the central public records database shall become effective on July 1, 2023, and the provisions of the bill requiring every public body to submit its public records to VITA for inclusion in the central public records database shall become effective on January 1, 2024.

HB 201 (Weibert) Would have required, in the event that any school board does not provide the option of in-person instruction as the sole method of instruction for any enrolled student, the parent of any such student who withdraws his child from attendance to receive, upon request, an education voucher in an amount equal to a prorated share of the applicable Standards of Quality per-pupil state funds appropriated for public school purposes and apportioned to the school division, including the per-pupil share of state sales tax funding in basic aid and any state per-pupil share of special education funding for which the child is eligible, to cover the expenses of providing in-person instruction in an alternative setting. The bill permits the Department of Education to establish rules, regulations, or procedures for the issuance of such education vouchers. The bill contains an emergency clause.

HB 271 (Byron) Would have encouraged local school boards and comprehensive communities colleges to enter into local or regional agreements for the establishment and implementation of a competitive compensation structure to recruit and retain adjunct instructors to be jointly compensated by the relevant school boards and colleges to prepare both high school students and college students to earn credit-bearing workforce credentials and noncredit workforce credentials, as that term is defined in relevant law.

HB 313 (Krzek) Would have required the Board of Education to make regulations to require each new public school bus purchased for the transportation of students to be equipped with a seat belt consisting of a lap belt and shoulder strap or harness in every seat. The bill requires each school board to ensure that no later

than July 1, 2040, each school bus that it uses for the transportation of students is equipped with a seat belt in every seat.

HB 333 (Freitas) Would have permitted any school board to establish a program to create savings accounts for students to be used for alternative educational programs. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish policies and procedures under which the parent of each student may use such funds on public or private educational programs.

HB 440 (Van Valkenberg) Would have required each local school board to ensure that each elementary school teacher is provided an average of one 45-minute period per school day of planning time and that each middle and high school teacher is provided an average of one planning period per school day, which shall be at least 45 minutes or one class period, whichever is longer. The bill permits local school boards and teachers to enter into an appropriate contractual arrangement providing for compensation in lieu of such planning time or period. Under current law, public elementary school teachers are guaranteed at least an average of 30 minutes of planning time per school day during a school week.

HB 511 (March) Would have prohibited public schools from joining an organization governing interscholastic programs that does not deem eligible for participation a student who (i) receives home instruction; (ii) has demonstrated evidence of progress for two consecutive academic years; (iii) is in compliance with immunization requirements; (iv) is a person of school age for whom public school is free; (v) has not reached the age of 19 by August 1 of the current academic year; (vi) is an amateur who receives no compensation but participates solely for the educational, physical, mental, and social benefits of the activity; (vii) complies with all disciplinary rules and is subject to all codes of conduct applicable to all public high school athletes; and (viii) complies with all other rules governing awards, all-star games, maximum consecutive semesters of high school enrollment, parental consents, physical examinations, and transfers applicable to all high school athletes. The bill provides that no local school board is required to establish a policy to permit students who receive home instruction to participate in interscholastic programs. The bill permits reasonable fees to be charged to students who receive home instruction to cover the costs of participation in such interscholastic programs, including fees to cover the costs of additional insurance, uniforms, and equipment and fees for facility upkeep and facility maintenance. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2027.

HB 533 (Batten) Would have required each school board to enter into an agreement, upon request, with a public elementary or secondary school teacher or a group of such teachers in a local school division who represents more than 20 students to establish an opportunity classroom, which the bill defines as a classroom in which a curriculum in English, mathematics, science, history and social science, and any other subject area, as set forth in such agreement, is offered that is different than any curriculum that is otherwise offered in such subject areas in the local school division. The bill permits each school board to enter into such agreement for an opportunity classroom if the requesting teacher or group of teachers represents fewer than 20 students. The bill contains requirements for such agreements to establish opportunity classrooms and provisions relating to funding for opportunity classrooms and for services, transportation, and assessments for students who are enrolled in an opportunity classroom.

HB 599 (Roem) Would have prohibited a public body from charging a requester for any costs incurred during the first two hours spent accessing or searching for requested records when such requester has made four or fewer individual record requests to such public body within 31 consecutive days. The bill provides that for any additional time spent accessing or searching for such records, or when such requester makes five or more individual record requests to such public body within any 31-consecutive-day period, the public body shall not charge an hourly rate for accessing or searching for the records exceeding the lesser of the hourly rate of pay of the lowest-paid individual capable of fulfilling the request or \$33 per hour. The bill allows a public body to petition the appropriate court for relief from the \$33 per hour fee cap upon showing by a preponderance of the evidence that there is no qualified individual capable of fulfilling the request for \$33 per hour or less and requires such petition to be heard within seven days of when the petition is made, provided that the public body has sent and the requester has received a copy of the petition at least three working days prior to filing. The bill also provides that in certain instances a hearing on any petition shall be given precedence on a circuit court's docket over all cases that are not otherwise given precedence by law and that the time period the public body has to respond to a record request shall be tolled between the requester's receipt of the petition and the final disposition of the court. Finally, the bill prohibits a public body from

charging a requester for any court costs or fees resulting from a petition and requires a public body to post on its website or otherwise publish a written policy (i) explaining how the public body assesses charges for accessing or searching for requested records and (ii) noting the current fee charged, if any, by the public body for accessing and searching for the requested records. This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

HB 786 (LaRock) Would have required the Board of Education to establish, and each local school board to comply with, a policy to require each public elementary or secondary school to (i) annually notify the parent of any student enrolled in a class or course in which the instructional material or related academic activities includes or may include sexually explicit content, as defined in the bill, or content that depicts sexual misconduct, as defined in the bill; (ii) permit the parent of any student to review instructional material that includes sexually explicit content or content that depicts sexual misconduct, upon request; and (iii) provide, as a replacement or an alternative to instructional material and related academic activities that include sexually explicit content or content that depicts sexual misconduct, instructional material and related academic activities that do not include sexually explicit content or content that depicts sexual misconduct to any student whose parent so requests.

HB 787 (LaRock) Would have declared it an unlawful and discriminatory practice for any local school board or employee or contractor thereof to teach any public elementary or secondary school student to believe or promote to any such student as valid the belief that (i) one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex; (ii) an individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously; (iii) an individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of the individual's race or sex; (iv) an individual's moral character is necessarily determined by the individual's race or sex; or (v) an individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex, but permits any local school board or employee or contractor thereof to teach to any public elementary or secondary school student content that includes the past or present belief, by any individual or group, in any such concept.

HB 789 (LaRock) Would have prohibited any public elementary or secondary school student from participating in any family life education program without the prior written consent of his parent. The bill requires the summary that is required to be posted and distributed to parents for each such program to include contact information for the individual or office responsible for maintaining printed and audio-visual program materials.

HB 1024 (LaRock) Would have permitted the parents of qualified students, defined in the bill, to apply to the school division in which the qualified student resides for a one-year, renewable Parental Choice Education Savings Account that consists of an amount that is equivalent to a certain percentage of all applicable annual Standards of Quality per pupil state funds appropriated for public school purposes and apportioned to the resident school division in which the qualified student resides, including the per pupil share of state sales tax funding in basic aid and any state per pupil share of special education funding for which the qualified student is eligible. The bill permits the parent of the qualified student to use the moneys in such account for certain education-related expenses of the qualified student, including tuition, deposits, fees, and required textbooks at a private elementary school or secondary school that is located in the Commonwealth. The bill also contains provisions relating to auditing, rescinding, and reviewing expenses made from such accounts.

HB 1034 (Ransone) Would have required the Department of Education to develop and each local school board to adhere to guidelines for the provision of counseling services in public schools, which shall include (i) provisions for parental consent; written parental notification; parental involvement, as appropriate; and confidentiality; (ii) procedures by which a parent may limit or prohibit his child's participation; (iii) appropriate exceptions to the procedures by which a parent may limit or prohibit his child's participation such as imminent need, health, or safety or maintaining order in the school; and (iv) any other provision deemed necessary by the Department.

HB 1047 (Tran) Would have provided that no student who needs or uses augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), which the bill defines as any device, tool, support, or service, or any combination thereof, that facilitates any form of communication, other than oral speech, that can be used to express

thoughts, needs, wants, and ideas, shall be denied the opportunity for inclusion in regular classrooms or the provision of age-appropriate instruction on the basis that such student may require support with AAC. The bill prohibits any individualized education program team, member of such team, or school division employee from utilizing the results of any intelligence quotient test or any other test to measure intelligence or cognitive ability to determine a student with a disability's eligibility to be provided with and use AAC at school. The bill requires each school division to document on the individualized education program of a student with a disability who needs or uses AAC, beginning prior to the provision of instruction or support to the student, including any extended school year period, the student's AAC and communication access and support needs, including, as appropriate, individualized training as an assistive technology service for each school division employee or contractor who provides instruction or direct support to such student, to support the student's use of AAC and to ensure that curricula and instruction are designed or adapted as necessary to accommodate the student's unique communication access needs.

HB 1124 (Anderson) Would have required the Board of Education's guidelines and model policies for codes of student conduct to include a requirement that any code of student conduct is enforced and any student behavioral intervention or disciplinary method or measure is utilized in a fair, proportional, unbiased, and neutral manner, for the sole purpose of maintaining safe learning environments, and with full and sole consideration of the student's behavior and with no consideration of any individual immutable characteristic of the student such as the student's sex or race. The bill requires each school board to establish and continuously maintain a system of fair, proportional, unbiased, and neutral student behavioral intervention and discipline and prohibits any school board from establishing or maintaining any system of student behavioral intervention or discipline, including positive behavioral interventions and supports or any substantially similar disciplinary method, that targets or differentiates student behavioral interventions or disciplinary methods or measures based on any factor other than the student's behavior.

HB 1125 (Anderson) Would have required, within four hours of receiving notification of (i) a preliminary determination by the threat assessment team that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to self or others; (ii) threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the school; or (iii) unlawful acts committed on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored activity that involve the unlawful use or possession of a weapon, homicide, criminal sexual assault, or trespassing, each division superintendent to notify the parent of each student enrolled in the relevant school of such threat, threatening or aberrant behavior, or unlawful act. The bill requires each school board to equip each public elementary and secondary school building in the local school division with at least one panic alarm that adheres to nationally recognized industry standards, including the standards of the National Fire Protection Association and Underwriters Laboratories, and is installed by a licensed and qualified professional. The bill defines "panic alarm" as a silent security system by which the user manually activates a device that sends a non-audible signal to the local law-enforcement agency that indicates a school security emergency, including a non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation, that requires immediate response and assistance from such agency.

HB 1315 (Anderson) Would have required, within four hours of receiving notification of (i) a preliminary determination by the threat assessment team that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to self or others; (ii) threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the school; or (iii) unlawful acts committed on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored activity that involve the unlawful use or possession of a weapon, homicide, criminal sexual assault, or trespassing, each division superintendent to notify the parent of each student enrolled in the relevant school of such threat, threatening or aberrant behavior, or unlawful act.

During each session of the Virginia General Assembly, the VSBA Executive Director and lobbyists are in daily contact discussing legislation and the VSBA policies that drive the association's lobbying efforts, which include the decision to send action alerts to the membership. The lobbying efforts of the association are based on positions contained in the VSBA Legislative Positions Handbook that is approved each year by the VSBA Delegate Assembly. No school board in Virginia is bound by any position of the Association or obligated to any call to actions. School boards in Virginia have the discretion to adopt a local position that may differ from that of the Association.

2022 VSBA Legislative Priorities

About the Virginia School Boards Association

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

Local Control

VSBA opposes any attempts to divest local school boards of their constitutional authority to supervise schools. The VSBA further opposes any efforts that interfere with the day-to-day activities of school boards in performing their constitutional responsibilities.

Funding and Budget

Article VIII of the Virginia Constitution establishes public education as a shared responsibility. School Boards work in partnership with the Virginia General Assembly, Virginia Board of Education, and local appropriating bodies to provide education in the Commonwealth. Past changes to state funding for education widened existing gaps between the actual costs of services at the local level and the state's reimbursement for the provision of these services.

- Fiscal Year 2021 budget revenue projections indicate the likelihood of a significant budget surplus. After ten plus years of the SOQ Support Staff Position Cap, VSBA supports the overdue repeal of the cap through the dedication of budget surplus revenues to fund the state's share of SOQ Support Staff Positions.
- VSBA supports local flexibility for implementing all mandates and programs passed by the General Assembly. Furthermore, VSBA supports local flexibility with revenue appropriated by the state to establish programs that address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- VSBA supports full funding of all mandates and programs passed by the General Assembly. Partial funding or the absence of funding for mandates and programs places additional burden on local school divisions.
- VSBA supports measures to hold school divisions harmless from funding loss due to enrollment decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Charter Schools

VSBA believes that all public schools should be freed from regulations impeding education reform. The power to operate, maintain and supervise public schools in Virginia is within the exclusive jurisdiction of local school boards and is granted to them by the Constitution and the Code of Virginia.

- VSBA supports the existing charter school law, which allows local school boards to establish such schools/programs and opposes any attempt to remove local school board authority from this process.

School Choice

VSBA believes that all public schools should provide a quality education for each student and that in meeting local educational needs, locally developed policies and program options which give parents the opportunity to select schools or programs for their children should be considered among a variety of possible educational strategies.

- The VSBA opposes federal or state efforts to mandate school choice, including efforts to divert or condition funding from existing federal and state programs.

School Modernization

The Commonwealth of Virginia must recognize the impending crisis in school construction and infrastructure needs and implement a new strategy to assist localities in funding their school capital needs. The State's objective should be to provide revenue to fund at least 55 percent of localities' school construction needs over the next five years without reducing or modifying other sources of State aid to education.

- VSBA supports efforts to amend §58.1-605.1 of the Code of Virginia to include all cities and counties among those localities authorized to impose an additional local sales and use tax up to one percent, as determined by the governing body, if initiated by a resolution of the local governing body

and approved by voters. Revenue from the tax would be used solely for capital projects for new construction or major renovation of schools.

- The VSBA urges the Virginia General Assembly and the U.S. Congress to provide substantial and sustained funding to finance local school construction, renovation, and debt service costs with disbursements to local school boards.

Broadband Connectivity

The use of the internet is a necessity for providing each student with a quality education. Because access to the internet is unavailable or inadequate in parts of the Commonwealth—VSBA supports policies that provide technologies that allow internet data to be transmitted at high speeds—as universally as possible.

Teacher Shortages

Effective teachers are essential to providing a high-quality education as required in the constitution of Virginia. The recruitment and retention of teachers in the face of critical teacher shortages across regions and subject areas is essential to maintaining education quality.

- VSBA supports increased funding for teacher compensation.
- VSBA supports increased funding for the Virginia Teacher Scholarship Loan Program to encourage individuals to enter the teaching profession in shortage areas and to remain in Virginia.
- VSBA supports alternative entry routes into the teaching profession to provide localities flexibility in hiring qualified persons who have not formally prepared for teaching careers.
- VSBA supports the provision of individual waivers by the Virginia Board of Education from specific licensure requirements that prohibit local school divisions from retaining otherwise qualified personnel who have demonstrated proficiency in the classroom and are teaching a critical shortage area.
- VSBA supports minority recruitment and promotional practices, including college scholarships for minority students entering the teaching profession.

School Safety

Students have a right to, and school divisions have a responsibility to ensure a teaching/learning environment that is safe and free of disruption. There are incidents involving weapons, assaults and threats at schools which require interventions in addition to those school personnel are able and authorized to provide.

- The VSBA supports state government, local communities, law enforcement agencies, and school cooperation to provide appropriate prevention and intervention programs that are effective in addressing violence, and the precursors to violence, in schools and their communities.
- The VSBA supports the authority of local school boards to prohibit guns at all school-related functions/events regardless of setting.
- The VSBA supports the existing authority of local school boards to adopt firearm safety curriculum; and opposes any attempt to mandate a state-wide firearm safety curriculum upon local school divisions.
- The VSBA supports the authority of local school boards in deciding whether to enter into Memorandums of Understanding with local law enforcement agencies to establish a School Resource Officer program in their divisions.
- The VSBA urges the General Assembly to:
 - Support local school division efforts to achieve strong, fair, and consistent disciplinary expectations and applications to all students.
 - Appropriate sufficient funds to the School Resource Officer Grants Program so that each school board may choose whether to employ uniformed officers in their schools, as well as sufficient funds for local school boards to use at their discretion in ensuring safe and respectful school environments through effective programs such as peer mediation, conflict resolution, character education, and other proactive initiatives appropriate for individual school communities.
 - Pass legislation which would afford greater protection to students, school employees, and volunteers who are exposed to bodily fluids which put them at risk of dangerous infectious diseases.

2021-2022 VSBA Board of Directors



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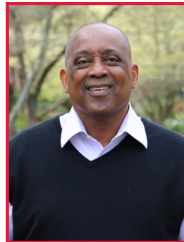
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MISSION STATEMENT

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.



VSBA

Virginia School Boards Association

Leadership • Advocacy • Support