

VSBA's members are locally appointed or elected school boards educating over 1 million public school students in Virginia. With input from communities, staff, students, parents, and families, school boards establish policies that are considered and voted on at school board meetings.

VSBA Policy Services provides its member school boards with sample policies designed to help them comply with state and federal laws. Members of VSBA Policy Services have access to those sample policies as they develop, consider, and ultimately adopt their own local policies.

Here is a description of how VSBA sample policies are developed and how those sample policies are used by school boards:

VSBA Sample Policy Development Process

VSBA Legal & Policy Services attorneys review new and revised laws, regulations, and judicial opinions. Existing VSBA sample policies are reviewed to see if they are impacted by the laws, regulations, and opinions. When necessary, existing sample policies are changed and new sample policies are drafted to reflect the new and revised laws.

Revised VSBA sample policies, compliant with state and federal laws, are provided to each member of VSBA Policy Services.

VSBA Legal and Policy Services attorneys are available to answer questions Policy Services members have regarding new/revised sample policies.

School Board Policy Development Process

School board staff review new and revised VSBA sample policies.

School board staff evaluate existing local policies and VSBA sample policies and prepare proposed new/revised local policies.

Proposed new/revised local policies are presented to the school board.

The school board considers the proposed new/revised policies after providing opportunities for public input.

What VSBA Does

- Reviews every policy at least every 5 years, or more often as required by law.
- Notifies members of VSBA Policy Services when sample policies are revised.
- Notifies members of VSBA Policy Services when sample policies are reviewed but not revised.
- Provides updated policies to members of Policy Services.
- Answers questions from school board members, superintendents, and Policy Contacts regarding VSBA sample policies.

What VSBA Does Not Do

- Require members of VSBA Policy Services to adopt VSBA sample policies.
- Review local policies.
- Track whether divisions adopt VSBA sample policies.