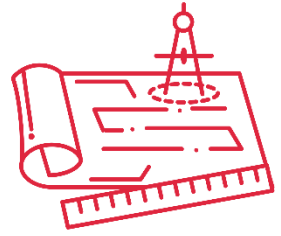


VSBA Exhibition of School Architecture

November 18-20, 2026



Schedule

September 11

Application Deadline

October 2

Slide Presentations Due

November 18

Project display boards/easels delivered by noon to VSBA registration desk

November 19

Project display boards picked up by 10:00 a.m.

November 20

Project awards presented at the VSBA Annual Convention

The VSBA Exhibition of School Architecture, sponsored by First Citizens Bank, is held annually in conjunction with the VSBA Annual Convention (November 18-20, 2026), which is attended by over 1,000 school division leaders from across the Commonwealth. The goal of the exhibition is to raise awareness among board members about the relationship between good design and effective teaching and learning. VSBA invites your firm to submit exemplary projects. Projects will be judged, and exceptional projects will garner recognition.

Exhibit Features

- The winners for each category will be emailed to all school divisions, architects, and the media on the Monday of convention week.
- The People's Choice Award will be judged from the project display during the Annual Convention. The winner will be announced at the Closing General Session on Friday morning.
- Only completed projects will be considered for meritorious design awards, but unfinished projects may be entered to be reviewed by the judges and shown at the VSBA Annual Convention for consideration for the People's Choice Award.

All projects submitted must be for a VSBA member school division. For a full list of VSBA member school divisions, visit: <https://www.vsba.org/vsba-regions/>

Exhibition Sponsored by:



**First Citizens
Bank**

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION AS A MERITORIOUS DESIGN

The following themes are deemed critically important in the design of successful learning environments. Please address each in your submission along with any others that you believe distinguish your project as exceptional.

Learning Ambience

- Use of color, light, and space to facilitate learning.
- Control of environmental factors such as indoor air quality, temperature, and acoustics to optimize the learning environment.
- Allowing educators and students to personalize the learning environment through displays of students' work.
- Infusing instructional technology throughout the building.
- Using the building as a teaching tool.

Educational Community

- Creating spaces for collaboration among teachers, students, and/or community members.

Multi-Functionality

- Designing spaces to easily serve more than one purpose at various times during the school day.
- Transformation of spaces for different uses is easily accomplished.
- Designing spaces that can be converted, without major capital expense, to serve different purposes as programs change over the years.

Sustainable Design

- Committed to comfortable, healthy, and energy efficient learning environments.
- Minimizing the school's impact on local, regional, and global ecosystems.
- Utilizing high-performance building strategies to impact learning.
- Minimize costs associated with operations and maintenance over the life of the building.

Civic Presence

- Imparting a sense of gravity to and importance about the educational mission.
- Inspiring respect and awe.
- Design demonstrates a commitment to creating comfortable, healthy, and energy-efficient learning environments.

Subtle Security

- Emphasizing unobtrusive security measures.
- Facilitating easy supervision via transparent environments.
- Not simply relying on technology.

All projects submitted must be for a VSBA member school division. For a full list of VSBA member school divisions, visit: <https://www.vsba.org/vsba-regions/>

SLIDES

All slide presentations must be submitted no later than **Friday, October 2, 2026**, via email to Bella Corbo, Member Engagement Specialist, at bella@vsba.org.

Complete entries include an entry form and twelve slides. Slides must be in PDF format and measure 7.5x10 inches (landscape orientation). Entrants using PowerPoint to assemble slides will need to export the slides to PDF for the purpose of this submission.

Slides 1-10: Project Slides

Each entry should be accompanied by ten (10) digital slides depicting the essence of the design and its relationship to the educational program. Composition of the slides shall be at the discretion of the entrant but should include, at a minimum:

- Site plan
- Complete floor plan(s)
- Building section
- Exterior elevation(s)
- Interior elevation(s)

Renovation projects should include before and after images. Drawings and/or photographs should emphasize the design's relationship to the educational program; the inclusion of instructional areas is essential. Drawings shall include a graphic indication of scale. The inclusion of scale models in photos is helpful. Drawings and/or photographs should include short (one to three word) captions describing the major idea (e.g., second-floor plan, north elevation, science lab). The font for the labels must be Arial 14 pt.

Slide 11: Descriptive Data Slide

Entrants shall include an eleventh slide listing essential data:

- Size of the site (acres)
- Student capacity*
- Area of the building (SF)
- Total project cost** (\$)
- Cost per square foot (SF/S)
- Cost per student (\$/student)
- Space per student (SF/student)

Slide 12: Identification Slide

Entrants shall include a twelfth slide listing:

- The name and location of the project (city/county)***
- Owner (school division & superintendent)
- Design firm, including principal-in charge
- Project designer and Construction Administrator
- Education planner (if any)
- Landscape architect (if any)
- Engineer(s)
- Builder
- Photographer

A digital image of the company logo shall also be included on this slide. This information will be used by VSBA exactly as provided to recognize the project. The identification slide shall be twelfth in order and will be "hidden" by the VSBA to prevent inadvertent viewing by the reviewers. During the review, the anonymity of all entries will be maintained— names of firms must not appear on any drawings, photographs, or other materials to be reviewed.

Do not include the entrant's name/logo on slides 1-11

*Student capacity shall equal the sum of traditional classrooms (at 25 students/room), and special education classrooms (at ten students/room)

**Project costs include all costs associated with designing and constructing the school/site except for the purchase of the site.

*** All submissions must be for a school division in Virginia.

All projects submitted must be for a VSBA member school division. For a full list of VSBA member school divisions, visit: <https://www.vsba.org/vsba-regions/>

APPLICATION

All applications are to be submitted no later than **Friday, September 11, 2026**, to Bella Corbo, Member Engagement Specialist, at bella@vsba.org.

2026 VSBA Exhibition of School Architecture
 Virginia School Boards Association Annual Convention
 Williamsburg, November 18-20, 2026

Lead Firm Name _____

Main Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Email _____

Fax (_____) _____

Please list the below project(s) being submitted for jury. Copies of this page are permitted for additional entries. Only public schools submitted by registered architects are eligible. (VSBA reserves the right to withhold from the exhibition entries deemed to be unsuitable.) Only one award is given per entry to the lead architect firm.

Name of School or Institution _____ Name of School or Institution _____

School Division _____ School Division _____

Superintendent _____ Superintendent _____

TYPE OF PROJECT

- Elementary Middle High
 Renovation Voc.ed Other

FEES

- Affiliate \$650 Non-Affiliate \$900

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Note: VSBA must receive written notification of withdrawal from the exhibition by September 18, 2026, for any refund of fees. There will be a \$100 processing fee for refunds. NO refunds will be given after September 18, 2026. Checks must be received by September 18, 2026, for projects to be judged.