VSBA
Virginia School Boards Association®

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News Release

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VSBA Awards 2026 Exhibitors Scholarship to Spotsylvania County Student School Board Representative



Cora Shields

Charlottesville, VA – The Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) proudly announces Cora Shields, a high school senior at Riverbend High School in Spotsylvania County Public Schools, as the recipient of the 2026 VSBA Exhibitors Scholarship. Shields was recognized today during the Opening General Session of the VSBA Annual Convention in Williamsburg, Virginia, for her commitment to student leadership, public education, and service to her school community.

The scholarship recognizes an outstanding graduating high school senior who has served as a student school board representative, demonstrating leadership, academic achievement, strong character, and a dedication to school and community service. Through their involvement in local school board governance, student representatives play an important role in bringing student perspectives to the decision-making process and advocating for the needs of their peers. The VSBA Exhibitors Scholarship celebrates these contributions while supporting recipients as they pursue their educational and career aspirations beyond high school.

This scholarship is made possible through the generous support of exhibitors participating in the VSBA Annual Convention. VSBA extends its sincere appreciation to this year's sponsors: Gold Sponsors – Air Mechanical Solutions, Howard Shockey & Sons, Inc., and K12 Coalition; and Silver Sponsors – Kelly Education, The LandTek Group, and VMDO Architects. Their continued investment in public education and student leadership helps recognize the next generation of leaders while providing meaningful financial support for their future endeavors.

Reflecting on the significance of receiving this scholarship, Shields shared:

"Receiving this scholarship will help reduce my financial burden as I go to college, so that I can focus more of my energy into projects that matter to me," said Cora Shields. "It's also recognition of my hard work in high school and of the difference I tried to make as a student school board representative. This whole experience has filled me with a real sense of hope and appreciation of people trying to make a difference in our schools and wider communities."

About the Virginia School Boards Association
The Virginia School Boards Association, a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of Virginia school boards, promotes excellence in public education through advocacy, training, and services. The Association offers conferences, information, training, and counseling designed to meet the needs of the Commonwealth's educational leaders.

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