# Superintendent’s Memo #291-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: December 20, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Proposed *Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure in Response to House Bill 2486 (2019 General Assembly)*

On November 14, 2019, the Virginia Board of Education approved proposed *Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure* ***in Response to House Bill 2486 of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly.* The legislation, in part, required the following:**

*The Board shall develop guidelines that establish a process to permit a school board or any organization sponsored by a school board to petition the Board for approval of an alternate route to licensure that may be used to meet the requirements for a provisional or renewable license or any endorsement. Any such alternate route may include alternatives to the regulatory requirements for teacher preparation, including alternative professional assessments and coursework. The petitioner may proffer or the Board may impose conditions in conjunction with the approval of such petition.*

The Department of Education convened a workgroup in August 2019 to recommend *Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure* ***in Response to House Bill 2486 of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly***. The workgroup was composed of school division human resources officials; an assistant superintendent; a teacher; university administrator; and representatives from the Virginia Education Association, Virginia Association of School Superintendents, Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals, Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals, Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, Virginia Community College System, and the Virginia Department of Education. The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure presented proposed *Guidelines* to the Board of Education.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-4002.1. of the *Code of Virginia*, guidance documents are subject to a

30-day public comment period, to include public comment through the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website, after publication in the Virginia Register of Regulations and prior to their effective date. The public comment period for the *Guidelines* will be from December 23, 2019 to January 22, 2020. The *Guidelines* will become effective on January 23, 2020, unless written comments are received during the public comment period, in which case the effective date will be delayed for an additional 30-day period.

JFL/psp

### Attachment

1. [Proposed *Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure* *in Response to House Bill 2486 of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly*](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2019/291-19a.docx) (Word)