# Superintendent’s Memo #172-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: July 26, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: 2019 General Assembly Revisions to the Standards of Quality (SOQ)

The 2019 General Assembly revised Standards 1, 2, 3, 9 and 10 of the Standards of Quality(SOQ), §§ [22.1-253.13:1 through 22.1-253.13:10](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13.2/), of the *Code of Virginia.* A summary of these changes follows. Unless otherwise noted, these changes became law effective on July 1, 2019.

### **Revisions to Standard One** (§ [22.1-253.13:1](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13.2/section22.1-253.13%3A1/))

#### [HB 2123](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2123) **School boards; boards permitted to enter into College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships**

*Chief Patron*: Carroll Foy

*Summary*: Permits each local school board to enter into College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships (Partnerships), currently referred to as agreements, with comprehensive community colleges or other public institutions of higher education or educational institutions that offer a career and technical education curriculum. The bill requires any such Partnership to (i) specify the options for students to take courses as part of the career and technical education curriculum that lead to course credit or an industry-recognized credential, certification, or license concurrent with a high school diploma, (ii) specify the credit, credentials, certifications, or licenses available for such courses, and (iii) specify available options for students to participate in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs at comprehensive community colleges concurrent with the pursuit of a high school diploma and receive college credit and high school credit for successful completion of any such program. Current law allows local school boards to enter into agreements with such institutions but does not specify course credit as being part of the agreements.

### **Revisions to Standard Two** (§ [22.1-253.13:2](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13.2/section22.1-253.13%3A2/))

#### [HB 1729](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1729) Guidance counselors; changes name to school counselors, staff time

*Chief Patron*: Landes

*Summary*: Changes the name of guidance counselors to school counselors and requires each school counselor employed by a school board in a public elementary or secondary school to spend at least 80 percent of his staff time during normal school hours in the direct counseling of individual students or groups of students.

#### [SB 1406](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1406) Guidance counselors; staffing ratios, changes name to school counselors, etc.

*Chief Patron*: Dance

*Summary*: Changes the name of guidance counselors to school counselors and requires school boards to employ school counselors in accordance with the following ratios: in elementary schools, one hour per day per 75 students, one full-time at 375 students, one hour per day additional time per 75 students or major fraction thereof; in middle schools, one period per 65 students, one full-time at 325 students, one additional period per 65 students or major fraction thereof; and in high schools, one period per 60 students, one full-time at 300 students, one additional period per 60 students or major fraction thereof.

However, it should be noted that the ratios prescribed by SB1406 have been superseded by language in Appropriation Act, [Item 136.B.7.g](https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/item/2019/1/HB1700/Chapter/1/136), which establishes the school counselor staffing standard effective with the 2019-2020 school year: in elementary schools, one hour per day per 91 students, one full-time at 455 students, one hour per day additional time per 91 students or major fraction thereof; in middle schools, one period per 74 students, one full-time at 370 students, one additional period per 74 students or major fraction thereof; in high schools, one period per 65 students, one full-time at 325 students, one additional period per 65 students or major fraction thereof.

### **Revisions to Standard Three** (§ [22.1-253.13:3](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13.2/section22.1-253.13%3A3/))

#### [HB 2147](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2147) Standards for Accreditation; review and corrective action

*Chief Patron*: Turpin

*Summary*: Aligns the state review process of underperforming schools and school divisions with the new Standards for Accreditation adopted by the Board of Education (Board). The bill requires the Department of Education to cause an academic or other review to be conducted to assist schools not meeting the standards established by the Board. The Board may require a local school board to develop a corrective action plan for any such school within its division. The bill requires a school board of a school division that does not demonstrate progress in implementing such corrective action plan to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Board. The bill also requires the school board of an underperforming school division to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Board prior to developing a corrective action plan.

### **Revisions to Standard Nine** (§ [22.1-253.13:9](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13.2/section22.1-253.13%3A9/))

#### [HB 1868](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1868) Virginia Index of Performance incentive program; renamed Exemplar School Recognition Program

*Chief Patron*: Hurst

*Summary*: Renames the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) incentive program as the Exemplar School Recognition Program (the Program) and makes several changes to the Program to align it with recent changes made by the Board of Education (the Board) to the Standards of Accreditation, including requiring the Board to design the Program to recognize and reward (i) schools that exceed Board-established requirements or show continuous improvement on academic and school quality indicators and (ii) schools, school divisions, and school boards that implement effective, innovative practices that are aligned with the Commonwealth's goals for public education.

### **Revisions to Standard Ten** (§ [22.1-253.13:10](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13.2/section22.1-253.13%3A10/))

#### [SB 1728](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1728) Standards of Learning Innovation Committee; repeals the Committee

*Chief Patron*: Newman

*Summary*: Eliminates the Standards of Learning Innovation Committee and repeals Standard Ten.

### Questions

Please direct questions about this information to the Policy Office at (804) 225-2092 or policy@doe.virginia.gov.

JFL/EMM

### Attachment

1. [2019 Standards of Quality](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2019/172-19a.docx)

### Additional Resources

* The [Standards of Quality webpage](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/quality/index.shtml)
* The [Standards of Quality](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacodefull/title22.1/chapter13.2/) in the *Code of Virginia*
* [Superintendent’s Memo #136-19](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2019/136-19.docx), which summarizes the 2019 legislation impacting public education in Virginia