# 2021 General Assembly Report

Education-related legislation introduced during the 2021 Regular Session of the General Assembly

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## Assessments

[HB2027](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2027) (Coyner) Standards of Learning assessments; reading and mathematics; grades three through eight; individual student growth. Requires, no later than the 2024-2025 school year, each reading and mathematics Standards of Learning assessment for students in grades three through eight to (i) be administered three times per school year, at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of each school year, for the purpose of providing measures of individual student growth over the course of the school year and (ii) provide accurate measurement of a student's performance outside of his grade level through the incorporation, through computer adaptive technology, of test items at grade levels below and above the tested level. The bill requires any student growth data to include such measurement of outside-of-grade-level performance. The bill requires the Department of Education to ensure adequate training for teachers and principals on how to interpret and use student growth data from such assessments to improve reading and mathematics instruction in grades three through eight throughout the school year. The bill prohibits the total time spent taking each such assessment over each of the three annual administrations from exceeding 150 percent of the time spent taking a single end-of-year proficiency assessment.

[HB2094](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2094) (O’Quinn) Public schools; Standards of Learning assessments; reduction. Reduces the total number and type of required Standards of Learning assessments to the minimum requirements established by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended.

[SB1327](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1327) (Dunnavant) Local school divisions; core subject competency assessments. Directs each local school division to develop and administer a fall and winter diagnostic assessment and a spring growth measurement assessment to each student to assess the student's competency in each core subject, as determined by the Department of Education.

[SB1401](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1401) (Pillion) Standards of Learning assessments; reduction; report. Reduces the total number and type of required Standards of Learning assessments to the minimum requirements established by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended. The bill requires the Department of Education to annually report on the estimated projected and actual savings from the implementation of the bill and report the amount of such savings to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations no later than the first day of each Regular Session of the General Assembly. The bill also requires that such amount be included in the total for Direct Aid to Public Education in any general appropriation act.

## Board of Education

[HB1826](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1826) (Austin) Board of Education; membership; qualifications. Requires the nine-member Board of Education to include at least one member with experience or expertise in local government leadership or policymaking, at least one member with experience or expertise in career and technical education, and at least one member with experience or expertise in early childhood education, all of whom are appointed by the Governor.

[HB1827](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1827) (Austin) Board of Education; membership; geographic representation. Requires the nine-member Board of Education to include at least five members, appointed by the Governor, who each reside in different superintendent's regions in the Commonwealth.

[HB2247](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2247) (Aird) Board of Education; school division boundaries; conditions and considerations. Removes several conditions on the Board of Education's constitutional duty to determine school division boundaries and requires the Board, in fulfilling such duty, to consider equity in educational programs within and between school divisions.

## Broadband and Internet Access

[SB1225](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1225) (Boysko) Broadband services; education. Authorizes school boards to appropriate funds for the purposes of promoting, facilitating, and encouraging the expansion and operation of broadband services for educational purposes. The bill authorizes school boards to partner with private broadband service providers to promote, implement, and subsidize broadband for educational purposes to the households of students who would qualify for (i) a child nutrition program or (ii) any other program recognized or adopted by the local school board as a measuring standard to identify at-risk students.

[SB1434](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1434) (Chase) Public schools; mandatory virtual learning; provision of required technology and Internet service; emergency. Provides that if a school board requires students to engage in virtual learning for any reason, whether full time or part time, and a computer and Internet service to connect to the curriculum is required, the school board must provide appropriate technology devices to every student enrolled in the school system so they may access the learning platform. The bill requires school boards to provide adequate Internet service to a student's household at no cost if the student's household income is below 125 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. The bill contains an emergency clause.

## Children Services Act

Note: Several of the bills related to the Children Services Act build on recommendations from JLARC’s *Review of the Children’s Services Act and Private Special Ed Day School Costs* report.

[HB2117](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2117) (VanValkenburg) Children's Services Act; special education programs. Requires that funds expended for special education services under the Children's Services Act only be expended on educational programs that are licensed by the Department of Education. The bill adds children and youth previously placed in approved private school educational programs for at least six months, who will receive transitional services in a public school setting for no longer than 12 months, to the target population for eligibility for the state pool of funds. The bill requires the Secretary of Education, in conjunction with the Office of Children's Services and the Department of Education, to establish a work group (the Work Group) with appropriate stakeholders to develop a detailed plan to direct the transfer of Children's Services Act funds currently reserved for children requiring an educational placement in a private special education day school or residential facility to the Department of Education and to develop a standardized reporting process, template, and reporting requirement for private special education day school tuition rates to ensure that tuition rates can be accurately compared across schools and over time. The bill requires that the Work Group submit its plan and recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations and Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations by November 1, 2021.

[HB2289](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2289) (Austin) Children's Services Act; eligibility for state pool of funds. Declares eligible for the Children's Services Act state pool of funds any child or youth (i) who was previously placed in an approved private school educational program for at least six months and who will receive certain transitional services in a public school setting for no longer than 12 months or (ii) whose individualized education program team has determined that his placement in a private special education day school, residential program, or other out-of-school placement could be prevented by his receipt of specialized or intensive services and supports delivered in the public school setting if such services and supports are estimated to have an annual cost that is more than three times the average annual cost of educating in a public school setting a student who does not require special education services and supports.

[SB1099](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1099) (Stuart) Children's Services Act; special education programs. Expands eligibility for services under the Children's Services Act to students who transfer from an approved private school special education program to a public school special education program established and funded jointly by a local governing body and school division located within Planning District 16 for the purpose of providing special education and related services when (i) the public school special education program is able to provide services comparable to those of an approved private school special education program and (ii) the student would require placement in an approved private school special education program but for the availability of the public school special education program.

[SB1114](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1114) (Peake) Children's Services Act; eligibility for state pool of funds. Expands eligibility for use of the state pool of funds under the Children's Services Act to services that are provided in a public school setting.

[SB1133](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1133) (Suetterlein) Children's Services Act; eligibility for state pool of funds; pilot program related to educational placement transition for certain students with disabilities. Expands eligibility for use of the state pool of funds under the Children's Services Act to services that are provided in a public school setting and requires that private day schools be approved and licensed by the Department of Education or an equivalent out-of-state licensing agency to be eligible for the state pool of funds. The bill requires the Department of Education and relevant local school boards to develop and implement a pilot program for up to four years in two to eight local school divisions in the Commonwealth. In developing the pilot, the Department is required to partner with the appropriate school board employees in each such local school division to (i) identify the resources, services, and supports required by each student who resides in each such local school division and who is educated in a private school setting pursuant to his Individualized Education Program; (ii) study the feasibility of transitioning each such student from his private school setting to an appropriate public school setting in the local school division and providing the identified resources, services, and supports in such public school setting; and (iii) recommend a process for redirecting federal, state, and local funds, including funds provided pursuant to the Children's Services Act, provided for the education of each such student to the local school division for the purpose of providing the identified resources, services, and supports in the appropriate public school setting. The bill requires the Department of Education to make a report to the Governor, the Senate Committees on Education and Health and Finance and Appropriations, and the House Committees on Education and Appropriations on the findings of each pilot program after two and four years.

[SB1313](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1313) (Mason) Children's Services Act; special education programs. Requires that funds expended for special education services under the Children's Services Act only be expended on educational programs that are licensed by the Department of Education. The bill adds children and youth previously placed in approved private school educational programs for at least six months, who will receive transitional services in a public school setting for no longer than 12 months, to the target population for eligibility for the state pool of funds. The bill requires the Secretary of Education, in conjunction with the Office of Children's Services and the Department of Education, to establish a work group (the Work Group) with appropriate stakeholders to develop a detailed plan to direct the transfer of Children's Services Act funds currently reserved for children requiring an educational placement in a private special education day school or residential facility to the Department of Education and to develop a standardized reporting process, template, and reporting requirement for private special education day school tuition rates to ensure that tuition rates can be accurately compared across schools and over time. The bill requires that the Work Group submit its plan and recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations and Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations by November 1, 2021.

## Early Childhood

[HB2086](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2086) (McQuire) Child care providers; background checks; portability. Exempts prospective employees and volunteers of certain child welfare agencies from statutory background check requirements where the individual completed a background check within the previous five years, provided that (i) such background check was conducted after July 1, 2017; (ii) the results of such background check indicated that the individual had not been convicted of any barrier crime and was not the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse or neglect; and (iii) the individual is an employee or volunteer of any child welfare agency that is subject to background check requirements or has been separated from such employment or volunteer position for not more than 180 days. The bill requires such child welfare agencies, prior to hiring or allowing to volunteer any individual without the completion of a background check, to obtain written certification from the Department of Education that such individual satisfies all such requirements and is eligible to serve as an employee or volunteer at the child welfare agency.

[HB2105](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2105) (Bulova) Early childhood education; quality rating and improvement system participation; School Readiness Committee. Delays until the 2022-2023 school year the requirement for all publicly funded early childhood education providers to participate in a quality rating and improvement system to be established by the Board of Education by July 1, 2021. The bill also delays from the fall of 2023 to the fall of 2024 the publication of initial quality ratings for such providers. The bill reinstates the School Readiness Committee and alters the composition and scope of the work of the School Readiness Committee. **\*This is a Secretary of Education bill\***

[HB2206](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2206) (Filler-Corn) Child Care Assistance Program; emergency. Creates the COVID-19 Child Care Assistance Program (the Program) to provide financial assistance for child care to families in need during the public health emergency caused by COVID-19. The bill directs the Department of Education (the Department) to administer the Program and to create a process through which applicants may apply online to participate in the Program. The bill provides that after a Program participant has selected an eligible child care provider, the Department shall issue a voucher, for full-time or part-time care, directly to the provider and provide notice of the amount of the voucher to the Program participant. The bill provides that an applicant shall be eligible to participate in the Program if the applicant's household income is at or below 100 percent of the state median income or regional median income and the applicant's child for whom a voucher will be issued is 13 years of age or younger. The bill contains an emergency clause and will sunset on the last day of the sixth month after its passage.

## Facilities and Transportation

[HB1823](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1823) (Askew) Public schools, child day programs, and certain other programs; carbon monoxide detectors required. Requires each building that was built before 2015 and that houses any public school classroom for students, licensed child day program, or other program that serves preschool-age children to be equipped with at least one carbon monoxide detector.

[HB2093](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2093) (O’Quinn) Department of Education; School Construction Fund and Program. Establishes the School Construction Fund as a special nonreverting fund in the state treasury and requires the Department of Education to establish the School Construction Program for the purpose of providing grants from the Fund, subject to certain conditions, to school boards that leverage federal, state, and local programs and resources to finance the design and construction of new school buildings and facilities or the modernization and maintenance of existing school buildings and facilities.

[HB2118](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2118) (Keam) Electric Vehicle Grant Fund and Program; creation; report. Requires the Department of Environmental Quality to establish the Electric Vehicle Grant Program (the Program) for the purpose of (i) awarding grants on a competitive basis to school boards for (a) assisting with the complete replacement of existing diesel school buses with electric school buses no later than 2031; (b) the implementation of recharging infrastructure or other infrastructure needed to charge or maintain such electric school buses; and (c) workforce development and training to support the maintenance, charging, and operation of such electric school buses and (ii) developing education outreach to promote the Program. The bill contains provisions relating to grant applications, priority, awards, and uses. The grants would be funded from a $0.05 per gallon tax on dyed diesel fuel. Farmers would be eligible for a refund of the tax for dyed diesel fuel used for agricultural or horticultural purposes. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2031.

[SB1106](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1106) (Stanley) Public School Assistance Fund and Program created. Creates the Public School Assistance Fund and Program, to be administered by the Department of Education, for the purpose of providing grants to school boards to be used solely for the purpose of repairing or replacing the roofs of public elementary and secondary school buildings in the local school division. The bill permits any school board in the Commonwealth to apply for Program grants but requires the Department of Education to give priority in the award of grants to school boards that demonstrate the greatest need based on the condition of existing school building roofs and the ability to pay for the repair or replacement of such roofs.

[SB1109](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1109) (Stanley) Voter referendum; issuance of state general obligation bonds for school facility modernization. Provides for a statewide referendum on the question of whether the General Assembly shall issue state general obligation bonds in the amount of $3 billion for the purpose of K-12 school building construction, repair, or other capital projects related to the modernization of school facilities. The results would be advisory only and are intended only to demonstrate the preference of the citizens of the Commonwealth on the issuance of such bonds. The bill provides that the referendum be held at the November 2021 general election.

[SB1380](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1380) (Lucas) Electric utilities; electric school bus projects; report. Authorizes electric utilities to partner with school divisions to implement projects designed to encourage the proliferation of school buses that are fueled in whole or in part by electricity, along with associated charging and other infrastructure, for the purpose of transporting students and that may also serve as electric grid stabilization or peak-shaving resources. The bill provides that if an electric school bus project meets the requirements in the bill, then it is in the public interest and may constitute an energy storage resource. The bill requires an electric school bus project and its corresponding agreement to include a provision to compensate a participating school division for the use of the school bus battery by the electric utility as a grid stabilizing or peak-shaving resource and a provision that the electric school buses shall be titled under the participating school division, but the utility shall own the associated batteries and charging stations. The bill also provides a tax exemption for electric school buses and associated charging and other infrastructure that is related or incidental to an authorized electric school bus project.

## Instruction

[HB1790](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1790) (McNamara) and [SB1132](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1132) (Suetterlein) Public schools; severe weather conditions and other emergency situations; unscheduled remote learning days. Provides that when severe weather conditions or other emergency situations have resulted in the closing of any school in a school division for in-person instruction, the school division may declare an unscheduled remote learning day whereby the school provides synchronous or asynchronous instruction, or some combination thereof, to all students in the school in lieu of in-person instruction without a reduction in the amount paid by the Commonwealth from the Basic School Aid Fund, provided that the school division has established an unscheduled remote learning day plan that ensures that every student is provided instruction and services on such unscheduled remote learning day that are comparable in quality to the instruction and services provided to learners on any other remote learning day.

[HB1865](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1865) (Delaney) Certain students in kindergarten through grade 3; reading intervention services. Requires reading intervention services for students in kindergarten through grade three who demonstrate deficiencies based on their individual performance on the Standards of Learning reading test or any reading diagnostic test that meets criteria established by the Department of Education to be evidence-based and aligned with the science of reading and structured literacy approaches, both defined in the bill, and to include the components of effective reading instruction and explicit, systematic, sequential, and cumulative instruction. The bill requires the parent of each student who receives such reading intervention services to be notified before the services begin and the progress of each such student to be monitored throughout the provision of services. The bill also requires the Department of Education, no later than the beginning of the 2021%962022 school year, to compile and provide to each local school division a list of materials, resources, and curriculum programs that are supported by the science of reading and based on instruction that is explicit, systematic, cumulative, and diagnostic, including (i) evidence-based dyslexia programs that are aligned to structured literacy or grounded in the Orton-Gillingham methodology and (ii) evidence-based reading intervention programs, including programs that are grounded in the science of reading.

[HB1885](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1885) (Simonds) Department of Education; comprehensive review of computer science standards, courses, and pathways in public schools; report. Requires the Department of Education to perform a comprehensive review of the ongoing implementation of mandatory computer science standards in elementary schools and middle schools and the alignment of middle school and high school computer science courses and course pathways. The bill requires such review to include recommendations for implementation processes at the local level, profiles of implementation processes that have been successful for school divisions, a description of opportunities for enhanced collaboration with relevant computer science stakeholders to expand computer science education opportunities for all students in the Commonwealth and for relevant professional development for teachers, and examining methods of data collection annually from local school divisions pertaining to computer science implementation. The bill requires the Department of Education to prepare a report on its comprehensive review and provide such report to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health, the Secretary of Education, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction no later than November 1, 2021.

[HB1905](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1905) (Cole, J.G.) Economic education and financial literacy required in middle and high school grades; employment arrangements. Adds to objectives developed and approved by the Board of Education for economics education and financial literacy at the middle and high school levels the implications of various employment arrangements with regard to benefits, protections, and long-term financial sustainability. Employment arrangements is defined in the bill as full-time employment, part-time employment, independent contract work, gig work, piece work, contingent work, day labor work, freelance work, and 1099 work.

[HB1918](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1918) (Mugler) Student driver safety. Adopts measures aimed at improving student driver safety. The bill requires curriculum for tenth grade health at public schools to include instruction on the dangers of distracted driving and speeding, to be developed by the Department of Education. Finally, the bill requires that a student show proof of a valid driver's license or driver privilege card before being issued a school parking pass at a public high school and that schools use a common application for such parking passes.

[HB2119](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2119) (Keam) Student driver education program; parent participation exemption. Exempts students who are (i) at least 18 years old, (ii) emancipated minors, or (iii) unaccompanied minors who are not in the physical custody of their parent or guardian from the requirement that the student's parent participate in the parent/student component of a school's driver education program. This parent/student component is required in Planning District 8, where the component must be in-person training. In the other school divisions that choose to offer this optional parent/student component, the parent/student component may be administered either in person or online.

[HB2184](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2184) (Wilt) Pandemic Remediation Task Force established. Establishes the 22-member Pandemic Remediation Task Force (the task force) as an advisory task force in the executive branch of state government, to be administered by the Department of Education, for the purpose of making recommendations on strategies for improving public education in the Commonwealth in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that can be implemented in each region and local school division in order to achieve a measure of uniformity in such improvements across the Commonwealth. The bill requires the task force to (i) develop recommendations for policies and funding that would assist public elementary and secondary school students impacted by school closures and the remote learning environment during the COVID-19 pandemic to adequately obtain core educational material that they may not have otherwise successfully retained during the course of such pandemic; (ii) develop a uniform strategy for public elementary and secondary schools to effectively identify students in need of remediation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and provide remediation coursework and resources to such students; (iii) consider the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on student achievement gaps and make recommendations on the interventions and additional services, such as tutoring, mentoring, and services from private educational service providers, that may be necessary to ensure that such gaps do not widen further beyond pre-pandemic levels; and (iv) submit to the Governor and the General Assembly, no later than December 1, an annual report on its work. The task force has a sunset date of July 1, 2024.

[HB2244](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2244) (LaRock) Family life education curriculum guidelines; human reproduction; viewing of ultrasound video recording. Requires the instruction on human reproduction contained in the Board of Education's family life education curriculum guidelines to include the viewing of a video recording of an ultrasound of a live unborn human in the uterus.

[HB2305](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2305) (Tyler) Board of Education; guidance on the governance of academic year Governor's Schools. Requires the Board of Education to issue guidance on the governance of academic year Governor's Schools, including communication and outreach practices, admissions policies, and guidelines on diversity, equity, and inclusion training. The bill requires such guidance to focus on the importance of increasing access to Governor's Schools for historically underserved students and to include best practices on (i) conducting information sessions about the school and the availability of gifted, advanced, and specialty education program opportunities for feeder public middle schools; (ii) strengthening the student pipeline in feeder public middle schools, prioritizing the most underserved and underrepresented students and public middle schools; and (iii) conducting programs related to and evaluations of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The bill requires the Board of Education, in developing such guidance, to collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including local school boards, Regional Governor's School boards, and Governor's School directors. **\*This is a Secretary of Education bill\***

[SB1190](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1190) (Kiggans) Board of Education; Health Standards of Learning; advanced directive education. Directs the Board of Education to include advanced directive education in its curriculum framework for the Health Standards of Learning for high school students.

[SB1303](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1303) (Dunnavant) Local school divisions; in-person learning. Requires each local school division to make in-person learning available to all students by choice of the student's parent or guardian. The bill contains an emergency clause.

## Local School Boards and Divisions

[HB1780](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1780) (Carter) Public employees; prohibition on striking; exception. Exempts employees of a local school board from the prohibition on striking, and from termination of employment for striking, by public employees.

[HB1798](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1798) (Tyler) and SB1175 (Ruff) Brunswick County school board; appointed school board salaries. Removes the Brunswick County school board from the list of approved member salaries for appointed school boards. The Brunswick County school board is currently an elected school board.

[HB1838](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1838) (Reid) Loudoun County school board; staggered terms. Enables the Loudoun County school board to stagger the terms of its members at the November election immediately preceding the end of the board's term and upon the board's prior vote for staggered terms.

[HB2091](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2091) (Austin) and SB1267 (Deeds) Charter; City of Covington; consolidated school division; salaries. Amends the charter for the City of Covington to help facilitate the consolidation of the school divisions of the City of Covington and Alleghany County. The bill sets out the salary of a school board member of such consolidated school district and shall become effective on July 1, 2022, provided that the consolidation of the City of Covington and Alleghany County school divisions is approved by the Board of Education prior to that date.

[HB2176](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2176) (Torian) School board policies; abusive work environments; definitions. Defines, for the purposes of mandatory school board policies relating to abusive work environments, the terms "abusive conduct," "abusive work environment," "physical harm," and "psychological harm."

[SB1317](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1317) (Dunnavant) Local school boards; open enrollment policy required. Requires all local school boards to establish and implement policies to provide for the open enrollment to any school of any student who is eligible to receive free or reduced lunch upon the request of a parent or guardian, subject to conditions and limitations established by the local school board.

## Miscellaneous

[HB1876](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1876) (Subramanyam) Workforce development; data sharing. Expands the type of workforce development data that state agencies may share with the Virginia Workforce System. The bill removes the requirements that personal information be removed from the data and encrypted before being shared among other state agencies and with the Workforce Development System and instead requires participating agencies to enter into the memorandum of understanding supporting the Virginia Workforce Data Trust.

[HB1940](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1940) (Rasoul) and [SB1439](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1439) (McClellan) Department of Education; guidelines on excused student absences; civic or political engagement. Requires, subject to guidelines established by the Department of Education, any middle school or high school student who is absent from school to engage in a civic or political event to be granted an excused absence.

[HB2003](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2003) (Samirah) Consumer Protection Act; prohibited practices; certain advertising related to school quality. Adds as a prohibited practice under the Consumer Protection Act the use in any advertising of any information regarding the quality of any public or private elementary or secondary school other than information derived from the school quality indicators contained in the School Quality Profiles established by the Department of Education or information derived from a school's website or the website of the school's district. The bill provides that the prohibition applies to real estate licensees.

[HB2058](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2058) (Simonds) Virginia STEM Education Advisory Board; established; report. Creates the Virginia Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Advisory Board to create a unified vision regarding STEM education initiatives, language, and measures of success to promote a culture of collaboration for STEM programming in the Commonwealth. The Board shall develop the infrastructure for creating STEM Regional Hubs and naming STEM Champions in communities across the Commonwealth. Additionally, the Board shall report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on STEM challenges, goals, and successes across the Commonwealth. **\*This is a Secretary of Education bill\***

[SB1169](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1169) (Norment) High school student parking passes; valid driver's license or driver privilege card required. Requires each public high school to require any student who applies to obtain a pass to park a vehicle on school property to provide evidence that the student possesses a valid driver's license or driver privilege card.

## School Finance, Vouchers, Parental Savings Accounts, and Tax Credits

[HB1742](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1742) (Webert) In-person instruction; education vouchers; emergency. Requires, in the event that any school board does not provide the option of in-person instruction as the sole method of instruction for any enrolled student, the parent of any such student who withdraws his child from attendance to receive, upon request, an education voucher in an amount equal to a prorated share of the applicable Standards of Quality per-pupil state funds appropriated for public school purposes and apportioned to the school division, including the per-pupil share of state sales tax funding in basic aid and any state per-pupil share of special education funding for which the child is eligible, to cover the expenses of providing in-person instruction in an alternative setting. The bill permits the Department of Education to establish rules, regulations, or procedures for the issuance of such education vouchers. The bill contains an emergency clause.

[HB1770](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1770) (Frietas) Public education; student education accounts. Permits any school division to establish a program to create savings accounts for students to be used for alternative educational programs. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish policies and procedures under which the parent of each student may use such funds on public or private educational programs.

[HB1924](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1924) (Kilgore) Required local effort for basic aid; debt service on projects in certain school divisions. Permits any local school board that governs a school division (i) in which the locality is designated as fiscally at-risk or fiscally distressed by the Appalachian Regional Commission in the most recent fiscal year or is determined to have above-average fiscal stress or high fiscal stress by the Virginia Commission on Local Government in its most recent "Report on Comparative Revenue Capacity, Revenue Effort, and Fiscal Stress of Virginia Counties and Cities" and (ii) for which the composite index of local ability to pay is less than or equal to 0.2000 to expend up to 25 percent of the required local effort for basic aid for debt service on school building capital renovation or construction projects. The bill provides that in the event that the school division no longer meets such criteria, the local school board shall develop and implement a plan to readjust expenditures of the required local effort for basic aid over the course of no more than four fiscal years. The bill also provides that in the event that a school division that no longer met such criteria subsequently meets the criteria again after developing a plan, the local school board may seek the approval of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to amend such plan. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2033.

[HB2090](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2090) (Cox) School boards; establishment of the READ Fund and READ programs. Establishes the Reimbursement for Education Access Decisions (READ) Fund (the Fund); permits any school board to establish a READ program to provide, during the state of emergency declared by the Governor in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, funds to any parent or legal guardian who meets compulsory attendance requirements by having his child taught by a tutor or teacher of qualifications prescribed by the Board of Education and approved by the division superintendent in lieu of enrollment in the local school division to cover certain costs of such education; and permits any such school board to apply to the Department of Education for an award from the Fund to reimburse the school board for half of the cost of making reimbursements to parents pursuant to its READ program. The bill provides that the school board is responsible for covering the remaining half of the cost of its READ program with such federal and local funds as may be available for such purpose. The bill permits the Department of Education to establish such rules and procedures as it deems necessary for receiving applications for reimbursement and making awards from the Fund. The bill also provides that if federal funding is provided pursuant to an Act of Congress with regard to relief from the COVID-19 pandemic and such Act does not preclude such federal funding from being used to make awards from the Fund, the Governor shall reserve a reasonable amount of such federal funding to be credited to the Fund to fully support reimbursement requests from such school boards.

[HB2225](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2225) (Davis) Empowerment Scholarship Accounts established. Permits the parents of certain children to apply to the school division in which the child resides for a one-year, renewable Empowerment Scholarship Account that consists of an amount that is equivalent to a certain percentage of all applicable annual Standards of Quality per pupil state funds appropriated for public school purposes and apportioned to the resident school division in which the student resides, including the per pupil share of state sales tax funding in basic aid and any state per pupil share of special education funding for which the student is eligible. The bill permits the parent to use the moneys in such account for certain education-related expenses of the student, including tuition and fees at a private elementary school or secondary school that is located in the Commonwealth. The bill also contains provisions relating to auditing, rescinding, and reviewing expenses made from such accounts.

[HB2243](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2243) (LaRock) Home instruction and private school tax credit. Creates an individual, nonrefundable income tax credit for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2021, but before January 1, 2026, for amounts paid by the parent or legal guardian of a child for the child's home instruction expenses or tuition for attending an accredited private school in Virginia. The credit shall equal the lesser of the amount actually paid in the taxable year for such costs or half of the average state standards of quality funding per student per year. The credit may be taken for instruction-related materials, courses, or programs used in home instruction or for private school tuition. The credit is available only to the parents and legal guardians of children who did not attend private school or were not home schooled in the previous year in Virginia. The credit is available for two years per child and can be carried forward for five taxable years.

[SB1433](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1433) (Chase) Public education; voucher program; emergency. Provides that, if a school operates a reduced schedule and the school offers online or virtual learning as a substitute for in-person attendance, it shall deposit a portion of unused funds resulting from the reduced schedule in a voucher account for each student, for use on programs operated by the school division or other educational options, whether public, private, or parochial.

## School Health and Nutrition

[HB2013](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2013) (Roem) School board policies; school meal debt; enforcement. Requires each school board to adopt a policy that prohibits the board from filing a lawsuit against a student's parent because the student cannot pay for a meal at school or owes a school meal debt.

[HB2019](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2019) (McQuinn) Public elementary and secondary schools; possession and administration of undesignated stock albuterol inhalers and valved holding chambers. Requires each local school board to adopt and implement policies for the possession and administration of undesignated stock albuterol inhalers and valved holding chambers in every public school in the local school division, to be administered by any school nurse, employee of the school board, employee of a local governing body, or employee of a local health department who is authorized by the local health director and trained in the administration of albuterol inhalers and valved holding chambers for any student believed in good faith to be in need of such medication.

[HB2135](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2135) (Roem) Certain school boards; student meals; participation in the Afterschool Meal Program. Requires each school board that governs a local school division that has a student population that qualifies for free and reduced-price meals at a minimum percentage of 50 percent in the prior school year and simultaneously offers educational or enrichment activities and is consequently eligible to participate in the Afterschool Meal Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Child and Adult Care Food Program to apply to the Department of Education to participate in the Afterschool Meal Program for each such school to subsequently and simultaneously serve federally reimbursable meals and offer an afterschool education or enrichment program, pursuant to FNS guidelines and state health and safety standards. The bill requires the Department of Education to administer the Afterschool Meal Program on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The bill provides that the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall issue a waiver to this requirement upon determination that participation is not financially viable for a school or group of schools. The bill requires the Department of Education to develop a process and criteria for evaluating such waivers. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2022.

[SB1307](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1307) (Dunnavant) Department of Medical Assistance Services; school-based health services; telemedicine. Directs the Board of Medical Assistance Services to amend the state plan for medical assistance services to provide for payment of medical assistance for health care services provided in any public or private primary or secondary school, regardless of whether the student receiving care has an individualized education program or whether the health care service is included in a student's individualized education program. The bill requires that covered services include applied behavior analysis, preventive health care, behavioral health care, diagnostic care including routine screenings, and acute care services and that services may be provided in person or through telemedicine. The bill also requires the Department of Medical Assistance Services to provide technical assistance to the Department of Education and local school divisions to facilitate their understanding of and compliance with federal ordering, referring, and prescribing (ORP) provider screening and enrollment requirements.

[SB1322](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1322) (DeSteph) Public schools; seizure management and action plans; biennial training. Provides for the submission and utilization of seizure management and action plans for students with a seizure disorder. The bill requires that school nurses and certain school division employees biennially complete Board of Education-approved training in the treatment of students with seizure disorders. The bill provides immunity from civil liability for acts or omissions related to providing for the care of a student under a seizure management and action plan.

## School Safety

[HB1909](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1909) (Subramanyam) Certain school board property; establishment of gun-free zone permitted. Permits any school board to deem any non-school zone property that it owns or leases as a gun-free zone and prohibit any individual from knowingly possessing any firearm designed or intended to expel a projectile by action of an explosion of a combustible material while such individual is upon such property, except certain individuals such as law-enforcement officers and qualified retired law-enforcement officers.

[HB1998](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1998) (Murphy) Public schools; lock-down drills; annual requirement. Reduces from three to two the minimum number of mandatory annual lock-down drills in each public elementary and secondary school in the Commonwealth.

[SB1238](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1238) (Chase) School security officers; carrying of firearms; United States Armed Forces veterans; employees of local school boards. Permits local school boards to authorize the carrying of a firearm by an individual hired as a school security officer who is (i) an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces or (ii) an employee of a local school board who has completed an approved auxiliary training academy.

## Special Education

Note: Several of the bills related to the Children Services Act build on recommendations from JLARC’s *K-12 Special Education in Virginia* report.

[HB1866](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1866) (Delaney) Court-appointed special advocates; information sharing. Permits court-appointed special advocates to participate in and share information with family partnership meetings and in meetings of family assessment and planning teams, multidisciplinary child sexual abuse response teams, individualized education program teams, and multidisciplinary teams related to child abuse.

[HB1947](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1947) (Davis) Board of Education; high school graduation requirements; certain substitutions. Requires the Board of Education, in establishing high school graduation requirements, to provide for the substitution of computer coding course credit for any foreign language course credit required to graduate with a standard or advanced diploma for children with disabilities. Such requirement replaces a narrower provision in current law that requires the Board to permit a student who is pursuing an advanced diploma and whose individualized education program specifies a credit accommodation for world language to substitute two standard units of credit in computer science for two standard units of credit in a world language.

[HB2182](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2182) (Wilt) Board of Education; definition of "traumatic brain injury." Requires the Board of Education to amend its regulatory definition of "traumatic brain injury," for the purpose of the provision of special education for children with disabilities, to include an acquired injury to the brain caused by a medical condition, including stroke, anoxia, infectious disease, aneurysm, brain tumors, and neurological insults resulting from medical or surgical treatments. The current regulatory definition of "traumatic brain injury" includes only an acquired brain injury caused by an external physical force.

[HB2211](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2211) (Plum) Individualized education programs; identification of necessary additional services and referrals. Requires individualized education program teams to identify any children with disabilities who may need additional services outside of the school setting and refer them to the local family assessment and planning team.

[HB2238](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2238) (Kory) Licensed private schools for students with disabilities; accreditation. Directs the Board of Education to require, pursuant to regulation, any private school for students with disabilities that is licensed by the Board, as a condition for renewal of its initial license to operate, to obtain accreditation from an accrediting agency recognized by the Virginia Council for Private Education within three years of the issuance of its initial triennial license by the Board. The bill provides that, notwithstanding the foregoing requirement, any private school for students with disabilities that is licensed to operate by the Board as of July 1, 2021, shall obtain accreditation from an accrediting agency recognized by the Virginia Council for Private Education no later than July 1, 2024. **\*This is an agency bill\***

[HB2277](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2277) (Bell) Certain children with disabilities; one-year high school extensions permitted. Requires any child with a disability who receives special education and related services, reaches age 22 after September 30, 2020, and is scheduled to complete high school in the spring of 2021 to be given the option for an extension to attend high school for the duration of the 2021-22 school year.

[HB2299](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2299) (Carr) Department of Education; duties; special education. Requires the Department of Education to (i) provide training and guidance documents to local school divisions on the development of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for children with disabilities, (ii) develop a training module for each individual who participates in an IEP meeting, with the exception of parents, (iii) annually conduct structured reviews of a sample of IEPs from a sufficiently large sample of local school divisions to verify that the IEPs are in compliance with state and federal laws and regulations and are of high quality, (iv) develop and maintain a statewide plan for improving (a) its ongoing oversight of local practices related to transition planning and services for children with disabilities and (b) technical assistance and guidance provided for postsecondary transition planning and services for children with disabilities, (v) develop and maintain a statewide strategic plan for recruiting and retaining special education teachers, and (vi) (a) conduct a one-time targeted review of the transition sections of a random sample of students' IEPs in each school division; (b) communicate its findings to each local school division, school board, and local special education advisory committee; and (c) ensure that local school divisions correct any IEPs that are found to be out of compliance no later than the end of the 2021-22 school year.

[HB2314](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2314) (Mugler) Board of Education; regulations; special education; amendment. Requires the Board of Education to amend a certain regulation relating to special education to remove the word "component" following the word "evaluation," thereby ensuring compliance with the relevant federal regulation and clarifying that the parent of a child with a disability has the right to an independent educational evaluation at public expense if the parent disagrees with an evaluation obtained by the local educational agency. **\*This is an agency bill\***

[HB2316](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb2316) (Mundon King) Department of Education and Board of Education; special education and related services for students with disabilities. Requires the Department of Education to update its special education eligibility worksheets as necessary, including clarifying any ambiguity or vagueness in eligibility criteria, and provide to each local school division the appropriate level of guidance on eligibility determinations for special education and related services. The bill requires the Board of Education to amend its regulations to ensure that each education preparation program graduate in a K-12 general education endorsement area demonstrates proficiency in understanding the role of general education teachers on the individualized education program (IEP) team.

## Standards of Quality

[HB1736](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1736) (Adams, D.M) School personnel; school nurses. Excludes school nurse positions from requirements for student support positions and instead requires each local school board to employ at least one full-time equivalent school nurse position in each elementary school, middle school, and high school in the local school division. The bill defines a school nurse as a registered nurse engaged in the specialized practice of nursing who protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal development, and advances academic success.

[HB1929](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1929) (Aird) and [SB1257](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1257) (McClellan) School Equity and Staffing Act; Standards of Quality; work-based learning; teacher leaders and mentors; principal mentors; certain personnel positions and initiatives. Makes several changes to the Standards of Quality, including requiring the establishment of units in the Department of Education to oversee work-based learning and principal mentorship statewide in Standard 1 and requiring the Board of Education to establish and oversee the local implementation of teacher leader and teacher mentor programs in Standard 5. The bill also makes several changes relating to school personnel in Standard 2, including (i) establishing schoolwide ratios of students to teachers in certain schools with high concentrations of poverty and granting flexibility to provide compensation adjustments to teachers in such schools; (ii) requiring each school board to assign licensed personnel in a manner that provides an equitable distribution of experienced, effective teachers and other personnel among all schools in the local school division; (iii) requiring each school board to employ teacher leaders and teacher mentors at specified student-to-position ratios; (iv) requiring state funding in addition to basic aid to support at-risk students and granting flexibility in the use of such funds by school boards; (v) lowering the ratio of English language learner students to teachers; (vi) requiring each school board to employ reading specialists and establishing a student-to-position ratio for such specialists; (vii) requiring school boards to employ one full-time principal in each elementary school; (viii) lowering the ratio of students to assistant principals and school counselors in elementary, middle, and high schools; and (ix) requiring each school board to provide at least four specialized student support positions, including school social workers, school psychologists, school nurses, licensed behavior analysts, licensed assistant behavior analysts, and other licensed health and behavioral positions, per 1,000 students.

[HJ548](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hj548) (Hurst) and [SJ275](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sj275) (Stanley) Constitutional amendment (first reference); education; public schools; standards of quality. Provides that it is the responsibility of the Commonwealth, rather than the General Assembly, to provide for a system of free public elementary and secondary schools and to ensure a high-quality educational program is established and maintained. The amendment also removes the authority of the General Assembly to revise the standards of quality that are determined and prescribed by the Board of Education for school divisions.

[SB1191](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1191) (Kiggans) School personnel; school nurses. Excludes school nurse positions from requirements for student support positions and instead requires each local school board to employ at least one full-time equivalent school nurse position in each elementary school, middle school, and high school in the local school division. The bill also requires the Department of Education to establish and administer a waiver process for local school boards for which the requirements of the bill create an undue hardship.

## Studies

[SJ294](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sj294) (Lewis) Study; JLARC; costs of education; report. Directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the true cost of education in the Commonwealth and provide an accurate assessment of the costs to implement the Standards of Quality.

[SJ308](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sj308) (Lucas) Study; JLARC; impact of COVID-19 on Virginia's public schools, students, and school employees; report. Directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the impact of COVID-19 on Virginia's public schools, students, and school employees, including (i) examining and determining reasons for barriers to student success in virtual and hybrid models as well as the overall impact of COVID-19 face-to-face learning restrictions on previously existing student achievement gaps, student achievement, and student well-being, including any disproportionate impact on at-risk populations; (ii) determining the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on staffing levels, including the impact of teacher and school employee retirements and resignations on delivery of instruction and the ability of local school boards to fully staff their needs, employment levels, and local budgets; (iii) determining the short-term and projected long-term changes in student enrollment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of such changes on funding levels; (iv) determining the impact of implementing COVID-19 health and safety measures in public schools; (v) evaluating public schools' level of emergency preparedness to face another pandemic or statewide crisis and making recommendations to help guide planning for such events and (vi) examining programs that can address learning loss and identifying barriers to implementing those programs, including resource gaps.

## Teacher Education, Licensure, and Compensation

[HB1776](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1776) (Ward) Board of Education; temporary extension of certain teachers' licenses. Requires the Board of Education to grant a two-year extension of the renewable license of any public school teacher whose license expires in 2021 in order to provide the teacher with sufficient additional time to complete the requirements for relicensure.

[HB1904](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1904) (Jenkins) Teachers and other licensed school board employees; cultural competency. The bill requires teacher, principal, and division superintendent evaluations to include an evaluation of cultural competency. The bill requires every person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license from the Board of Education (i) to complete instruction or training in cultural competency and (ii) with an endorsement in history and social sciences to complete instruction in African American history, as prescribed by the Board. The bill also requires each school board to adopt and implement policies that require each teacher and any other school board employee holding a license issued by the Board to complete cultural competency training, in accordance with guidance issued by the Board, at least every two years. **\*This is a Governor’s bill\***

[HB1915](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=hb1915) (Mugler) Teacher compensation; at or above national average. Requires that public school teachers be compensated at a rate that is at or above the national average. Under current law, compensation at such rate is aspirational. The bill requires state funding to be provided pursuant to the general appropriation act in a sum sufficient to fund a 4.5 percent annual increase for public school teacher salaries, effective from the 2022-23 school year through the 2026-27 school year. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2022.

[SB1196](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=211&typ=bil&val=sb1196) (Locke) Teachers and other licensed school board employees; cultural competency. The bill requires teacher, principal, and division superintendent evaluations to include an evaluation of cultural competency. The bill requires every person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license from the Board of Education (i) to complete instruction or training in cultural competency and (ii) with an endorsement in history and social sciences to complete instruction in African American history, as prescribed by the Board. The bill also requires each school board to adopt and implement policies that require each teacher and any other school board employee holding a license issued by the Board to complete cultural competency training, in accordance with guidance issued by the Board, at least every two years.