| **Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item** | **Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia** |
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# Agenda Item: Z

## Date: January 28, 2021

### Title: Written Report: JLARC Report on the Operations and Performance of the Virginia Department of Education

#### Presenter: Dr. James Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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## Purpose of Presentation:

For information only. No action required.

Executive Summary:  
In 2018, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission approved a resolution directing JLARC staff to review the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) because (i) it is a large state agency that plays a critical role in educating Virginia’s children and (ii) it had not been reviewed by JLARC in many years. The report was released at the October 5, 2020, JLARC meeting. A copy of the report (Attachment A) can be found online at <http://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt538.pdf>. Additionally, a summary of the recommendations is also available online at <http://jlarc.virginia.gov/landing-2020-vdoe.asp>.

**Action Requested:**

No action requested.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Virginia Board of Education accept this report.

## Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

Background Information and Statutory Authority:   
The Commission approved a resolution in 2018 directing JLARC staff to review the Virginia Department of Education. Commission interest in a review of VDOE was prompted, in part, because VDOE is a large agency that plays a critical role in educating Virginia’s children, and it has not been reviewed by JLARC in many years. The mandate required the review to assess whether the department:

* is organized and staffed to ensure efficient and effective operations;
* adequately monitors school division compliance with key requirements;
* adequately supports school divisions in addressing challenges and providing
* effective instruction and instructional support programs;
* effectively coordinates with other education and workforce agencies; and
* has an effective relationship with the Board of Education. (See Appendix A
* for the study mandate.)

To address the study mandate, JLARC staff surveyed VDOE staff, members of the Virginia Board of Education, and Virginia’s school divisions; interviewed staff at VDOE, local school divisions, and other state agencies, and stakeholders and experts on public education; analyzed VDOE staffing, spending, and data on public education in Virginia; and reviewed other VDOE agency reviews and audits.

This report does not evaluate VDOE’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a major impact on agency operations, because the pandemic is still ongoing.

This report also does not evaluate the future transition of the state’s early childhood function from the Department of Social Services to VDOE.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:  
At this time, no further Board action is required.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

There will be an impact on both the fiscal and human resources of the agency to implement the recommendations of the report.