Virginia Learning Advisory Committee

Thursday, September 24, 2020

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Zoom Protocols & Public Comment

- To avoid feedback we will keep our microphones muted until speaking.
- Committee members may use the raise hand feature to get the facilitators' attention.
- Committee members are invited to post questions or comments in the chat box.
- If you are using the phone, use *6 to mute and unmute and *9 to raise your hand.
- Public viewing on the VDOE YouTube channel may email questions/comments to the mailbox until October 8: virtualprograms@doe.virginia.gov.

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Introductions

- Division Superintendents
- VDOE
- VSBA
- VASS
- WHRO
- Virtual VA

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Virginia Department of Education

Dr. James Lane, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Mr. Michael Bolling, Assistant Superintendent for Dept. of Learning & Innovation

Ms. Holly Coy, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Policy, Equity & Communications

Dr. John Hendron, Coordinator of Organizational Development & Advancement

Dr. Meg Foley, Virtual Learning Specialist

Mr. Reggie Fox, Virtual Learning Specialist

Dr. Jen Piver-Renna, Director Office of Research

Dr. Susan Clair, Learning Infrastructure Coordinator

Ms. Jean Weller, Educational Technology Specialist

Ms. Cynthia Evans, Support Staff

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Division Superintendents

Dr. Mervin B. Daughtery, Region I, Chesterfield County Schools (Mr. Ernest Longworth)

Dr. Jeffrey Smith, Region II, Hampton City Schools

Dr. James G. Smith, Region III, Richmond County Public Schools

Dr. Kevin Newman, Region IV, Manassas City Public Schools (Mr. Dave Lyon)

Dr. Garett Smith, Region V, Staunton Public Schools (Mr. Tom Lundquist)

Ms. Jeanette Day Warwick, Region VI, Craig County Schools

Dr. Kevin Siers, Region VII, Pulaski County Public Schools (Mr. Lincoln Whitaker)

Mr. Robbie W. Mason, Region VIII, Charlotte County Public Schools

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Organizations & Agencies

Dr. Gina Patterson, Executive Director, Virginia School Boards Association

Dr. Ben Kiser, Executive Director, Virginia Association of School Superintendents

Mr. Bert Schmidt, President & Chief Executive Officer, WHRO

   (Mitzi Fehl-Seward, Vice President of Digital Learning, WHRO)

Dr. Brian Mott, Executive Director of Virtual VA, Charlotte County Public Schools

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Innovating around Virtual Learning

James F. Lane, Ed.D.,
Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction

VISION AND MISSION

Virginia will maximize the potential of **all** learners.

The mission of the Virginia Department of Education is to advance equitable and innovative learning.

DRIVE 2025
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Ensure student success and school quality

Ensure every classroom has a knowledgeable, engaged and supported teacher

Ensure VDOE has an engaging climate that supports the growth and development of its employees

Vision and Mission

Innovation is critical in addressing all of today's challenges in education.

Yet we still face big challenges.

The pandemic has highlighted the need for real focus for equity in education.

Exhibit 3

Learning loss will probably be greater for low-income, black, and Hispanic students.

Quality level of remote instruction, % of K–12 students

	Average and above-average remote instruction[1]	Low-quality remote instruction[1]	No instruction
Overall	32	48	20
White	38	52	10
Black	14	46	40
Hispanic	21	49	30
Low income	60		40
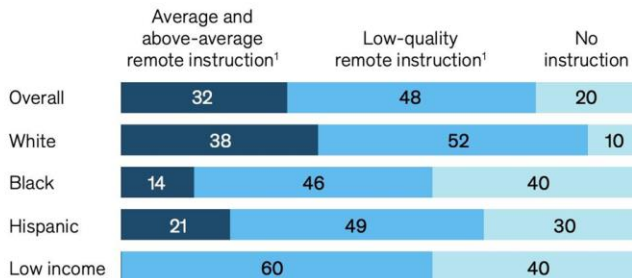
Black, Hispanic, and low-income students are at higher risk of not receiving remote instruction of average or above-average quality ...

Learning Loss Chart
Average months of learning lost in scenario 2 compared with typical in-classroom learning[2]

Overall	6.8
White	6.0
Black	10.3
Hispanic	9.2
Low income	12.4

... and the result is learning loss from student disengagement and/or lack of access

[1] Estimates based on income quintiles, with assumption that top 2 income quintiles receive high-quality instruction.
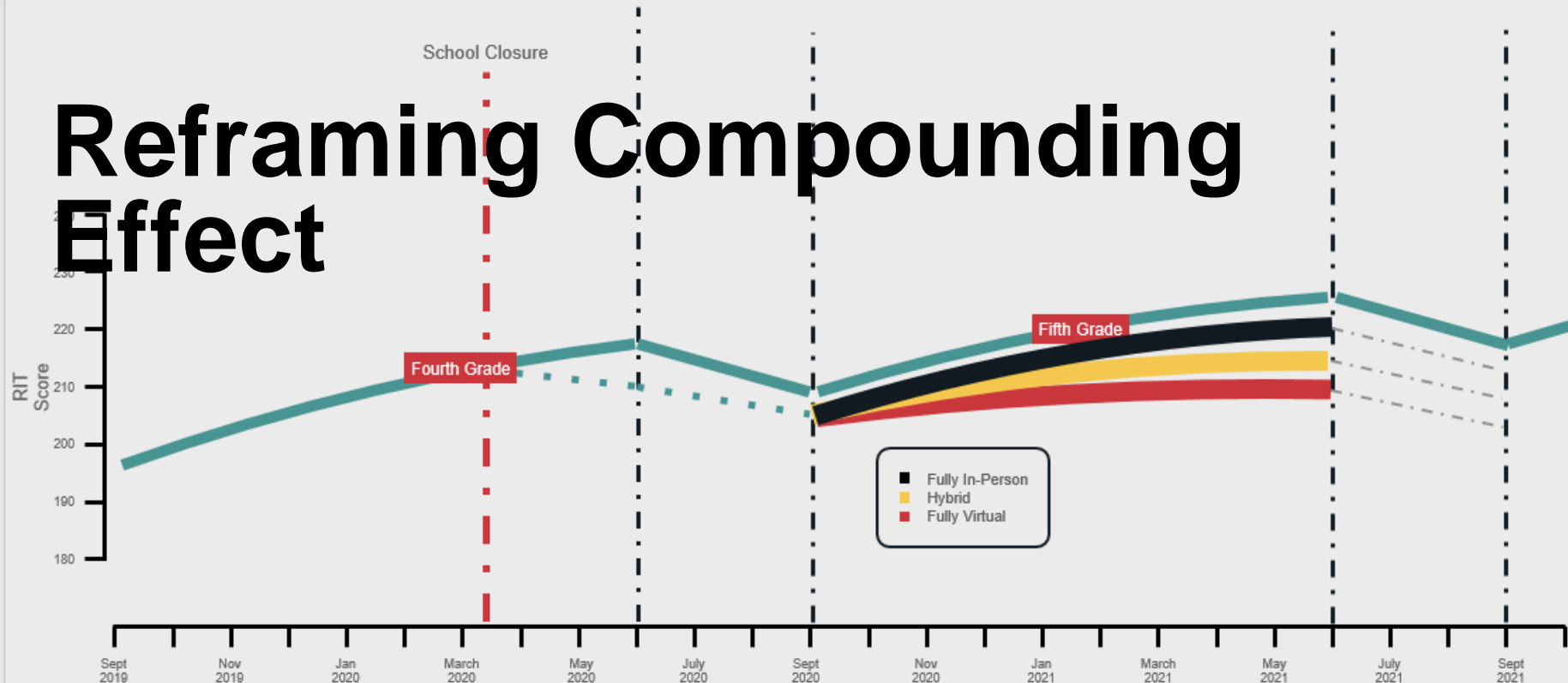[2] Includes 0.05 standard deviation reduction for black, Hispanic, and low-income students to account for recession impacts (~1 month of additional lost learning).

Source: US Census 2018

Annual Student Growth
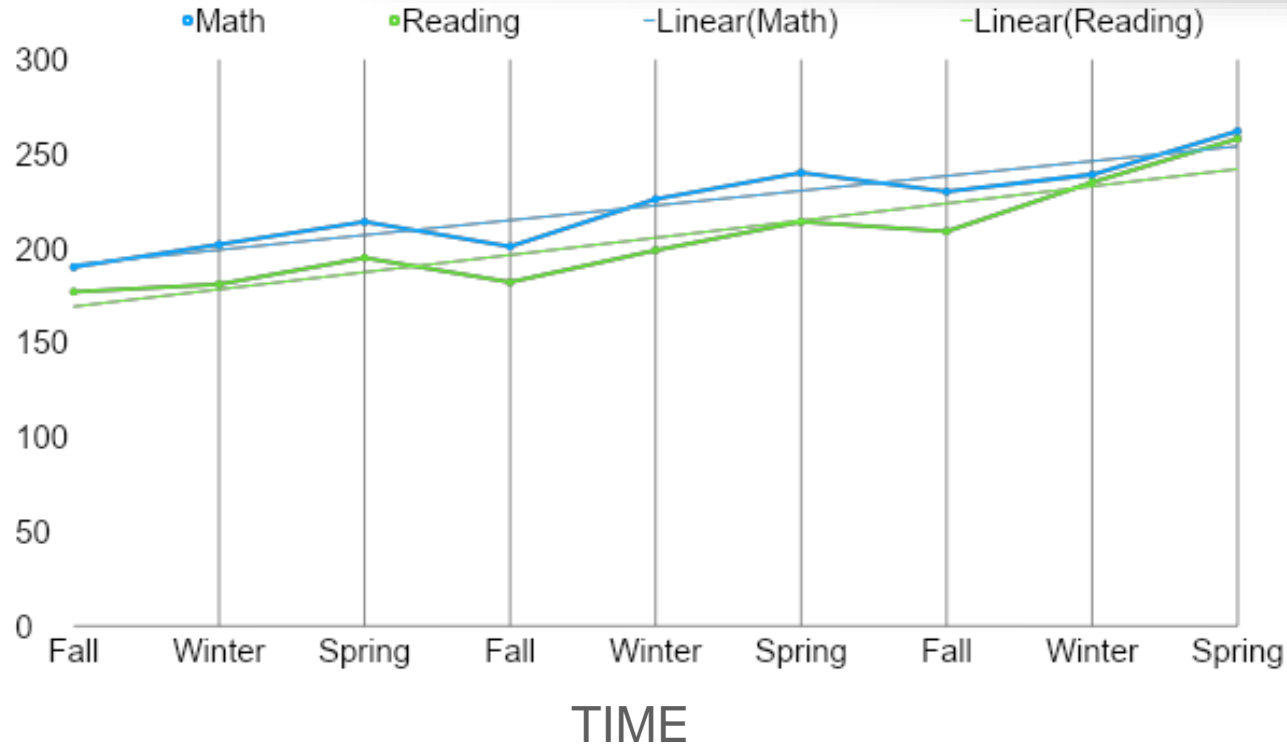
Compounded learning loss is an equity issue.

Providing the support that's required when it's needed to those who need it.

Investing in Virtual Virginia

We invested in VVA this summer to increase capacity and to provide divisions with virtual support beyond our middle and high school courses.

Investing in Virtual Virginia

We invested in VVA this summer to increase capacity and to provide divisions with virtual support beyond our middle and high school courses.

90% of school divisions participating

- We provided educators across Virginia a learning management system (Canvas) at no cost.
- Expanded course content for K-12 - core content for free
- By December we will have asynchronous courses available for K-12
- Invested ~$1M to increase number of VVA teacher-led courses beyond the former 15/high school to 12,000 total enrollments
  - School divisions can still pay if they need additional teacher-monitored virtual instruction

A Quote from William Pollard

"Learning and innovation go hand in hand. The arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow."
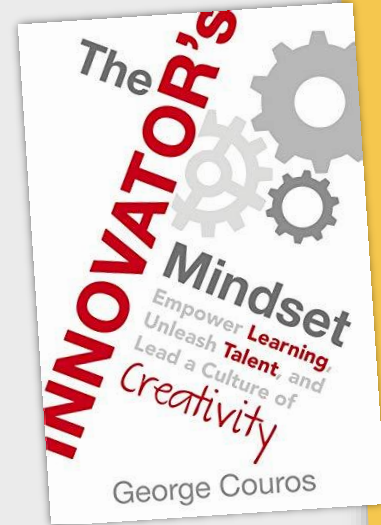
Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions
- Remarks – Dr. Lane
- Committee Purpose, Role, Term
- Virtual VA Updates
- VVA Program Evaluation
- Virtual Teaching & Learning Update
- Virtual Learning Website & HUB
- MOP Update
- Technology State Updates & Grants
- GoOpenVA: Supporting Hybrid & Virtual Learning
- Break-out Session
- Next Steps

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Purpose, Role & Term

- Advisory group: online courses, in-service training and digital instructional resources necessary for school divisions to meet graduation requirements.

- Strategic planning to expand blended and online learning opportunities in Virginia public schools, training, content and digital resources.

- Important role sharing experience, expertise & resources.

- 3-year commitment meeting twice annually.

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Virtual VA Updates

- Program Overview

- Update

- Outlook

Virtual VA

VIRTUAL
VIRGINIA

2020–2021 Program Update | 09.24.20

Brian Mott, PhD,
Executive Director

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Virtual VA

The Virginia Department of Education's Virtual Virginia Program (VVA) offers **online courses**, **professional learning** opportunities, and **digital content** to schools, students, and educators across the Commonwealth.

Expanded Access in 2020-2021

Increased — from 6,000 to 12,000 — the number of free student enrollments available to divisions in Virtual Virginia-instructed courses in 2020–2021

Virginia Public school divisions can integrate with the Virtual Virginia learning management system to roster classes and transfer grades

The creation of digital content for grades K–12

A dedicated space within the platform for school divisions to curate, create, edit, and share course content and instructional materials

The expanded access to Virtual Virginia is available at **no cost** to school divisions through support from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act

2019-2020 VVA Program Summary

Complementary Program

81

Courses offered in **grades 6–12** taught by Virtual Virginia educators.

Outreach Program

107

Courses & learning modules in **grades K–12** available to public school divisions—at **no cost.**

Professional Learning

26

PL offerings available to public school educators at **no cost**.

Summer Session

52

Courses offered in Summer Session 2020 to learners across the Commonwealth.
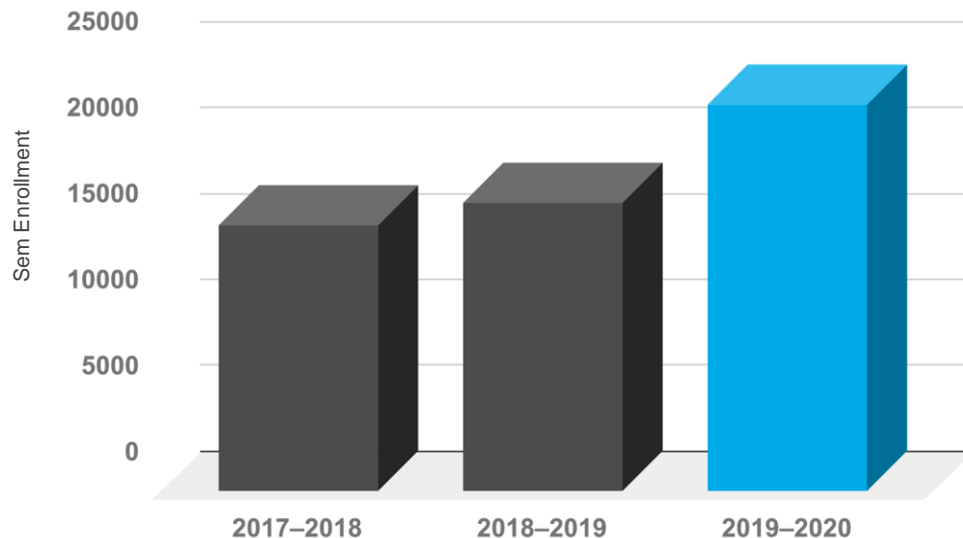
VVA Complementary Program

VVA courses are instructed by Virginia public educators

VVA courses are developed by Virginia public educators

Instruction is both synchronous and asynchronous modalities

Each student is offered a minimum of 4 group synchronous instructional sessions per week in addition to 1:1 and small group instruction

VVA Outreach Program

SOL-aligned content is developed and annually updated by Virginia public educators

Content includes Instructor Guides, fully developed lessons with interactive practice and assessments, and question banks

Local school teachers are enrolled in a statewide PLN

Local school teachers may participate in workshops and statewide webinars
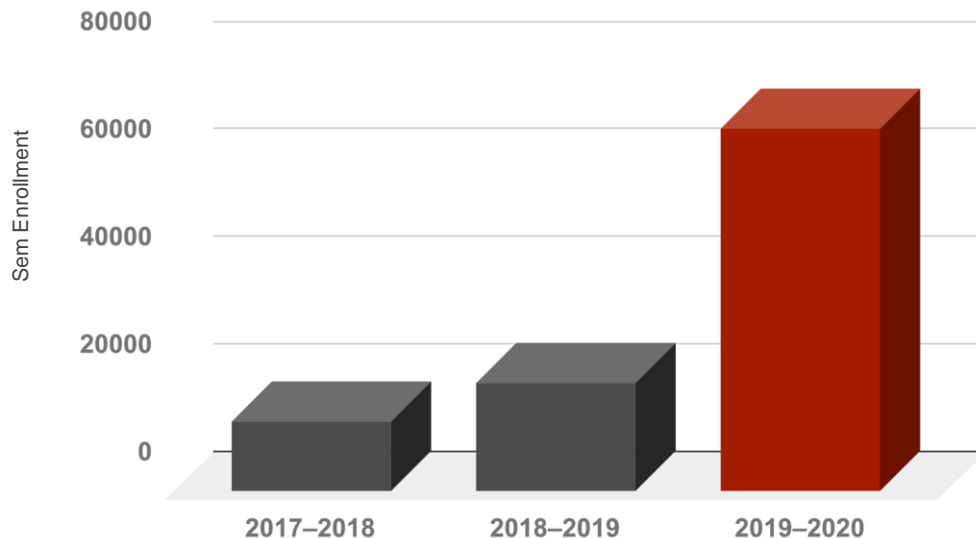
VVA Professional Learning Program

VVA offers PL in online learning best practices, blended learning facilitation, subject-area support and #GoOpenVA

VVA PL offerings are offered at no cost to Virginia public educators

PL offerings are developed by Virginia public educators
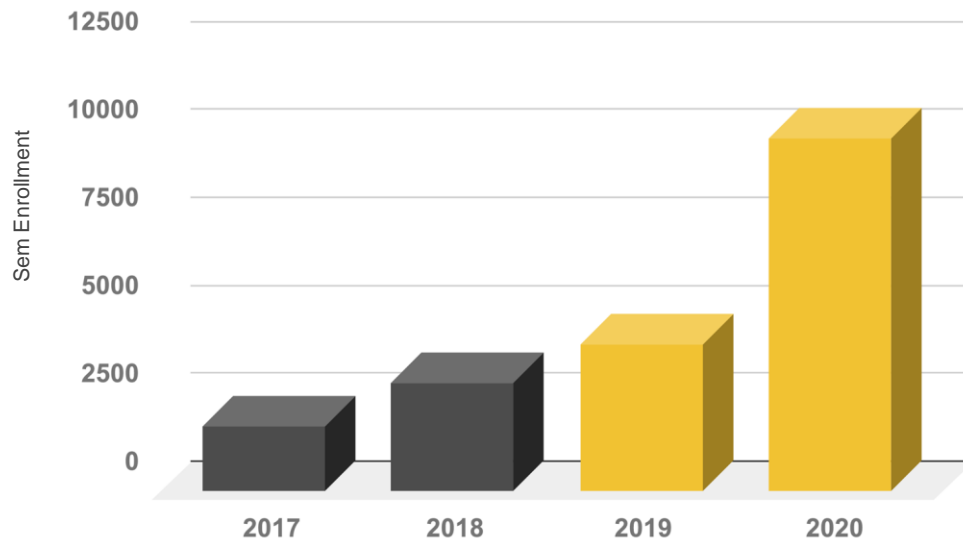
Complement to projects and innovations
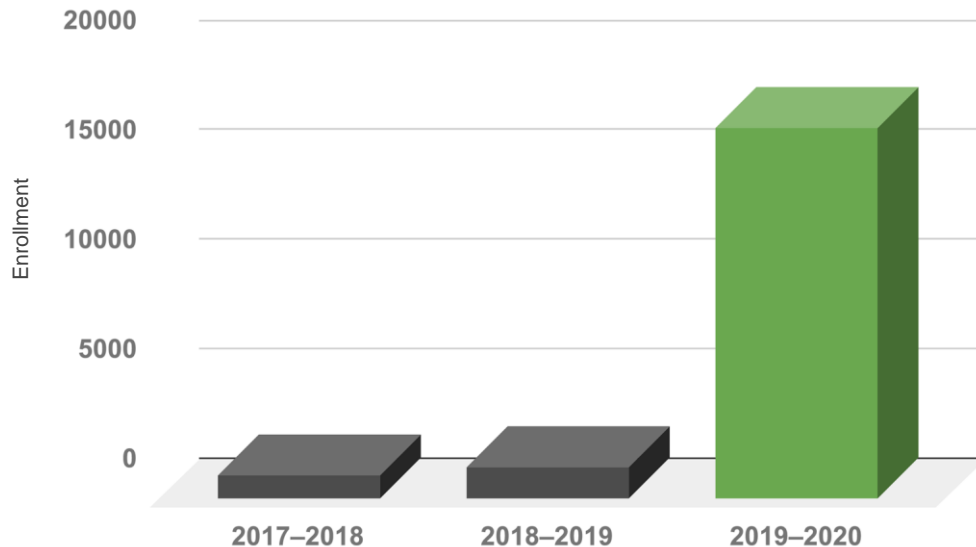
VVA Summer Session Program
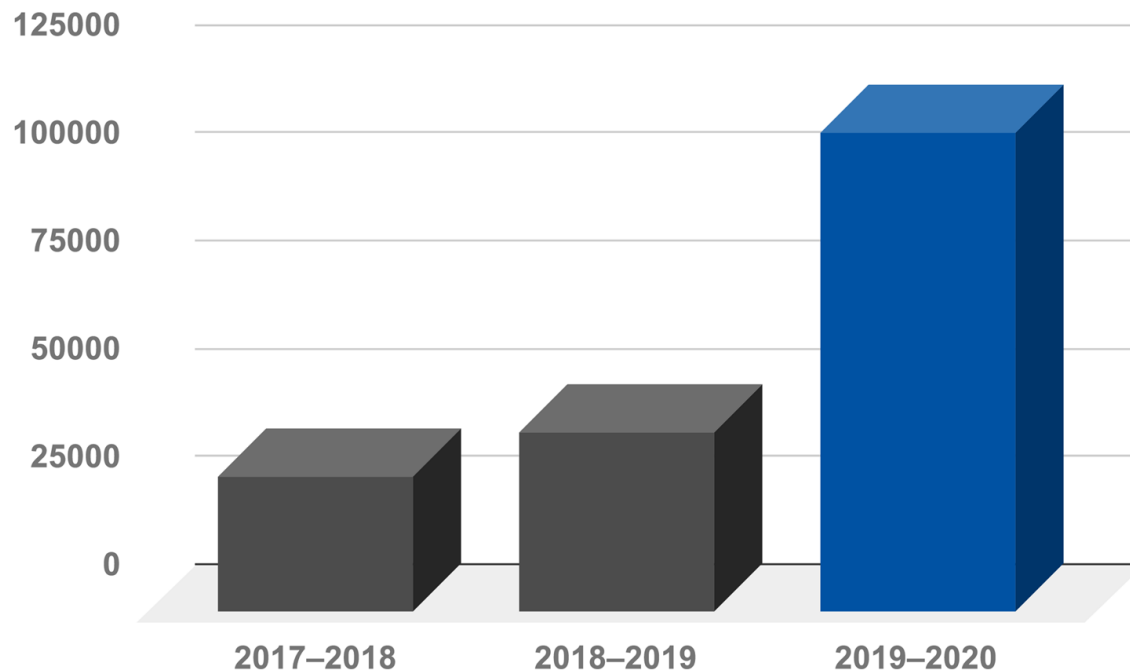
Courses are instructed by Virginia public educators

Courses are developed by Virginia public educators

Instruction is both synchronous and asynchronous

Offered to all learners across the Commonwealth

2019-2020 Enrollment Summary

2020-2021 VVA Program Update

Complementary Program

104

Courses offered in grades 6–12 taught by Virtual Virginia educators.

Outreach Program

107

Courses & learning modules in **grades K–12** available to public school divisions—at **no cost.**

Professional Learning

125+

PL offerings available to public school educators at no cost.

Summer Session

52

Courses offered in Summer Session 2020 to learners across the Commonwealth.
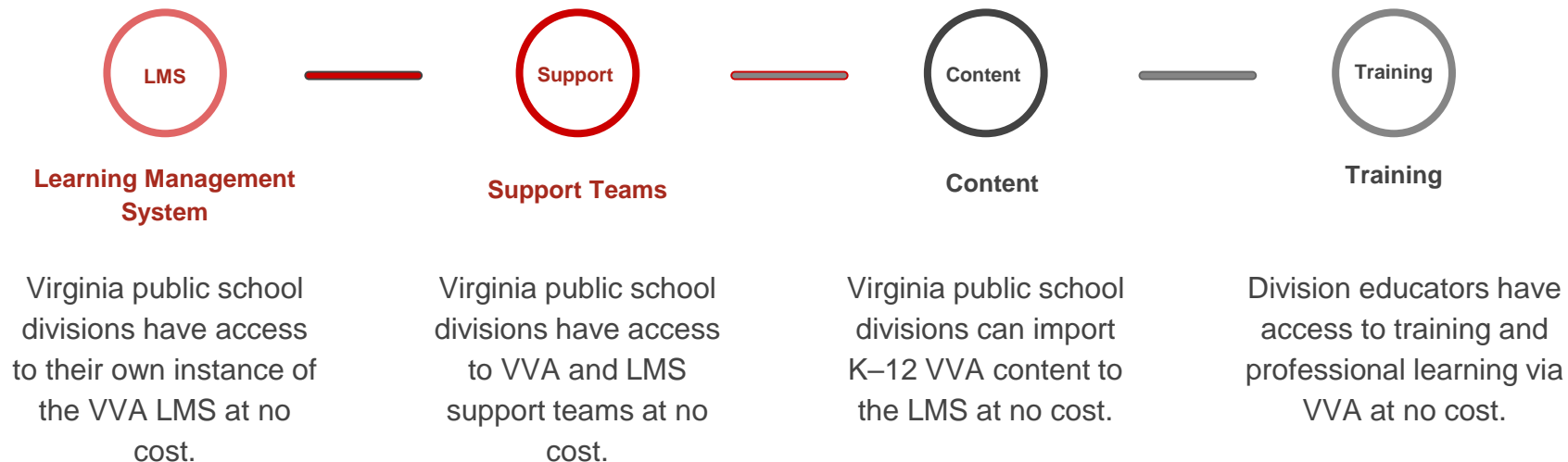
VVA LMS Implementation

In 2020-2021, Virtual Virginia exceeded

22,000+

unique course downloads in the LMS!

1. All in for Fall 2020
2. Phase In
3. Multi-platform approach
4. Use the VVA LMS along with an existing solution and making a decision at a later time
5. Implement now and planned deployment in 2021–2022

Additional 2020-2021 Projects

Credit Recovery

Credit Recovery content development in Grades 7–12, available via the Outreach Program

Asynchronous Courses

Additional self-paced content and assessments are scheduled for initial release in early October for Grades 3–6

Expanded Offerings

Additional Outreach and Complementary Courses in preparation for Summer 2021

Professional Learning

The 2020–2021 VVA PLN will be expanded to include more educators across the Commonwealth

VIRTUAL VIRGINIA
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Dr. Brian Mott

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Virtual Virginia Survey Results: 2019-20

Report provided by Dr. Jennifer Piver-Renna

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Reasons for Participating in Virtual VA

Table 1. Reasons for Virtual Virginia Course Participation

Reason for Participation	Student Responses		Parent/Guardian Responses	
	2019-2020	2018-2019	2019-2020	2018-2019
To get ahead	73%	44%	61%	47%
Prefer/interest in virtual courses	25%	31%	18%	23%
Scheduling conflict	25%	24%	25%	27%
Course not offered at school	16%	48%	31%	42%
To catch up	13%	7%	8%	9%
To raise a previous grade	2%	3%	4%	5%

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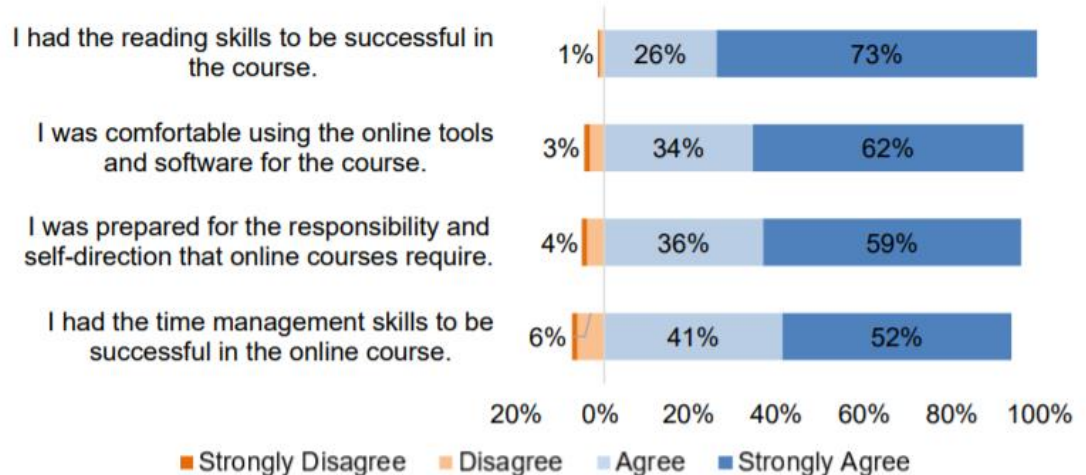
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Virtual VA: Student Preparedness

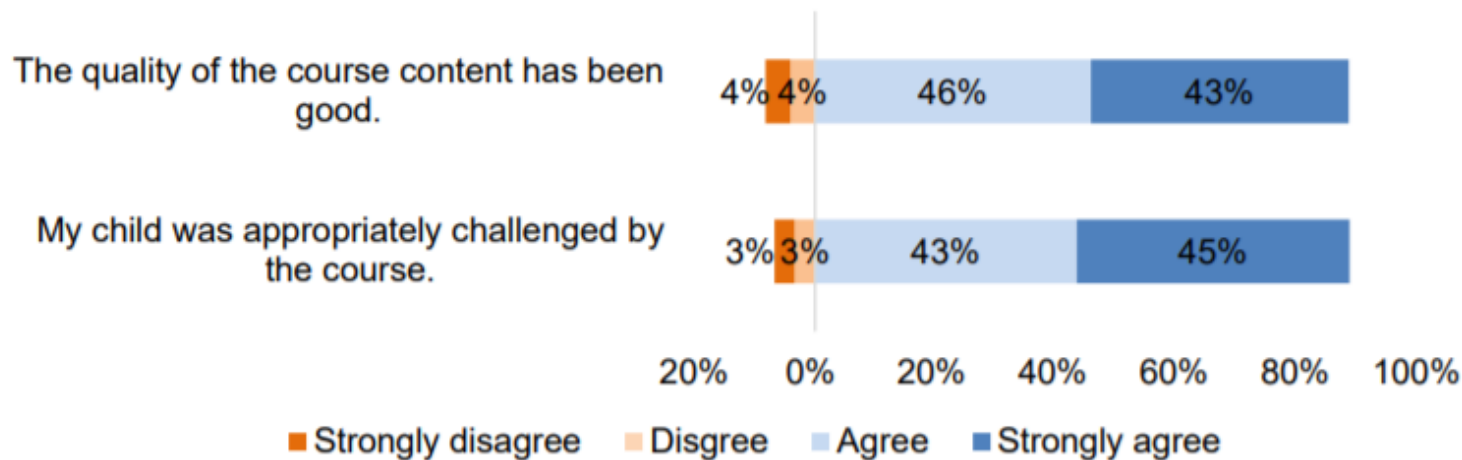**Are students prepared to take virtual courses?**

More than 90 percent of students who responded to the survey agreed that they had the skills necessary to be successful in their virtual course, including time-management skills, responsibility, and self-direction (see Figure 1). Survey responses from staff at participating schools align with this finding. While staff identified students' use and development of soft skills as the most common barrier to virtual learning, only 14 percent of staff agreed that it was moderately or very difficult.

Figure 1. Student Preparedness for Virtual Course Participation

Statement	Strongly Disagree / Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I had the reading skills to be successful in the course.	1%	26%	73%
I was comfortable using the online tools and software for the course.	3%	34%	62%
I was prepared for the responsibility and self-direction that online courses require.	4%	36%	59%
I had the time management skills to be successful in the online course.	6%	41%	52%

20%   0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

■ Strongly Disagree ■ Disagree ■ Agree ■ Strongly Agree

Figure 2. Parent/Guardian Perceptions of Virtual Course Quality

The quality of the course content has been good.
4% 4% 46% 43%

My child was appropriately challenged by the course.
3% 3% 43% 45%

20% 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

■ Strongly disagree ■ Disgree ■ Agree ■ Strongly agree

42

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Communication & Support

Figure 3. Communication and Support in Virtual Virginia Courses

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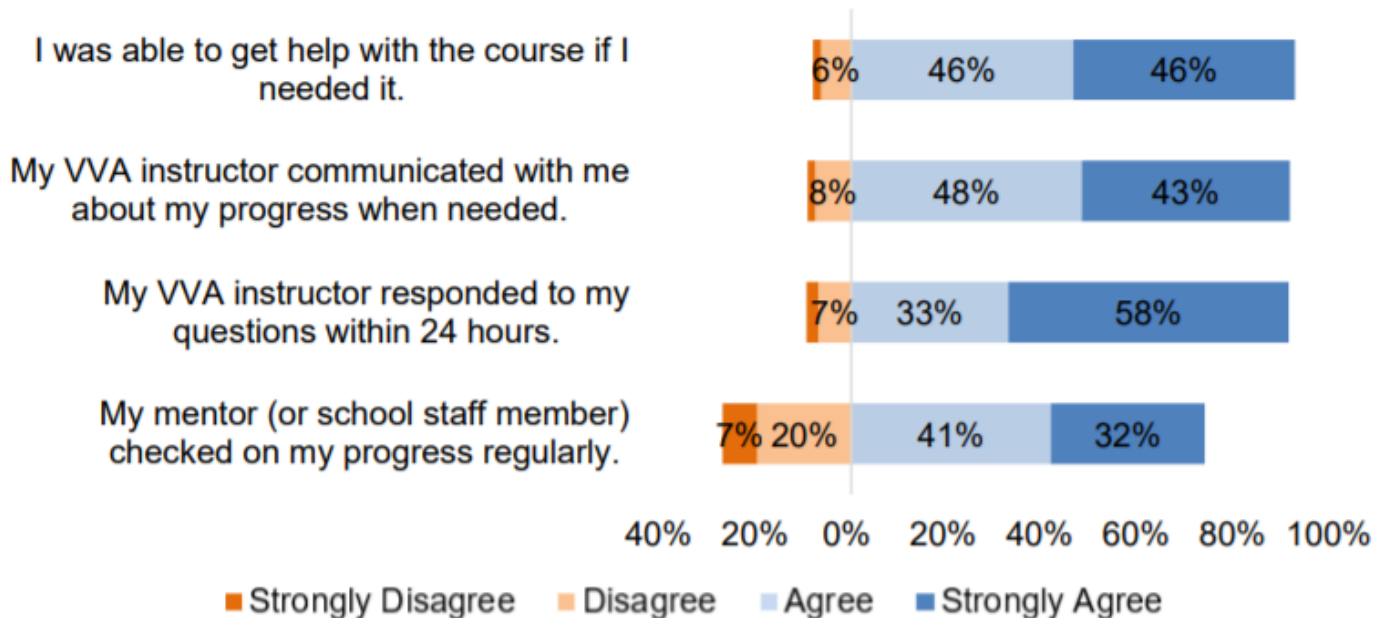
More online learning…

- **88%** of students stated that they would take another online course.

- **95%** of staff indicated that they were satisfied with the Virtual VA program which created a positive online experience.

Would students take another Virtual Virginia course?

Eighty-eight percent of students reported that they would be comfortable taking another online course, and 85 percent of parents/guardians indicated that they would enroll their child in a Virtual Virginia course again. Among staff, 95 percent indicated that they were moderately or completely satisfied with Virtual Virginia program, and 95 percent believed students' Virtual Virginia experience created positive attitudes towards virtual learning.

Next Steps

While participation in the 2019-2020 Virtual Virginia surveys was limited due to school closures, most respondents rated the program positively. The role of virtual education, and the Virtual Virginia program specifically, greatly expanded for the 2020-2021 school year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. VDOE will revise survey content for the 2020-2021 school year to seek relevant and actionable feedback from students, parents/guardians, and staff on the virtual education landscape in Virginia.

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Virtual Teaching & Learning Updates

Michael Bolling
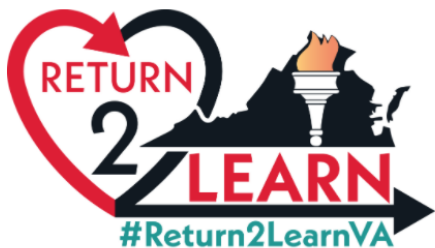
Virtual Teaching & Learning Updates

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Virtual Teaching & Learning Updates

- VDOE Updates

- Virtual Learning Support

- Grant Funding

- Professional Development

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What's New with Virtual Learning?

Welcome Back to School

As you settle in to the 2020-2021 academic year by adopting in-person, hybrid, and virtual plans based on the health conditions in your area, know that we're in this together. We are inspired by the innovation and flexibility we've seen. Watch the ▶ Back to School Message from Dr. James F. Lane to hear more about how the VDOE is committed in supporting families, students, educators, and school divisions. Stay engaged with us on social media and tag photos using the #Return2LearnVA hashtag.

Virtual Teaching & Learning Hub

Visit the Virtual Teaching & Learning Hub to discover best practices for supporting virtual learning, find tips on lesson planning and assessment strategies, and access professional learning resources.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Schools can play a key role in suicide prevention. The task of all professionals involved in and dedicated to the education of children is to help prevent death by suicide whenever possible. When school personnel, families, and communities take an active role in suicide prevention lives can be saved. Refer to Suicide Prevention for resources for parents, teachers, and students.

Virginia is for Learners: #EdEquityVA

Education is our most effective tool to reduce poverty, address racism, and sustain economic advancement for all Virginians. The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that students and families in Virginia, regardless of their race, economic status, or the languages they speak at home, feel welcomed in their schools. Visit VirginiaIsForLearners.virginia.gov to learn more about the commitment to ensure that the Commonwealth's public education system is positioned to achieve equitable academic outcomes for all students.

School Quality Profiles

Virginia's School Quality Profiles provide information about accreditation, student achievement, college and career readiness, program completion, school safety, teacher quality and other topics of interest to parents and the general public. School Quality Profile reports are available for schools, school divisions and for the commonwealth.

What's New with Virtual Learning?

Why a MOP Program?

- As specified in § 22.1-212.24.A & B, the Superintendent of Public Instruction will develop, and the Board of Education will approve, the criteria for approving multidivision online providers, including those specified in these sections.

What is a MOP?

- A Multidivision Online Provider (MOP) is a local school board or a private or nonprofit organization that provides online courses or programs to students in multiple public school divisions in Virginia.

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MOP Application Criteria
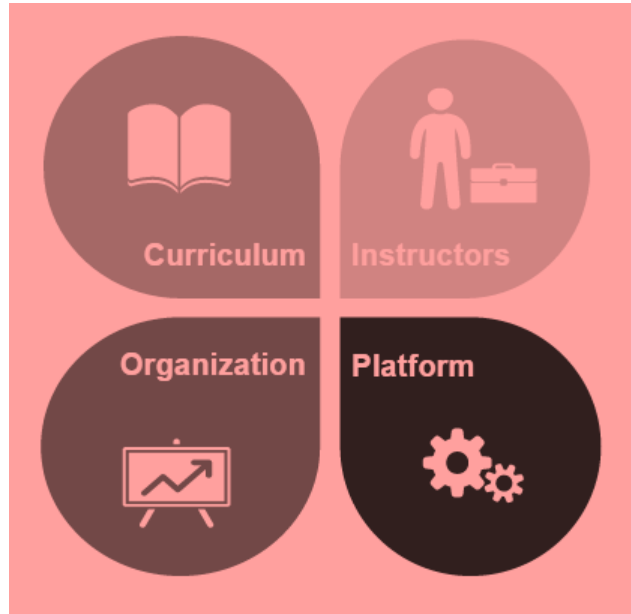
Current MOP Information

- 19 active MOPs

- 165 courses submitted

- 52 SOL, 24 CTE, & 89 electives

- 159 approved

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[VDOE Website](#)

Twitter: @VDOE_News
Facebook: @VDOENews

#VAis4Learners #EdEquityVA

Dr. Susan Clair

Virginia Initiative to Support Internet Outside of school Networks (VISION)

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Virginia Initiative to Support Internet Outside of school Networks (VISION)

GEERS grant funds (Governor's Emergency Education Relief Funds) , Supt's Memo awards on Oct. 2, 2020

Little less than $18 million available for divisions

Competitive grants

Eligible technologies: computing devices, LTE mobile data plans, hotspots, filtering, device management, other technologies that expand WiFi into the community.

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Impact on education & virtual learning:

Students will get computing devices that never had one to take home –moves divisions to 1:1

Students will get LTE mobile carrier access to the Internet via a hotspot

Students /families will have access to low cost Internet programs to the home

Expansion of WiFi into areas of the community

Beyond Covid-19 benefits- support for hybrid, blended, snow day instruction

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#VAis4Learners #EdEquityVA

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#GoOpenVA: *Supporting Hybrid & Virtual Instruction*

Jean Weller

Virginia Department of Education

VLAC

OER and Hybrid/Virtual Learning

- The VDOE is serious about supporting teachers to provide student-centered, culturally-responsive teaching, no matter the medium used

- Openly-licensed resources provide a means for teachers to do this easily and quickly
  - Easy editing allows on-the-fly adjustments
  - Digital (can be shared through Internet, downloaded for sharing on USB drives, or printed)
  - Lessons provided need not be the same for each student or group of students
  - New recommended resources can be pushed out to a group immediately
  - No concern about restrictions on flexibility

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#GoOpenVA Capabilities

- Access through single-sign on or direct login
- Access through LTI connections with local LMS and/or Virtual Virginia's Canvas

- Provision of spaces for sharing and collaborating (large or small groups)
- Encouragement of "mentor mentality" among teachers to share what they know with other teachers, helping all with continual growth and exploration of new skills

- Important Note: #GoOpenVA is teacher-facing, meaning it is intended to be used directly by teachers. Although there are student-facing resources linked, and students can access these, it is not designed as a student-facing system.

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#GoOpenVA Contact Information

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#VAis4Learners #EdEquityVA

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Breakout Session

- 10 minutes for break-out groups; Livestream on YouTube (break)
- Discuss and answer questions
  - *What advice would you give about your blended and/or virtual learning based on your experiences with opening the school year?*
  - *What additional technologies and instructional support would you need to continue blended and/or virtual learning?*
- Facilitators: Michael Bolling, John Hendron, Meg Foley, Reggie Fox – identify someone to report back to the group.
- Set a timer and be prepared to report back to the full committee

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Breakout Session Discussion

- Share group discussion

- Identify common threads

- Addressing needs

- Sharing across the Commonwealth

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Have a safe & successful year!

✓ Next steps
✓ Next meeting (March)
✓ Public viewing on the VDOE YouTube channel may email questions/comments to the mailbox until October 8: virtualprograms@doe.virginia.gov.

Thank you for your work on this advisory committee

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