



# VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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# AGENDA ITEM

**Agenda Item:** G

**Date:** January 27, 2022

**Title:** First Review of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's Recommendation to Approve New Education (Endorsement) Programs

**Presenter:** Dr. Joan B. Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Teacher Education and Licensure

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**Purpose of Presentation:**  
Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

### **Executive Summary**

Virginia institutions of higher education requests to add new education endorsement programs must be approved by the Virginia Board of Education (Board) as required by the [Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia](#). Requests for new programs must be submitted annually by March 31.

Program specialists at the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) reviewed the requests for the new education endorsement programs. Program endorsement competencies, based on the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia*, were verified through the review of course descriptions and syllabi to determine alignment with each of the competencies required, including supervised classroom instruction. A review of the Request for New Endorsement Program application submitted by the institution evidenced written documentation of school divisions' demand data, as well as institutional and school division support for the requested programs.

[Section 8VAC20-543-30](#) of the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* requires institutions seeking education program approval to establish partnerships and collaborations based on PreK-12 school needs. All institutions of higher education provided a copy of the *Virginia Department of Education – Standards for Biennial Approval of Education Programs Accountability Measurement of Partnerships and 3*

*Collaborations Based on PreK-12 School Needs Education Programs* form for the requested program endorsement area.

On November 15, 2021, the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) recommended that the Board grant approval for the new endorsement programs.

Approving new education (endorsement) programs aligns with the Board's Comprehensive Plan to advance policies that increase the number of candidates entering the teaching profession and encourage and support the recruitment, development, and retention of well-prepared and skilled teachers and school leaders.

**Action Requested:**

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

**Rationale for Action:**

Board action is required by [Section 22.1-298.2 of the Code of Virginia](#) to approve education (endorsement) programs.

**Previous Review or Action:**

No previous review or action.

**Background Information and Statutory Authority:**

The *Code of Virginia* requires education preparation programs to meet requirements for accreditation and program approval as prescribed by the Board in its regulations.

**§ 22.1-298.2. Regulations governing education preparation programs.**

- A. As used in this section, "education preparation program" includes four-year bachelor's degree programs in teacher education.
- B. Education preparation programs shall meet the requirements for accreditation and program approval as prescribed by the Board of Education in its regulations.
- C. The Board of Education regulations shall provide for education preparation programs offered by institutions of higher education, Virginia public school divisions, and certified providers for alternate routes to licensure.
- D. The Board may prescribe requirements for admission to Virginia's approved education preparation programs in its regulations.
- E. The Board shall establish accountability measures for approved education programs. Data shall be submitted to the Board on not less than a biennial basis.

The [Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia](#) set forth the requirements for the accreditation and approval of programs preparing teachers, administrators, and other instructional personnel requiring licensure. These regulations establish policies and standards for the preparation of instructional personnel, further ensuring educational quality for Virginia public school students. Colleges and universities that offer programs for the preparation of professional school personnel must obtain education program (endorsement) approval from the Board. Requests to offer new education endorsement programs are submitted to the VDOE. . Personnel in the Department of Teacher Education and Licensure and program specialists in the VDOE review the programs to ensure competencies and other requirements have been addressed.

ABTEL reviews and makes recommendations to the Board on approval of Virginia education programs for school personnel. Final authority for program approval rests with the Board. Requests for new program endorsements approved by the Board will receive a rating of *Approved; Approved with Stipulations; or Approval Denied.*

The *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia*, in part, stipulate the following:

### **VAC20-543-30. Application for New Education Endorsement Programs.**

#### Part III Application for New Education Endorsement Programs

- A. Requests for new education endorsement programs shall be approved by the Virginia Board of Education.
  
- B. The professional education program shall submit a request for the new program in a format provided by the Department of Education that shall address the following requirements:
  1. Rationale for the new education endorsement program, to include local division or service area demand data and statements of support from the institution's dean, provost, president, or designee and Virginia school divisions. A summary of the stakeholders' involvement in the development of the education endorsement program must be included.
  2. Capacity of the institution to offer the education endorsement program.
  3. List of the requirements for the education endorsement program, to include the degree, major, and the curriculum.
  4. Matrices demonstrating that the competencies set forth in this chapter have been incorporated in the education endorsement program.
  5. Description of structured and integrated field experiences to include early clinical experiences and a summative supervised student teaching experience.

6. Description of the partnerships and collaborations based on preK-12 school needs.

Requests from Virginia institutions of higher education to add new education endorsement programs must be approved by the Board. Requests are submitted by March 31 of each year. Program specialists in the VDOE review the requests for the new education endorsement programs. Program endorsement competencies, based on the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia*, were verified through the review of course descriptions and syllabi to determine alignment with each of the competencies required, including supervised classroom instruction. A review of the Request for New Endorsement Program Applications submitted by the institutions evidenced written documentation of school division demand data, as well as institutional and school division support for the requested programs.

Section [8VAC20-543-30](#) of the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* requires institutions seeking education program approval to establish partnerships and collaborations based on PreK-12 school needs. All institutions of higher education submitted the form, *Standards for Biennial Approval of Education Programs Accountability Measurement of Partnerships and Collaborations Based on PreK-12 School Needs Education Programs*, for the requested program endorsement areas.

On November 15, 2021, ABTEL recommended that the Board grant approval for the new endorsement programs. The following is a list of the institutions of higher education and the new endorsements requested.

College/University	Education Endorsement Program	Program Level
<b>Averett University</b>	Special education – general curriculum elementary education K-6 (add-on endorsement)	Undergraduate, Graduate
	Special education – general curriculum middle education grades 6-8 (add-on endorsement)	Undergraduate
	Special education – general curriculum secondary education grades 6-12 (add-on endorsement)	Undergraduate, Graduate
<b>James Madison University</b>	Special education – general curriculum elementary education K-6 (add-on endorsement)	Undergraduate, Graduate

	Special education – general curriculum middle education grades 6-8 (add-on endorsement)	Undergraduate, Graduate
	Special education – general curriculum secondary education grades 6-12 (add-on endorsement)	Undergraduate, Graduate
<b>Old Dominion University</b>	Middle education 6-8 - Science ONLY	Undergraduate
<b>Radford University</b>	Early childhood for three-year-olds and four-year-olds (add-on endorsement)	Graduate
<b>University of Lynchburg</b>	Early childhood for three-year-olds and four-year-olds (add-on endorsement)	Graduate
<b>University of Richmond</b>	Dance arts preK-12	Graduate
	Theatre arts preK-12	Graduate
	Visual arts preK-12	Graduate
<b>Virginia Commonwealth University</b>	Special education early childhood (birth through age five)	Undergraduate
<b>Virginia Tech</b>	Career and technical education – business and information technology	Undergraduate
	Career and technical education – marketing education	Undergraduate

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

Upon Board approval, the institutions will be notified, and the programs will be posted on the VDOE website.

**Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:**

The administrative impact of this process is absorbed within existing agency resources.