**Resolution 2021-1**

**Resolution Prescribing the Standards of Quality for Public Schools in Virginia**

WHEREAS, Section 2, of Article VIII of the Constitution of Virginia provides that standards of quality for the several school divisions shall be determined and prescribed from time to time by the Board of Education, subject to revision only by the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Section 22.1-18.01 of the Code of Virginia further requires the Board of Education in exercise its constitutional authority to determine and prescribe the standards in odd-numbered years; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education’s 2018-2023 Comprehensive Plan, establishes three priorities for public education in Virginia:

Priority 1: Provide high-quality, effective learning environments for all students;

Priority 2: 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; and

Priority 3: Ensure successful implementation of the Profile of a Virginia Graduate and the accountability system for school quality as embodied in the revisions to the Standards of Accreditation.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education continues to build on the extensive work completed in advance the 2019 Standards of Quality review cycle and in alignment with its Comprehensive Plan, including reviewing and researching evidence-based best practices and engaging in significant public outreach to make data-driven policy decisions in support of Virginia educators and to better ensure equity of opportunity and outcome for Virginia’s students; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes that while progress made through legislative action, the General Assembly has not yet fully-realized the Board of Education’s Standards of Quality as prescribed in 2019 and reaffirmed in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that these Standards of Quality are essential to fulfill the provision of a system of free public elementary and secondary schools for all children of school age throughout the Commonwealth, as required in Article VIII of the Constitution of Virginia;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education determines and prescribes the attached Standards of Quality by motion unanimously adopted at its regular business meeting on October 21, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education requests the General Assembly remove paragraph C.5.k of Item 145 of the 2021 Appropriation Act from future Appropriation Acts, as this measure was added during the Great Recession to provide temporary relief from provisions in the Standards of Quality, which would result in $387.8 million in state aid that school divisions would otherwise receive in Fiscal Year 2023.