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| **Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item** | **Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia** |

# Agenda Item: K

## Date: November 18, 2021

### Title: First Review of Proposed 2022 *Driver Education Standards of Learning*

#### Presenter: Dr. Brendon Albon, Director of STEM & Innovation

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## Purpose of Presentation:

Review/action required by Board of Education bylaws.

**Executive Summary:**

The proposed 2022 *Driver Education Standards of Learning* were developed through numerous phases of meetings convened with Virginia educators, researchers, college professors, the Virginia Departments of Transportation, Motor Vehicles and Health, Virginia Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Task Forces, Trucking Association, other interested stakeholders, and subject matter experts. Additional opportunities for citizens input were solicited throughout the process and through a public comment email account. The proposed standards reflect a comprehensive, collaborative review of the standards and the expertise of diverse constituents.

The proposed revision of the 2015 *Driver Education Standards of Learning* aligns with Priorities 1 and 3 of the [Board of Education Comprehensive Plan for 2018-2023](http://doe.virginia.gov/boe/plan/index.shtml). Additionally, the proposed revisions include emphasis on ingraining an attitude of safety and risk management and:

* the financial responsibilities associated with purchasing or leasing a vehicle and cost for maintenance and insurance;
* the legalization of marijuana and its effects on drivers;
* safe interactions with law enforcement at the roadside;
* an understanding that responsibility is shared, crashes are preventable (not accidents) and that fatalities and serious injuries are unacceptable; and
* how advancements in active and passive vehicle occupant protection systems and intelligent handling and stability control innovations affect driving practices and reduce human error.

The proposed revisions also include edits to enhance clarity, specificity, rigor, alignment of skills and content, and reflect current academic research and practice. The goals of the standards are to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to:

* acquire in-depth knowledge and essential driving skills (Content Knowledge);
* obtain a driver’s license and practice effective communication, self-management, social awareness, and responsible decision-making skills (Workplace Skills);
* foster responsible driving attitudes and displaying responsible driving behaviors that protect self and others (Community Engagement and Civic Responsibility); and
* explore lifetime learning opportunities in the highway transportation system and the field of traffic safety (Career Exploration).

The highway transportation system which consists of vehicles, roadways, and people (including attitudes) are constantly changing. The updated standards of learning and curriculum guide reflect these changes. Attachments A and B include the strikethrough and clean versions of the proposed standards.

Upon approval of the timeline, the following actions occurred:

* Received public comment on the 2015 *Driver Education Standards of Learning;*
* Identified Standards of Learning steering and educator review committee members;
* Met virtually every week for 18 weeks with the steering and educator committees to review proposed changes to the 2015 *Driver Education Standards of Learning*; and
* Convened virtual meetings with external stakeholders from higher education, state agencies, professional organizations, and other constituencies.

The VDOE received 27 comments between Feb 1 - March 5, 2021 to the Driver Education email mailbox. Additional comments were received throughout the process. Key comments include:

* several indicating that it is difficult to get through all of the curricula in the time allocated for classroom driver education;
* four comments from subject matter experts recommending the addition of more content on safe interaction with other road users, specifically bicycles, pedestrians, and trucks;
* two state agencies indicating that they were impressed with the quality and breadth of the curriculum;
* one comment from a teacher recommending the addition of more information about new technologies and another suggesting the addition of how to comparison shop for new and used cars and insurance; and
* one comment from a student recommending the addition of more content about steps to take if involved in or a witness to an accident.

Attachment A includes the strikethrough version of the proposed 2022 *Driver Education* *Standards of Learning*. Attachment B is the clean version of the proposed 2022 *Driver Education Standards of Learning*.

**Action Requested:**

Action will be requested at a future meeting. Specify anticipated date below:

## March 17, 2022

## Superintendent’s Recommendation:

## The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends the Board of Education receive for first review the proposed 2022 *Driver Education Standards of Learning* and *Curriculum Guide for Driver Education in Virginia*

## Previous Review or Action:

Previous review and action. Specify date and action taken below:

**Date:** January 28, 2021

**Action:** Report on Timeline for the Review and Revision of the *Driver Education Standards of Learning*.

**Background Information and Statutory Authority:**

## *Code of Virginia*, Section 22.1-253.13:1-B… “The Board of Education shall establish a regular schedule, in a manner it deems appropriate, for the review and revision as may be necessary of the Standards of Learning in all subject areas. Such review of each subject area shall occur at least once every seven years. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Board from conducting such review and revision on a more frequent basis…”

The 2015 *Driver Education Standards of Learning* were adopted by the Board of Education in January 2015. The current standards may be viewed online at <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/driver_education/index.shtml>.

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

Following the first review, public hearings on the proposed revisions will be held in January and February. It is anticipated that this item will come to the Board in March 2022 for final review.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

The administrative impact and any other cost associated with the development and distribution of the standards and curriculum will be absorbed within existing resources.