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

# Agenda Item: I

## Date: January 23, 2020

### Title: First Review of Revisions to *Family Life Education Board of Education Guidelines and Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools*

#### Presenter: Dr. Samantha Hollins, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Special Education and Student Services

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## Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

## Executive Summary:

In 2018, the Virginia General Assembly amended [*§22.1-207.1:1*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-207.1%3A1/)*.* of the *Code of Virginia* relating to required and permissible content in the family life education curriculum. The *Code* was amended to require instruction addressing personal privacy and personal boundaries and the prevention of sexual harassment using electronic means. The *Code* was also amended to permit instruction on the prevention, recognition and awareness of child abduction, child abuse, child sexual exploitation, and child sexual abuse.

In 2019, the Virginia General Assembly further amended [*§22.1-207.1:1*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-207.1%3A1/)*.* of the *Code* to include additional required content in the curriculum, including instruction related to human trafficking, female genital mutilation, and the rights of victims. The *Code* was also amended to require, rather than permit, any high school family life education program to incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the law and meaning of consent.

The proposed revisions to the *Family Life Education Board of Education Guidelines and Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools* align the guidelines with 2018 and 2019 legislative changes. A stakeholder group, comprised of family life educators from a geographically diverse group of school divisions, family life education trainers, and a human trafficking non-profit prevention group in Virginia, was convened to review an initial draft of proposed revisions and provide input and feedback. Family life education experts considered current family life education curriculum and embedded new content into relevant standards. The team was deliberate when inserting content in certain grade levels and when including age appropriate elements.

The proposed revisions to the *Family Life Education Board of Education Guidelines and Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools* support the goals and priorities of the Board of Education of “*providing high quality, effective learning environments for all students*,” as outlined in Priority 1 of the [Board of Education Comprehensive Plan](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/plan/comprehensive-plan.pdf).

## Action Requested:

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

March 19, 2020.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends the Board of Education receive for first review the proposed revisions to the *Family Life Education Board of Education Guidelines and Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools.*

## Rationale for Action:

The proposed revisions to the *Family Life Education Board of Education Guidelines and Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools* align the guidelines with 2018 and 2019 amendments to *Code of Virginia* [*§22.1-207.1:1*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-207.1%3A1/)and[*§ 22.1-207.1.*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-207.1/)

## Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

**Background Information and Statutory Authority:**
The 1987 Virginia General Assembly enacted [§ 22.1-207.1.](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-207.1/) of the *Code of Virginia* to require that the “*Board of Education shall develop Standards of Learning and curriculum guidelines for a comprehensive, sequential family life education curriculum in grades kindergarten through 12.* This section further requires that, “*All such instruction shall be designed to promote parental involvement, foster positive self-concepts, and provide mechanisms for coping with peer pressure and the stresses of modern living according to the students' developmental stages and abilities. The Board shall also establish requirements for appropriate training for teachers of family life education, which shall include training in instructional elements to support the various curriculum components*.” *Code of Virginia* [*§ 22.1-207.1:1.*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-207.1%3A1/)sets certain requirements for family life education curriculum and Standards of Learning,

During the 2018 Virginia General Assembly, two bills were passed that required amendments and reenactments to [*§ 22.1-207.1:1.*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-207.1%3A1/)of the *Code.*

[House Bill 45](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+ful+CHAP0383) (Filler-Corn) requires that *“any family life education curriculum offered in any elementary school, middle school, or high school shall incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the importance of the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals and tools for a student to use to ensure that he respects the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals.”*

[Senate Bill 101](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+SB101)  (McClellan) “*requires any high school family life education curriculum offered by a local school division to incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of sexual harassment using electronic means.”* The bill also permits any *“family life education curriculum offered by a local school division to incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention, recognition, and awareness of child abduction, child abuse, child sexual exploitation, and child sexual abuse.”*

Three bills were passed in the 2019 General Assembly that required additional amendments and reenactments to [*§ 22.1-207.1:1.*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-207.1%3A1/)and *§ 22.1-207.1. (Senate Bill 1141)* of the *Code:*

[House Bill 2205](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2205) (Filler-Corn*) “requires any high school family life education curriculum offered by a local school division to incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the law and meaning of consent. Under current law, such elements are permissive in any high school family life education curriculum.”*

[Senate Bill 1141](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=191&typ=bil&val=SB1141) (Favola) *“requires the Board of Education, in its curriculum guidelines for family life education, to include instruction on the prevention of human trafficking. Additionally, the bill requires any high school family life education program offered in a local school division to incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of human trafficking.”*

[Senate Bill 1159](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=191&typ=bil&val=SB1159) (Black) “*requires any family life education curriculum offered by a local school division to incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the harmful physical and emotional effects of female genital mutilation, associated criminal penalties, and the rights of the victim including any civil action.”*

Summary of proposed revisions to Family Life Education Standards of Learning:

As a result of legislation from the 2018 and 2019 Virginia General Assembly, revisions are necessary to align the *Family Life Education Board of Education Guidelines and Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools* with the requirements outlined in the *Code.* There are six distinct topic areas, identified below, which are embedded throughout the proposed, revised guidelines:

1. New language added to address the importance of the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals;
2. New language added to address the prevention of sexual harassment using electronic means;
3. New language added to permit instruction to address the prevention, recognition, and awareness of child abduction, child abuse, child sexual exploitation, and child sexual abuse;
4. Revised language to require, rather than permit, instruction to address the law and meaning of consent;
5. New language added to address the prevention of human trafficking; and
6. New language added to address the harmful physical and emotional effects of female genital mutilation, associated criminal penalties, and the rights of the victim including any civil action.

Proposed revised standards are listed below.

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| Grade Level | Revised SOL | Topic Area Addressed  | Page |
| Kindergarten | K.3 | A | 14 |
| First Grade | 1.11 | A | 17 |
| Second Grade | 2.4 | A | 18 |
| Sixth Grade | 6.7 6.11 6.12 | A B, CE | 262727 |
| Seventh Grade | 7.6 7.11 7.13 | C C, E A | 293031 |
| Eighth Grade | 8.3 8.6 8.13 | C ED, E | 3232-3333-34 |
| Ninth Grade | 9.69.7 | DE, F | 3535-36  |
| Tenth Grade | 10.3 10.710.16 | B, D E C, E | 373839 |
| Eleventh Grade | 11.3 11.4 | DE | 4040 |
| Twelfth Grade | 12.312.712.8 12.11 | A, BEC, E, FD | 43434444 |

## Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Upon Board of Education adoption of the *2019 Family Life Education Board of Education Guidelines and Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools*, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will make them available to school divisions on the Department’s website.

The VDOE recognizes that professional development is crucial for family life instructors to understand the changes to the family life education standards of learning (SOL) and how to incorporate effective evidence-based practices. Training for family life educators, especially related to teaching sensitive material, is essential to provide developmentally appropriate practices to Virginia’s students. The VDOE relied on federal funds from the Centers for Disease Control, Division on Adolescent and Student Health, between 2008 and 2013 to develop training modules designed to increase the skills and capacity of family life education instructors to deliver standards of learning-based family life education.

Since the grant ended in 2013, and in order to maintain updated content for professional development, the VDOE has provided an annual two-day training to family life education trainers related to updates in the field. However, the VDOE recognizes there is a need to redesign the training and technical assistance efforts, including updating the professional learning modules and instructional resources, to better align with the current standards and division needs.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

It is anticipated that local school divisions will incur cost associated with professional development related to training on the new content areas in the family life education curriculum. The VDOE will incur some cost related to updating professional development, providing training, and developing curriculum resources.