| **Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item** | **Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia** |
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# Agenda Item: G

## Date: October 15, 2020

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

#### Presenter: Mrs. Patty S. Pitts, Assistant Superintendent for 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 Board of Education. Requests are submitted each year in May.

Approving new education (endorsement) programs aligns with the Board of Education goal 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.

Program specialists in the Department of Education 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 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 September 21, 2020, the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure recommended that the Board of Education grant approval for the new endorsement programs.

**Action Requested:**

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation: The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure’s recommendation to approve the following new education (endorsement) programs.

## Rationale for Action:

The Virginia Board of Education is required to approve education (endorsement) programs pursuant to Section 22.1-298.2 of the *Code of Virginia*.

## 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 of Education 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 of Education. Requests to offer new education endorsement programs are submitted to the Department of Education. Personnel in the Department of Teacher Education and Licensure and program specialists in the Department of Education review the programs to ensure competencies and other requirements have been addressed.

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) reviews and makes recommendations to the Board of Education on approval of Virginia education programs for school personnel. Final authority for program approval rests with the Board of Education. Requests for new program endorsements approved by the Board of Education 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

1. Requests for new education endorsement programs shall be approved by the Virginia Board of Education.

1. 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 of Education. Requests are made annually, by May 1 of each year. Program specialists in the Department of Education 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 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 September 21, 2020, the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure recommended that the Board of Education 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** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Bluefield College** | Elementary Education PreK-6 | Undergraduate |
| Biology | Undergraduate |
| Chemistry | Undergraduate |
| **Eastern Mennonite University** | Special Education-General Curriculum Elementary Education K-6 (add-on endorsement) | Undergraduate  |
| **Emory and Henry College** | Middle Education | Graduate |
| Biology | Graduate |
| Chemistry | Graduate |
| Earth Science | Graduate |
| Physics | Graduate |
| Visual Arts PreK-12 | Graduate |
| **Ferrum College** | Middle Education | Undergraduate |
| **George Mason University** | Computer Science | Undergraduate, Graduate |
| Special Education-General Curriculum Elementary Education K-6 (add-on endorsement) | Graduate |
| Special Education-General Curriculum Middle Education Grades 6-8 (add-on endorsement) | Graduate |
| Special Education-General Curriculum Secondary Education Grades 6-12 (add-on endorsement) | Graduate |
| **Liberty University** | Earth Science | Undergraduate |
| Physics | Undergraduate |
| **Randolph-Macon College** | Elementary Education PreK-6 | Undergraduate |
| **Roanoke College** | Biology | Undergraduate |
| Chemistry | Undergraduate |
| Physics | Undergraduate |
| **Sweet Briar College** | Special Education-General Curriculum Elementary Education K-6 (add-on endorsement) | Undergraduate |
| Special Education-General Curriculum Secondary Education Grades 6-12 (add-on endorsement) | Undergraduate |
| **University of Mary Washington** | Theatre Arts PreK-12 | Undergraduate |
| **University of Richmond** | Special Education-General Curriculum Elementary Education K-6 (add-on endorsement) | Undergraduate, Graduate |
| **University of Virginia** | Special Education-General Curriculum Elementary Education K-6 (add-on endorsement) | Undergraduate |
| **University of Virginia’s College at Wise** | Engineering | Undergraduate |
| **Virginia Union University** | Elementary Education PreK-6 | Undergraduate |
| **William & Mary** | Special Education-General Curriculum Elementary Education K-6 (add-on endorsement) | Graduate |
| Special Education-General Curriculum Secondary Education Grades 6-12 (add-on endorsement) | Graduate |

Timetable for Further Review/Action:
Upon Board of Education approval, the institutions will be notified, and the programs will be posted on the Department of Education’s website.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

The administrative impact will be absorbed within existing resources.