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

## Date: January 24, 2019

### Title: Final Review of Report on House Bill 1530 High School Diplomas Options and Stigma in Career and Technical Education

#### Presenter: Gena C. Keller, Assistant Superintendent for Learning

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## Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

## Executive Summary:

The 2018 Virginia General Assembly passed [House Bill 1530](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB1530) which requires the Board of Education to make recommendations to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health, relating to: (i) strategies for eliminating any stigma associated with high school career and technical education pathways and the choice of high school students to pursue coursework and other educational opportunities in career and technical education and related fields such as computer science and robotics, and (ii) the consolidation of the standard and advanced diplomas into a single diploma and the creation of multiple endorsements for such diploma to recognize student competencies and achievements in specific subject matter areas.

## Action Requested:

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education approve the report for submission to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health.

## Rationale for Action:

The 2018 Virginia General Assembly passed HB1530 requiring the Board of Education to make recommendations pertaining to establishing one diploma and eliminating stigma in career and technical education.

## Previous Review or Action:

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

Date: November 14, 2018

Action: Presentation to the Board in work session

## **Background Information and Statutory Authority:**

**CHAPTER 517**

*An Act to direct the Board of Education to make recommendations relating to career and technical education and diplomas.*

[H 1530]

Approved March 29, 2018

 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

**1.***§ 1. The Board of Education shall make recommendations to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health no later than November 1, 2018, relating to (i) strategies for eliminating any stigma associated with high school career and technical education pathways and the choice of high school students to pursue coursework and other educational opportunities in career and technical education and related fields such as computer science and robotics and (ii) the consolidation of the standard and advanced diplomas into a single diploma and the creation of multiple endorsements for such diploma to recognize student competencies and achievements in specific subject matter areas.*

### Follow-up Questions and Considerations for the Board

When evaluating HB1530 *(ii) the consolidation of the standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas into a single diploma and the creation of multiple endorsements for such diploma to recognize student competencies and achievements in specific subject matter areas*, the following questions and considerations have been identified for the Board’s review:

Requirements

* How can graduation requirements be established that eliminate the stigma associated with CTE?
* What would the credit and verified credit requirements be for one diploma? If the credit requirements represent an increase for current Standard Diploma students, what will be the impact on staffing?
* How does a single diploma fit with the Profile of a Virginia Graduate? ESSA?
* How do the requirements for single diploma impact students with disabilities, students with 504 plans, or ELL students?
* Should providing credit for WBL experiences be considered? Will new positions need to be established for WBL administration? Will teachers need twelve month contracts? How will less-resourced divisions with limited business and industry partners be able to provide credit bearing WBL experiences?
* Should options be expanded to award more verified credit options for earning CTE program-related, industry credentials?

GPA

* Does weighted GPA (AP, IB, and honors courses) create an unintended emphasis on GPA rather than on student career interests?
* How would a change in GPA be communicated to stakeholders? Parents are also concerned about that a change in GPA would negatively impact scholarship attainment.

Diploma Seals

* Would the continued use of diploma seals be the best method to differentiate student achievement?
* Would creating diploma seals for each of the 16 career clusters “unify and equalize” different career choices?
* What would be the criteria and process be for establishing new diploma seals?
* In place of the Advanced Studies Diploma, should a new seal be created for college preparatory?
* How would achievement data be collected and reported (Standards of Quality reporting impact)?

Stakeholder Impact

* How will parental and student concerns regarding student achievement recognition be addressed (status associated with the Advanced Studies Diploma designation)?
* What is the best method for effectively partnering with and communicating changes and impacts of moving to a single diploma to post-secondary institutions?
* What impact does the change to a single diploma have on business and industry partnerships? How would they be best addressed?

## **Timetable for Further Review/Action:**Following approval by the Board, VDOE staff will make technical edits and submit the report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

The impact on fiscal and human resources will be determined based on any further action by the General Assembly.