Legislative Update – March 13, 2019

This report includes relevant legislation that is being tracked by the Virginia Department of Education that has remained active following crossover. Bills that have failed since crossover are ~~stricken~~. Additionally, bills that have been signed by the Governor are noted. A brief overview of the Appropriation Act is provided as well.

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# Appropriation Act

The House and Senate released their budgets on Sunday, February 3. This overview provides those actions, and the final conference report actions are highlighted.

**Salary increases.** The Senate budget retains the $87.6 million provided in the governor’s introduced budget for an additional two percent salary increase, bringing the total salary increase to five percent. The House budget includes $43.8 million in the second year for the state share of an additional two percent salary increase effective January 1, 2010. Both budgets allow for local school division flexibility for the five percent salary increase. The conference report retains the additional two percent salary increases, but reduces the additional funding to $72.7 million by adjusting the effective date to September 1, 2019. The additional two percent will be available only to divisions that provide the three percent salary increase provided in the 2018 Appropriation Act at any time during the biennium, and provide an additional two percent salary increases by September 1, 2019.

**Supplemental Lottery Per-Pupil Funding.** The House budget adds $27.4, in addition to the $34.7 million included in the introduced budget, to the Supplemental Lottery Per-Pupil funding. The Senate budget removes $34.7 million for Supplemental Lottery Per-Pupil funding provided in the introduced budget. The conference report maintains the $34.7 million proposed in the governor’s introduced budget.

**School Counselors.** The House budget retains the $36 million provided in the governor’s introduced budget for additional school counselors, while the Senate removes $25.9 million, retaining $10.1 million for additional school counselors. The conference report removes $23.8 million, providing approximately $12.2 million for additional school counselors.

**Literary Fund.** The Senate budget retains $80 million provided in the governor’s introduced budget for Literary Fund school construction. The conference instead provides $35 million for school construction and interest buydown programs.

**School Security.** Based on recommendations from the House Select Committee on School Safety, the House budget increased School Security Equipment Grant fund from $6 million to $12 million. Further, the school division grant award cap is increased from $100,000 to $250,000 per year. The conference report includes the House proposal to increase the funding to $12 million and increase the award to $250,000 annually.

**VDOE Central Office.**

Both the House and Senate budgets retain the governor’s proposal to provide $549,573 for four FTE’s to address recent APA audit findings on technology security protocols, finance and risk management. The conference report includes this proposal.

The House budget removes funding for two FTE’s in early childhood, while the Senate budget only provides one position. The conference report includes the Senate version to provide only one position.

The introduced budget included $552,500 to modernize the teacher licensure application process with an automated online system. The House budget completely removes the funding for the automated online system while the Senate budget removes $97,500 from that appropriation retaining $455,000. The conference report reduced the governor’s proposal by $204,000, which will allow the agency to use a subscription based system, rather than building its own system.

# Accreditation and School Quality

[**HB 1868**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1868) **(Hurst) Virginia Index of Performance incentive program; Exemplar School Recognition Program.** Renames the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) incentive program as the Exemplar School Recognition Program (the Program) and makes several changes to the Program to align it with recent changes made by the Board of Education (the Board) to the Standards of Accreditation, including requiring the Board to design the Program to recognize and reward (i) schools that exceed Board-established requirements or show continuous improvement on academic and school quality indicators and (ii) schools, school divisions, and school boards that implement effective, innovative practices that are aligned with the Commonwealth's goals for public education. This is a VDOE agency bill.

[**HB 2147**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2147)**(Turpin) Standards for Accreditation; review and corrective action.** Aligns the state review process of underperforming schools and school divisions with the new Standards for Accreditation adopted by the Board of Education (Board). The bill requires the Department of Education to cause an academic or other review to be conducted to assist schools not meeting the standards established by the Board. The Board may require a local school board to develop a corrective action plan for any such school within its division. The bill requires a school board of a school division that does not demonstrate progress in implementing such corrective action plan to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Board. The bill also requires the school board of an underperforming school division to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Board prior to developing a corrective action plan. This is a VDOE agency bill.

# Assessments

**~~[SB 1218](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1218) (Newman) Public high schools; Standards of Learning assessments.~~**~~Requires the~~~~Standards of Learning assessments administered to students in grades nine through twelve to include reading, writing, mathematics, science, and Virginia and U.S. history. These assessments must be end-of-course assessments developed by the Board, and may not be performance based assessments.~~

~~SB1218 also would require alternative assessments, consistent with Board guidelines, to be administered to students taking other courses in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and history and social science for which the Board has eliminated the end-of-course test. The Department of Education would be required to perform reviews of the alternative assessments for high school courses.~~

~~SB1218 also provides that the graduation requirements established by the Board of Education shall require students to earn a verified unit of credit in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and Virginia and U.S. History. Such verified credit may be earned only through completion of an end-of-course Standards of Learning assessment, a substitute test, or a locally-awarded verified credit. The bill provides that the end-of-course assessment may not be a performance-based assessment. These requirements would be applicable beginning with first-time ninth graders starting in the 2019-20 school year.~~

~~SB1218 would require the Department to review the alternative assessments for comparability of assessments across school divisions and years and provide a report to the chairs of the education committees.~~

[**~~HB 2574~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2574)**~~(LaRock) School Divisions of Innovation; performance-based assessments.~~**~~Allows a local school board, when applying for its school division to be designated as a School Division of Innovation, to apply to the Board of Education (the Board) to replace the Virginia Studies and Civics and Economics Standards of Learning assessments with performance-based assessments. The bill requires the Board to determine if the local school board has the capacity to administer and score performance-based assessments and provides criteria for such determination. The bill requires any proposed performance-based assessment to be an adequate replacement of the relevant Standards of Learning assessment and requires students to demonstrate the knowledge and skills required by the relevant Standards of Learning and one or more of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, or citizenship.~~

# Discipline

[**HB 1985**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1985)and[**SB 1298**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1298) **(Del. Bell, Richard P. and Sen. Barker) Alternative education programs; data.** Requires the Department of Education to annually collect from each school board and publish on its website various enrollment and achievement data on alternative education programs for students who have been suspended, expelled, or otherwise precluded from attendance at school. The bill requires such data to be published in a manner that protects the identities of individual students and disaggregated by local school division and by student race, ethnicity, gender, and disability. Signed by Governor.

[**~~HB 2119~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2119)**~~(Carroll Foy) School attendance officer; motion for a rule to show cause; child in need of supervision.~~** ~~Authorizes a school attendance officer or division superintendent or his designee acting as an attendance officer to complete, sign, and file with the clerk of court a motion for a rule to show cause regarding the violation or enforcement of a school attendance order entered by a juvenile and domestic relations district court in response to the filing of a petition alleging the juvenile is a child in need of supervision. The bill also provides that such a filing is not considered the unauthorized practice of law.~~

[**HB 2599**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2599)**(Bell, John J.) Use of seclusion and restraint in public schools.**Requires the Board of Education, in its regulations regarding the use of seclusion and restraint in public schools, to specifically identify and prohibit the use of any method of restraint or seclusion that it determines poses a significant danger to the student and establish safety standards for seclusion.

[**~~SB 1545~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1545) **~~(Sturtevant) Public schools; alternative accountability process.~~**~~Allows a school board to adopt an alternative accountability process to provide parties involved in an incident involving assault or assault and battery without bodily injury that occurs on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored event an option to enter into a mutually agreed upon mediation process between the involved parties as an alternative to reporting such incident to law enforcement.~~

[**~~SB 1107~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1107)**~~(McClellan)~~****~~Disorderly conduct in public places; school activities.~~** ~~Eliminates the Class 1 misdemeanor for disrupting willfully or while intoxicated, whether willfully or not, the operation of any school or any school activity conducted or sponsored by any school, if the disruption (i) prevents or interferes with the orderly conduct of the operation or activity or (ii) has a direct tendency to cause acts of violence by the person or persons at whom, individually, the disruption is directed.~~

# Early Childhood

[**~~SB 1095~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1095)**~~(Howell)~~****~~Early childhood care and education; licensing.~~** ~~Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Commissioner of Social Services to (i) convene a stakeholder group to consider the development of a statewide unified public-private system for early childhood care and education in the Commonwealth and (ii) collaborate to develop a uniform quality rating and improvement system with required participation by publicly funded early childhood care and education programs and voluntary participation by privately funded providers.~~

[**~~SB 1278~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1278)**~~(Barker)~~****~~Public schools; kindergarten instructional time.~~** ~~Increases from 540 hours to 990 hours the minimum instructional hours in a school year for students in kindergarten. The bill directs the Board of Education to promulgate regulations by July 1, 2021, establishing standards for accreditation that include a requirement that the standard school day for students in kindergarten average at least 5.5 instructional hours in order to qualify for full accreditation. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2021.~~

# Facilities

[**HB 1738**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1738)**(Rush)** **School buildings; plans to be reviewed by an individual or entity experienced in crime prevention through environmental design.** Requires the plans and specifications for new or remodeled public school building construction to be reviewed by an individual or entity with professional expertise in crime prevention through environmental design. All comments by such reviewer shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Public Instruction along with the final plans and specifications. Signed by Governor.

[**HB 1753**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1753)**(Sickles) School buildings; electronic room partitions.** Prohibits school employees from opening or closing an electronic room partition in any school building except under certain limited circumstances. The bill requires any annual safety review or exercise for school employees in a local school division to include information and demonstrations, as appropriate, regarding the operation of such partitions. The bill also requires the Department of Education to make available to each school board model safety guidance regarding the operation of such partitions.

[**HB 2192**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2192)and[**SB 1331**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1331)**(Del. Rush & Sen. Stanley)** **Modernization of public school buildings and facilities.** Provides that it is the legislative intent that public school buildings and facilities be designed, constructed, maintained, and operated to generate more electricity than consumed, and allows local school boards to enter into leases with private developers to achieve that goal. The bill also provides that private developers that contract with local school boards to modernize public school buildings and facilities may receive financing from the Virginia Small Business Financing Authority.

[**~~SB 1702~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1702)**~~(Stanley) Public School Assistance Fund and Program created.~~** ~~Creates the Public School Assistance Fund and Program, to be administered by the Department of Education, for the purpose of providing grants to school boards to be used solely for the purpose of repairing or replacing the roofs of public elementary and secondary school buildings in the local school division. The bill permits any school board in the Commonwealth to apply for Program grants but requires the Department of Education to give priority in the award of grants to school boards that demonstrate the greatest need based on the condition of existing school building roofs and the ability to pay for the repair or replacement of such roofs.~~

[**HB 1725**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1725)**(Knight)** **Public school building security enhancements; compliance with Uniform Statewide Building Code and Statewide Fire Prevention Code.** Requires each school board, in consultation with the local building official and the state or local fire marshal, to develop a procurement plan to ensure that all security enhancements to public school buildings are in compliance with the Uniform Statewide Building Code and Statewide Fire Prevention Code. Signed by Governor.

[**~~SB 1629~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1629)**~~(McPike)~~****~~Local school boards; lead testing; report.~~** ~~Requires each local school board to submit its plan to test and remediate certain potable water sources and report the results of any such test to the Department of Health.~~

# Finance

[**HB 1807**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1807)and[**SB 1771**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1771) **(Del. Bell, Richard P. & Sen. Hanger)** **State share for basic aid; duration of certain agreements.** Provides that certain cost-savings agreements between school divisions will remain in effect until terminated by the school divisions. Under current law, such agreements are valid for a period of 15 years.

[**HB1838**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=191&typ=bil&val=hb1838) **(Marshall)** **Virginia Regional Industrial Facilities Act; revenue sharing; composite index.** Requires the Department of Taxation's calculation of true values as applied to the Commonwealth's composite index of local ability-to-pay to take into account an arrangement by localities entered into pursuant to the Virginia Regional Industrial Facilities Act whereby a portion of tax revenue is initially paid to one locality and redistributed to another locality. The bill requires such calculation to properly apportion the percentage of tax revenue ultimately received by each locality. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2021.

[**~~SB 1587~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1587)**~~(Suetterlein)~~****~~Public schools; average daily membership; early graduation.~~** ~~Provides that a student who graduates from a public high school in less than four school years will be counted in the average daily membership in the relevant school division until the graduation of his class cohort or he is no longer of school-age, whichever is earlier. The provisions of the bill do not apply to any student who completes a high school equivalency examination. The bill includes an enactment clause preventing it from taking effect unless an appropriation is made by the General Assembly.~~

[**SB 1093**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1093)**(Ruff)** **Literary Fund; school modernization.** Requires the Board of Education to create a program in which monies from the Literary Fund would be used to subsidize interest payments by local governing bodies and school boards on certain loans from the Virginia Public School Authority for school construction and modernization. Only school divisions with a composite index of local-ability-to-pay less than 0.4000 would be eligible to participate in the interest payment program. The bill limits the aggregate amount of loans for each fiscal year to an amount to be specified in the general appropriation act.

# Home Instruction

[**~~SB 1275~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1275)**~~(Black)~~****~~Junior Reserve Officer Training programs; students receiving home instruction.~~** ~~Requires any school board that offers a Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps program to make the program available to any student who receives home instruction and resides in the local school division. The bill prohibits any such school board from requiring any such student to enroll on a full or part-time basis or to meet other eligibility requirements for such a program beyond those required of public school students. The bill provides that such a student may demonstrate compliance with any academic achievement requirements for participation in such a program in any manner acceptable as evidence of progress under the home instruction provisions of the Code.~~

# Information Management

[**HB 1788**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1788)**(Ransone)** **Virginia Public Records Act; implementation in local school divisions; recommendations.** Requires the Public School Records Consortium and the Records Oversight Committee to confer with school boards and division superintendents and submit to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health no later than November 1, 2019, recommendations on ways in which school boards and school board employees can better promote efficiency and cost-effectiveness in the implementation of the Virginia Public Records Act.

[**HB 2449**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2449)**(Wilt)** **Scholastic records; disclosure of directory information.** Provides that a school or institution of higher education may disclose certain directory information of a student to certain internal persons for educational purposes or internal business if the student has not opted out of such disclosure. Under current law, such disclosures require written consent. The bill also provides an exception for state and federal law requirements from the prohibition of such disclosures. Signed by Governor.

[**SB 1586**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1586)**(Suetterlein) Superintendent of Public Instruction; consolidation of surveys.** Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to identify any survey, questionnaire, inquiry, or other communication that requires a response from a school board or division superintendent and to, in collaboration with any identified requesting entity, work to consolidate, as much as practicable, all such surveys, questionnaires, inquiries, and other communications in order to reduce the administrative burden of such response.

# Instruction

## Career and Technical Education

[**HB 2008**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2008)and[**SB 1348**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1348) **(Del. Garrett & Sen. Newman)** **Department of Education; energy career cluster.** Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with representatives from pertinent industries such as renewable energy, natural gas, nuclear energy, coal, and oil, to establish an energy career cluster. The bill requires the Department of Education to base the knowledge and skill sets contained in such energy career cluster on the energy industry competency and credential models developed by the Center for Energy Workforce Development in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor. The bill further requires the Department of Education to report to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health no later than December 1, 2019, on its progress toward establishing such energy career cluster.

## Dual Enrollment

[**HB 2123**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2123)**(Carroll Foy) School boards; public institutions of higher education; College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships.** Permits each local school board to enter into College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships (Partnerships), currently referred to as agreements, with comprehensive community colleges or other public institutions of higher education or educational institutions that offer a career and technical education curriculum. The bill requires any such Partnership to (i) specify the options for students to take courses as part of the career and technical education curriculum that lead to course credit or an industry-recognized credential, certification, or license concurrent with a high school diploma, (ii) specify the credit, credentials, certifications, or licenses available for such courses, and (iii) specify available options for students to participate in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs at comprehensive community colleges concurrent with the pursuit of a high school diploma and receive college credit and high school credit for successful completion of any such program. Current law allows local school boards to enter into agreements with such institutions but does not specify course credit as being part of the agreements.

## Family Life Education

[**HB 2205**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2205)**(Filler-Corn)** **Family life education; consent.** 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.

[**~~HB 2570~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2570)**~~(LaRock) Family life education programs; student participation.~~** ~~Prohibits any public elementary or secondary school student from participating in any family life education program without the prior written consent of his parent.~~

[**SB 1141**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1141)**(Favola)** **Family life education; human trafficking**. 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.

[**SB 1159**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1159)**(Black)** **Family life education; female genital mutilation.** 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.

## Health

[**HB 1881**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1881)**(Keam)** **Public schools; instruction on the risks of certain nicotine products.** Requires the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth to develop and the Department of Education to distribute to each local school division educational materials concerning the health and safety risks of using tobacco products, nicotine vapor products, and alternative nicotine products. The bill requires instruction concerning the health and safety risks of using such products be provided in each public elementary and secondary school in the Commonwealth, consistent with such educational materials.

[**~~SB 1440~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1440)**~~(McClellan)~~****~~Health Instruction; mental health.~~** ~~Directs the Board of Education to review and update the health Standards of Learning for students in all grades to include mental health. Legislation passed in 2018 required such review and update for students in grades nine and 10.~~

## Humanities

[**~~SB 1502~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1502)**~~(Carrico)~~****~~Public schools; electives on the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament and the New Testament.~~** ~~Authorizes local school boards to offer as an elective in grades nine through 12 with appropriate credits toward graduation a course on the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament of the Bible or the New Testament of the Bible or a combined course on both. The bill requires the Board of Education to develop Standards of Learning and curriculum guidelines for such courses. The bill provides that the purpose of such courses is to introduce students to biblical content, characters, poetry, and narratives that are prerequisites to understanding contemporary society and culture, including literature, art, music, mores, oratory, and public policy. The bill prohibits students from being required to use a specific translation of a religious text when taking the courses and provides that such courses shall maintain religious neutrality and shall not endorse, favor, promote, disfavor, or show hostility toward any particular religion or nonreligious perspective.~~

## Reading

[**SB 1718**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1718) **(Black)** **Department of Education; reading diagnostic tools; report.** Directs the Department of Education (the Department) to consult with stakeholders and develop a plan to implement a pilot program to incorporate additional diagnostic tools into reading diagnostic tests used for screening students in kindergarten through grade three. The bill directs the Department to report to the General Assembly by December 1, 2019.

## Science

[**~~SB 1561~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1561)**~~(Lewis) Department of Environmental Quality; Department of Education; sixth grade science curriculum.~~** ~~Directs the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Education to update the "Window into a Green Virginia" curriculum developed by the Departments for sixth grade science to include a unit on the benefits, including the energy benefits, of recycling and reuse. The bill includes an enactment clause preventing it from taking effect unless an appropriation is made by the General Assembly.~~

## Virtual Programs

[**~~SB 1590~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1590)**~~(Dunnavant)~~****~~Virtual Virginia.~~** ~~Requires that the Virtual Virginia program be made available to all public schools. Currently, the program is available only to high schools. The bill requires the Department to utilize a learning management system for the purposes of implementing Virtual Virginia. The bill also authorizes the Department to charge a per-student fee to school divisions for each student enrolled in a Virtual Virginia course beyond an initial allotment of 15 such students per school division per course and prohibits the Department from limiting the total number of such students by school division. The bill also requires annual reporting by November 1, on the Virtual Virginia program that is aligned to the School Quality Profiles.~~

## Work-Based Learning

[**HB 2018**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2018)and[**SB 1434**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1434) **(Del. Peace and Sen. McClellan)** **Board of Education; Career and Technical Education Work-Based Learning Guide.**Requires the Board of Education to review and revise, in consultation with certain stakeholders and no later than December 1, 2019, its Career and Technical Education Work-Based Learning Guide to expand the opportunities available for students to earn credit for graduation through high-quality work-based learning experiences such as job shadowing, mentorships, internships, and externships. Signed by Governor.

[**HB 2662**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2662)**(Landes) High school graduation requirements; capstone project.**Directs the Board of Education to establish guidelines for local school boards to develop and implement a senior capstone project, portfolio, performance-based assessment, or structured experiment. The bill also directs the Board to amend its graduation requirements to require such an activity be required for graduation, that is aligned to a work-based learning or other activity. The changes to graduation requirements shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2020 Session of the General Assembly.

[**~~SB 1532~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1532)**~~(Sturtevant) High school STEM internship grant program; report.~~**~~Creates a pilot grant program for businesses that host a junior or senior in a Richmond City Schools high school as an intern in a STEM or high-demand field.The business would receive a $2,500 credit per student per semester. Participation in the program is limited to 25 students. The bill requires the Superintendent of Richmond Public Schools to submit an annual report regarding various metrics of the program. The bill includes an enactment clause preventing it from taking effect unless an appropriation is made by the General Assembly.~~

# Military Students

[**HB 1623**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1623)**and** [**SB 1249**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1249)**(Del. Cole & Sen. Reeves)** **Military families; relocation to the Commonwealth; student registration.**Permits any student whose service member parent is relocated to the Commonwealth pursuant to orders received to register for courses and other academic programs and participate in the lottery process for charter schools and college partnership laboratory schools in the school division in which such student will reside at the same time and in the same manner as students who reside in the local school division. SB 1249 has been signed by the Governor. HB 1623 is on the Governor’s desk.

[**SB 1746**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1746)**(Wagner)** **Department of Education; National Math and Science Initiative.**Directs the Department of Education to encourage school boards of school divisions that have a significant number of enrolled military-connected students to partner with the National Math and Science Initiative to provide such students with the tools and resources necessary to advance science, technology, engineering, and mathematics learning opportunities and career readiness. The bill requires the Department to provide technical assistance to any school board seeking to enter into such a partnership, upon request.

# Miscellaneous

[**HB 2384**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2384)**and** [**SB 1295**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1295)**(Del. Hope & Sen. Spruill) Public schools; tobacco products and nicotine vapor products.**Requires each school board to (i) develop and implement a policy to prohibit the use and distribution of tobacco products and nicotine vapor products on a school bus, on school property, or at an on-site or off-site school-sponsored activity and (ii) include in its code of student conduct a prohibition against possessing tobacco products or nicotine vapor products on a school bus, on school property, or at an on-site or off-site school-sponsored activity. Current law only places these requirements on each school board with regard to electronic cigarettes. The bill requires such policy to include adequate provisions for enforcement among students, employees, and visitors, including the enumeration of possible sanctions or disciplinary action consistent with state or federal law, and referrals to resources to help staff and students overcome tobacco addiction. Signed by Governor.

[**HB 2297**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2297)**(Simon)** **Free public elementary and secondary education; eligibility criteria.**Requires every person of school age to be deemed to reside in a school division for the purpose of eligibility for free public elementary and secondary education in such school division when all or any portion of the building in which such person resides with certain other individuals or as an emancipated minor is taxable by the locality in which the school division is located. Qualifies that (i) each student who resides on property that is located in more than one school division and who registers for enrollment at a public school in one such local school division prior to July 1, 2019, and (ii) any sibling of any such student shall be deemed to reside in such local school division and is eligible to attend public school in such local school division for free.

[**SB 1491**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1491)**(Chafin)** **State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act; school districts; hiring of relatives of superintendent.**Allows a school district to hire a relative of the division superintendent if (i) the superintendent certifies that he had no involvement with the hiring decision and (ii) the assistant superintendent certifies to the members of the governing body in writing that the employment is based upon merit and fitness and the competitive rating of the qualifications of the individual and that the superintendent had no involvement with the hiring decision.

# School Calendar

[**HB 1652**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1652)and[**SB 1005**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1005)**(Del. Robinson and Sen. Chase) School calendar; opening day of the school year.**Requires each local school board to set the school calendar so that the first day students are required to attend school is no earlier than 14 days before Labor Day unless the Board of Education waives such requirement for good cause. Under current law, each local school board is required to set the school calendar so that the first day students are required to attend school is after Labor Day unless the Board of Education waives such requirement for good cause. The bill provides that in each school division in which the school board sets the school calendar so that the first day students are required to attend school is before Labor Day, such school board shall close each school in the school division from the Friday immediately preceding Labor Day through Labor Day. The bill exempts from certain requirements certain school boards that were previously granted good cause waivers by the Board of Education.

[**~~HB 1752~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1752)**~~(Krizek)~~****~~Election day; school holiday.~~** ~~Prohibits local school boards from requiring students to attend school on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.~~

[**HB 2124**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2124)and[**SB 1269**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1269) **(Del. Davis & Sen. Cosgrove)** **Length of school term; waiver for evacuation.**Requires the Board of Education to waive the requirement that school divisions provide additional teaching days or teaching hours to compensate for school closings resulting from an evacuation directed and compelled by the Governor for up to five teaching days. The bill provides that there shall be no proportionate reduction in the amount paid by the Commonwealth from the Basic School Aid Fund or the amount paid by a local governing body.

[**HB 2140**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2140)**(Thomas) School calendar; opening of the school year; good cause waiver.** Permits the school board of any school division located in Planning District 16 (Stafford County) that was not granted a good cause waiver pursuant to § 22.1-79.1 for the 2018-2019 school year but would qualify for such a waiver pursuant to § 22.1-79.1 as it was in effect prior to July 1, 2019, for the 2019-2020 school year may set the school calendar so that the first day students are required to attend is earlier than Labor Day, including earlier than 14 days before Labor Day. Additionally, the school board of any school division located in Planning District 16 that is entirely surrounded by two school divisions that either were granted a waiver pursuant to Chapter 3 of the Acts of Assembly of 2012, Special Session I, or would qualify for a good cause waiver pursuant to § 22.1-79.1 as it was in effect prior to July 1, 2019, for the 2019-2020 school year (Fredericksburg) may open schools on the same opening date as either such surrounding school division.

# School Nutrition

[**HB 2400**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2400)**(Roem) School boards; School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program; web-based application.**Requires each local school board that collects information to determine eligibility for participation in the School Breakfast Program or the National School Lunch Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to establish and post prominently on its website a web-based application for student participation in such program and to continue to provide a paper-based application. The bill permits any school board in establishing such an application to adopt the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Web-Based Prototype Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals or to digitize its existing paper-based application. Signed by Governor.

# School Security

## Procedures

[**HB 1732**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1732)and[**SB 1215**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1215) **(Del. O’Quinn & Sen. Newman) School safety procedures; emergency situations; annual training.**Requires each school board to develop training on safety procedures in the event of an emergency situation on school property. The bill requires such training to be delivered to each student and employee in each school at least once each school year.Signed by Governor.

[**HB 1734**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1734)and[**SB 1213**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1213) **(Del. Marshall & Sen. Newman) Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety; threat assessment; case management tool.** Requires the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety to develop a case management tool for use by public elementary and secondary school threat assessment teams and requires such threat assessment teams to use such tool to collect and report to the Center quantitative data on its activities. SB 1213 has been signed by the Governor. HB 1734 is on the Governor’s desk.

[**HB 1737**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1737)and[**SB 1220**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1220) **(Del. Wright and Sen. Newman)** **Development and review of school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans; include certain first responders.**Requires each school board to include the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief of the emergency medical services agency, the executive director of the relevant regional emergency medical services council, and the emergency management official of the locality, or their designees, in the development and review of school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans. Under current law, the school board is required to provide copies of such plans to the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief of the emergency medical services agency, and the emergency management official of the locality but is not required to include such first responders in the development and review of such plans. HB 1737 Signed by Governor. SB 1220 is on the Governor’s desk.

[**HB 1787**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1787)and[**SB 1381**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1381) **(Del. Ransone & Del. McDougle)** **Student offenses reportable by intake officers to school division superintendents.**Adds (i) threats of death or bodily injury to another person communicated in writing to such person or member of such person's family and (ii) threats to commit serious bodily harm to persons on school property to the list of offenses that a juvenile intake officer is required to report to the school division superintendent when a petition is filed alleging that a juvenile student committed such an offense.Signed by Governor.

[**HB 1997**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1997)**(Price) Public elementary and secondary school students; protective orders; notification.**Requires any school principal who receives notice that a circuit court, general district court, juvenile and domestic relations court, or magistrate has issued a protective order for the protection of a child who is enrolled at a public elementary or secondary school where such principal is employed, or any other order prohibiting contact with such a child, including an order issued as a condition of pretrial or posttrial supervision, to subsequently notify certain school personnel that such order has been issued. The bill also requires the Board of Education to establish guidelines and develop model policies to aid school boards in the implementation of such notification.

[**SB 1591**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1591)**(Dunnavant) Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety; guidelines on information sharing.** Directs the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (the Center) to convene a work group to develop guidelines and best practices for the sharing of information between a local school board or public institution of higher education and law enforcement regarding a student whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of a school or institution or the community. Such guidelines and best practices shall seek to balance the interests of safety and student privacy and shall be consistent with the provisions of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, as applicable. The bill requires the Center to develop such guidelines and best practices, report to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health, and make such guidelines available to local school boards, public institutions of higher education, law enforcement, and the public by October 1, 2019.

## Security Equipment and Technology

[**HB 2720**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2720)**(Gooditis) Public School Security Equipment Grant Act of 2013; eligible security equipment.** Specifies that, for the purpose of eligibility for grants for security equipment through the Public School Security Equipment Grant Act of 2013, security equipment includes building modifications and fixtures, such as security vestibules. Signed by Governor.

[**~~SB 1608~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1608)**~~(Dunnavant) Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center; school safety mobile application.~~** ~~Requires the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center (the Center) to develop or obtain a school safety mobile application to (i) facilitate the provision of real-time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week crisis intervention services by licensed clinicians, including support or crisis counseling, suicide prevention, and referral services to students and youth in the Commonwealth through calls, texts, and online chats and (ii) provide to students and youth in the Commonwealth a platform that is capable of receiving text, audio, images, or video to furnish information concerning a suspected, anticipated, or completed criminal violation. The Department of Medical Assistance Services shall provide the Center with information to ensure that the application is integrated with existing crisis intervention hotlines. The bill includes an enactment clause preventing it from taking effect unless an appropriation is made by the General Assembly.~~

## Security Personnel

[**HB 1656**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1656)**(Cole) School security officers; employment by private or religious schools; carrying a firearm in performance of duties.** Allows private or religious schools to employ a school security officer and to authorize a school security officer to carry a firearm in the performance of his duties, subject to the same criteria for carrying a firearm in the performance of his duties imposed on a school security officer employed by the local school board. The bill also updates the definition of school security officer in the assault and battery statute. Signed by Governor.

[**HB 1733**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1733)and[**SB 1214**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1214)**(Del. Gilbert and Sen. Newman) School boards; local law-enforcement agencies; memorandums of understanding.** Requires (i) the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety to develop a model memorandum of understanding and (ii) the school board in each school division in which the local law-enforcement agency employs school resource officers to enter into a memorandum of understanding with such local law-enforcement agency that is based on such model and sets forth the powers and duties of the school resource officers. The bill requires each such school board and local law-enforcement agency to review and amend or affirm the memorandum at least once every five years or at any time upon the request of either party.

[**HB 2142**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2142)~~and~~[**~~SB 1207~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1207) **(Del. Thomas ~~& Sen. Stuart~~) School protection officers; minimum training standards; exemption.**Defines a school protection officer as a retired law-enforcement officer hired on a part-time basis by the local law-enforcement agency to provide limited law-enforcement and security services to Virginia public elementary and secondary schools. The bill also provides that the Department of Criminal Justice Services shall establish compulsory minimum training standards for all persons employed as school protection officers and that such training may be provided by the employing law-enforcement agency and shall be graduated and based on the type of duties to be performed.

[**HB 2609**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2609)**and** [**SB 1130**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1130) **(Del. Jones, J.C. and Sen. Locke)** **School resource officers; compulsory minimum training standards.**Requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish compulsory minimum training standards for certification and recertification of law-enforcement officers serving as school resource officers that are specific to the role and responsibility of a law-enforcement officer working with students in a school environment. The bill requires every full-time or part-time law-enforcement officer employed as a school resource officer after July 1, 2020, to comply with such compulsory minimum training standards within a period of time fixed by the Criminal Justice Services Board. The bill further requires each school board to ensure that each school employs at least one school administrator who has completed, either in-person or online, school safety training for public school personnel conducted by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, provided that the training is available online.

[**HB 2721**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2721)**(Freitas) Employment of school security officers; law-enforcement officers previously employed by the United States or any state or political subdivision thereof; carrying a firearm in performance of duties.** Allows a school security officer to carry a firearm in the performance of his duties if, within 10 years immediately prior to being hired by the local school board, he was employed by a law-enforcement agency of the United States or any state or political subdivision thereof and his duties were substantially similar to those of a law-enforcement officer in the Commonwealth. Under current law, only a school security officer who was an active law-enforcement officer in the Commonwealth within 10 years immediately prior to being hired by the local school board may qualify to carry a firearm in the performance of his duties.

[**~~SB 1023~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1023)**~~(Cosgrove) Virginia Retirement System; retired law-enforcement officers employed as school security officers.~~** ~~Allows a retired law-enforcement officer to continue to receive his service retirement allowance during a subsequent period of employment by a local school division as a school security officer. The provisions of the bill are contingent on funding in a general appropriations act.~~

# Special Education

[**~~SB 1104~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1104)**~~(Peake)~~****~~Community policy and management teams; use of funds.~~** ~~Provides that the state pool of Children Service’s Act funds may be used for wraparound services in a public school setting.~~

[**~~SB 1576~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1576)**~~(Suetterlein) Department of Education; pilot program; feasibility of educational placement transition of certain students with disabilities.~~** ~~Requires the Department of Education and relevant local school boards to develop and implement a pilot program for up to four years in two to eight local school divisions in the Commonwealth. In developing the pilot, the Department is required to partner with the appropriate school board employees in each such local school division to (i) identify the resources, services, and supports required by each student who resides in each such local school division and who is educated in a private school setting pursuant to his Individualized Education Program; (ii) study the feasibility of transitioning each such student from his private school setting to an appropriate public school setting in the local school division and providing the identified resources, services, and supports in such public school setting; and (iii) recommend a process for redirecting federal, state, and local funds, including funds provided pursuant to the Children's Services Act, provided for the education of each such student to the local school division for the purpose of providing the identified resources, services, and supports in the appropriate public school setting. The bill requires the Department of Education to make a report to the Governor, the Senate Committees on Education and Health and Finance, and the House Committees on Education and Appropriations on the findings of each pilot program after two and four years. The provisions of the bill are contingent on funding in a general appropriations act.~~

[**~~SB 1595~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1595)**~~(Dunnavant) Department of Education; individualized education program teams; guidelines.~~** ~~Requires the Department of Education to establish guidelines for individualized education program (IEP) teams to utilize when developing IEPs for children with disabilities to ensure that IEP teams consider the need for age-appropriate and developmentally-appropriate instruction related to sexual health, self-restraint, self-protection, respect for personal privacy, and personal boundaries of others. The bill requires each local school board, in developing IEPs for children with disabilities, in addition to any other requirements established by the Board, to ensure that IEP teams consider such guidelines.~~

# State-Operated Programs

[**HB 1986**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1986)and[**SB 1314**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1314)**(Del. Bell, Richard P. & Sen. Hanger)** **Certain facilities in the Commonwealth; participation in educational programs.**Requires any person of school age who is admitted to the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents to be permitted to participate in any education program offered in the facility that is administered by the Department of Education, regardless of his enrollment status, unless such person has been excused from attendance at school due to a bona fide religious training or belief. The bill permits information required to enroll such person in any such education program to be disclosed in accordance with state and federal law.Signed by Governor.

# Student Health

[**HB 1720**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1720)and[**SB 1632**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1632)**(Del. Hurst & Sen. Sturtevant)** **Cannabidiol oil and THC-A oil; use at school.**Requires local school boards to adopt and implement policies permitting a student who has been issued a valid written certification for the use of cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil to use such oils while at school. The bill prohibits a school board from suspending or expelling such a student for such use. The bill prohibits school health staff from being prosecuted for possession or distribution of cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil or for storing, dispensing, or administering cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil, in accordance with the policy adopted by the local school board, to a student who has been issued a valid written certification for its use. Finally, the bill requires the Department of Health Professions, in coordination with the Department of Education, to develop and make available to school boards, a standardized form to be completed by the certification issuing physician and the dispensing pharmaceutical processor.

[**HB 1930**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1930)**(Bell, Richard P.) Concussions in student-athletes; guidelines, policies, and procedures.**Requires (i) the Board of Education to collaborate with various stakeholders to biennially update its guidelines on policies to inform and educate coaches, student-athletes, and student-athletes' parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussions, criteria for removal from and return to play, risks of not reporting the injury and continuing to play, and the effects of concussions on student-athletes' academic performance and (ii) each local school division to biennially update its policies and procedures regarding the identification and handling of suspected concussions in student-athletes. Signed by Governor.

[**HB 2318**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2318)**(McGuire)** **Possession and administration of naloxone; school nurses; local health department employees.**Adds school nurses, local health department employees that are assigned to a public school pursuant to an agreement between the local health department and school board, and other school board employees or individuals contracted by a school board to provide school health services, to the list of individuals who may possess and administer naloxone or other opioid antagonist, provided that they have completed a training program. Signed by Governor.

[**HB1848**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=191&typ=bil&val=hb1848) **(Adams)** **Department of Health Professions; disclosure of investigative information.** Allows the Department of Health Professions and health regulatory boards to disclose otherwise confidential information related to disciplinary hearings to the Virginia Department of Education and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia if such information relates to nursing or nurse aide education programs regulated by the Board of Nursing.

# Student Support

## Access to Student Support

[**HB 2107**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2107)**(Ransone)** **Public schools; parental review of certain anti-bullying and suicide prevention materials.** Requires local school boards to develop and implement policies that ensure parents the right to review any audio-visual materials that contain graphic sexual or violent content used in any anti-bullying or suicide prevention program. Such policies shall require that prior to using any such material, the parent of the child participating in such a program shall be provided written notice of his right to review the material and his right to excuse his child from participating in the part of such program utilizing such material.

[**~~HB 2623~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2623)**~~(Ransone) Public schools; counseling services; parental rights.~~** ~~Directs the Board of Education to develop a model policy for counseling services in public schools, which shall include provisions for parental consent, notification, and involvement, and appropriate exceptions.~~

## Behavior Analysts

[**~~SB 1258~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1258)**~~(Dunnavant) Local school boards; support services positions; behavior analysts.~~** ~~Includes licensed behavior analysts and licensed assistant behavior analysts as support services positions in a local school division for the purposes of Title 22.1 (Education) of the Code of Virginia.~~

## School Counselors

[**HB 1729**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1729)**(Landes) School counselors; nomenclature; staff time.**Changes the name of guidance counselors to school counselors and requires each school counselor employed by a school board in a public elementary or secondary school to spend at least 80 percent of his staff time during normal school hours in the direct counseling of individual students or groups of students. Signed by Governor.

[**HB 2053**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2053)and [**SB 1406**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1406)**(Del. McQuinn & Sen. Dance)** **School boards; staffing ratios; guidance counselors.** Changes the name of guidance counselors to school counselors and requires school boards to employ school counselors in accordance with the outlined ratios, each effective in the 2019 – 2020 school year.

HB2053 stipulates the following for school counselors: in elementary schools, one hour per day per 91 students, one full-time at 455 students, one hour per day additional time per 91 students or major fraction thereof; in middle schools, one period per 74 students, one full-time at 370 students, one additional period per 74 students or major fraction thereof; in high schools, one period per 65 students, one full-time at 325 students, one additional period per 65 students or major fraction thereof.

HB2053 requires that the ratio of the number of school counselors to the number of students as required by law shall be as is included in a general appropriation act passed in 2019 by the General Assembly that becomes law.

SB1406 stipulates the following for school counselors: in elementary schools, one hour per day per 75 students, one full-time at 375 students, one hour per day additional time per 75 students or major fraction thereof; in middle schools, one period per 65 students, one full-time at 325 students, one additional period per 65 students or major fraction thereof; in high schools, one period per 60 students, one full-time at 300 students, one additional period per 60 students or major fraction thereof.

# Study Commissions

[**~~HB 1735~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1735)**~~(Robinson)~~****~~Commission on Student Behavioral Health created.~~** ~~Establishes the Commission on Student Behavioral Health as a legislative branch commission consisting of 12 General Assembly members. The purpose of the Commission shall be to (i) assess the efficacy of developing and implementing a statewide behavioral health and suicide prevention hotline that students may use to report threats of violence or receive real-time counseling services; (ii) review the current school counselor-to-student ratio, and whether the realignment of counseling responsibilities proposed by the House Select Committee on School Safety is improving schools' ability to provide counseling services to students; (iii) review the current roles and responsibilities of school nurses, psychologists, and social workers in schools and determine whether a realignment of responsibilities could improve or streamline behavioral health services offered to students; (iv) evaluate the efficacy and costs of providing enhanced behavioral health services in schools delivered through partnerships established between school divisions and local departments of social services and community services boards; (v) assess the effectiveness of de-escalation and other alternative disciplinary policies when interacting with students suffering from  behavioral health challenges; (vi) examine the value of additional teacher training requirements on student behavioral health, such as mental health first aid; and (vii) examine other topics related to student behavioral health identified by the Commission. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission, upon request. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2021.~~

[**~~HB 2168~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2168)**~~(Yancey) Establishment of the Commission on School Innovation, Modernization, and Competitiveness.~~** ~~Establishes the legislative Commission on School Innovation, Modernization, and Competitiveness (the Commission), consisting of 22 members, including 12 legislative members, eight nonlegislative citizen members, and two ex officio members, to develop and oversee the implementation of a goal and strategic plan for (i) promoting and increasing public high school student participation in dual enrollment courses, industry certifications, and state licensure examinations, (ii) modernizing public elementary and secondary school buildings throughout the Commonwealth, and (iii) achieving the Commonwealth's teacher compensation goal, and (iv) ensuring high quality and accountability at the student and school division levels. The Commission sunsets on July 1, 2022.~~

[**SB 1097**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1097)**(Marsden)** **Commission on Civic Education; sunset; funding.** Extends the sunset of the Commission on Civic Education from July 1, 2019, to July 1, 2020.

[**~~SB 1142~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1142)**~~(Favola)~~****~~State School Health Advisory Committee.~~** ~~Requires the Board of Education to establish the State School Health Advisory Committee, consisting of no more than 20 nonlegislative citizen members, to advise the Board, the Governor, and the General Assembly on (i) the role of employees in public elementary or secondary schools in providing health care services at such schools and (ii) the need for any training associated with delivery of health care services.~~

[**SB 1195**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1195)**(Dance)** **School-based health centers joint task force; report.**Directs the Virginia's Children's Cabinet to establish a school-based health centers joint task force that is tasked with (i) assessing the current landscape of school-based services and mental health screening, evaluation, and treatment in school settings; (ii) in coordination with ongoing behavioral health transformation efforts of the Department of Medical Assistance Services and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, developing best practice recommendations for trauma-informed school-based health centers as a vehicle for the provision of both medical and behavioral health delivered in school settings; (iii) evaluating options for billing public and private insurance for school-based health services; and (iv) developing a plan for establishing a Virginia affiliate member organization, recognized by the national School-Based Health Alliance, for the purposes of providing technical assistance and guidance for localities interested in bolstering or implementing current and future school-based health centers. The bill requires that the task force report its findings by December 1, 2019.

[**SB 1728**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1728)**(Newman)** **Standards of Learning Innovation Committee; repeal.** Repeals the Standards of Learning Innovation Committee effective January 1, 2020.

# Tax Credits

[**SB 1015**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1015) **(Stanley)****Education Improvement Scholarships tax credits; pre-kindergarten eligibility.**Expands the Education Improvement Scholarships tax credits program by including, as eligible scholarship recipients, children enrolled in or attending nonpublic pre-kindergarten programs whose parents or guardians were unable to obtain services for the children through the Virginia Preschool Initiative. The maximum annual scholarship that a child admitted to, enrolled in, or attending a nonpublic pre-kindergarten program will receive is the lesser of the child's actual educational expenses or the state's share of the grant per child under the Virginia Preschool Initiative for the locality in which the child resides.

Under current law, tax credits are awarded to individuals and businesses making donations to nonprofit scholarship foundations using the donated funds to award scholarships to certain students in grades K-12 attending nonpublic schools. Eligible scholarship recipients are students in grades K-12 with a finalized individualized education program (IEP) in place or whose annual household income is not in excess of 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

The bill defines an eligible pre-kindergarten child and a nonpublic pre-kindergarten program and includes several other curriculum and administrative requirements that must be met by a nonpublic pre-kindergarten program in order for children attending the program to be eligible to receive scholarships under the tax credit program. Under the bill, the Virginia Council for Private Education or the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation will certify nonpublic pre-kindergarten programs meeting such curriculum and administrative requirements.

The bill also reduces the penalty for failure to fully disburse all donations received from 200 percent of the difference between 90 percent of the value of the donations it received and the amount disbursed to 100 percent of the difference.

**[SB 1365](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1365) (DeSteph) Education Improvement Scholarships tax credits; benefits and eligibility requirements; eligible students with a disability.** Increases the scholarship amount available for an eligible student with a disability from 100 percent to 300 percent of the per pupil amount distributed to the local school division as the state's share of the standards of quality costs, or the actual qualified educational expenses of the student, whichever is less. The bill broadens the definition of "eligible student with a disability" to include any child who is a resident of Virginia for whom an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) has been written and finalized in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In addition, the family household income of the eligible student with a disability who is receiving the scholarship must not exceed 400 percent of the federal poverty level.

The bill also provides that an eligible student with a disability may only receive the increased amount of scholarship funds if they attend a school for students with disabilities that (i) is licensed by the Department of Education to serve students with disabilities, (ii) complies with the nonpublic school accreditation requirements of the Virginia Association of Independent Schools, (iii) is exempt from taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and (iv) does not receive public funds to supplement the cost of the education of the eligible student with a disability who is receiving the scholarship. The provisions of this bill shall apply to taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2019, but before January 1, 2024.

[**~~SB 1754~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1754)**~~(Hanger)~~****~~Neighborhood Assistance Act tax credits.~~** ~~Allows a neighborhood organization to qualify to receive an allocation of tax credits from the Department of Education if (i) at least 50 percent of the persons served by the neighborhood organization, either directly by the neighborhood organization or through the provision of revenues to other organizations or groups serving such persons, are low-income persons or eligible students with disabilities and (ii) at least 50 percent of the neighborhood organization's revenues are used to provide services to low-income persons or eligible students with disabilities, either directly by the organization or through the provision of revenues to other organizations or groups providing such services.~~

~~The bill also provides that an individual shall be eligible for a tax credit equal to 65 percent of the value of a monetary donation or a donation of marketable securities made to an approved neighborhood organization for education purposes. The credit shall not be issued for any donation made in the taxable year with a value of less than $500 and shall be issued only for the first $125,000 in value of donations made by the individual during the taxable year. Allowing education-related donations to be eligible for the credit equalizes treatment of education and social services donations. Under current law, individuals are only eligible for a tax credit for a donation to an approved neighborhood organization if the donation is for social services purposes.~~

~~The bill also provides that an individual must be a resident of Virginia in order to be considered a low-income person or eligible student with a disability by amending the definitions of those terms.~~

# Teacher Employment, Licensure and Preparation

**[HB 2486](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2486) (Robinson) Teacher licensure; reciprocity; alternate routes.** Requires the Board of Education to develop guidelines that establish a process to permit a school board or any organization sponsored by a school board to petition the Board for approval of an alternate route to licensure that may be used to meet the requirements for a provisional or renewable license or any endorsement. The bill also requires the Board of Education, in its regulations providing for licensure by reciprocity, to grant special consideration to individuals who have successfully completed a program offered by a provider that is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. Incorporated HB 1643 (Hope).

[**HB 2037**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2037)and [**SB 1397**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1397) **(Del. Carrol Foy and Sen. Peake) Teacher licensure; criteria; assessments.**Requires the Board of Education to issue a license to an individual seeking initial licensure who has not completed the professional assessments prescribed by the Board, if such individual (i) holds a provisional license that will expire within three months; (ii) is employed by a school board; (iii) is recommended for licensure by the division superintendent; (iv) has attempted, unsuccessfully, to obtain a qualifying score on the professional assessments prescribed by the Board; (v) has received an evaluation rating of proficient or above on the performance standards for each year of the provisional license, and such evaluation was conducted in a manner consistent with the Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers, Principals, and Superintendents; and (vi) meets all other requirements for initial licensure. The bill removes the requirement that the Board of Education prescribe an assessment of basic skills for individuals seeking entry into an approved education preparation program and establish a minimum passing score for such assessment. SB 1397 has been signed by the Governor. HB 2037 is on the Governor’s desk.

[**HB 2217**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2217)and[**SB 1419**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1419) **(Del. Bourne and Sen. Sturtevant) Department of Education; establishment of microcredential program.**Permits the Department of Education to establish a microcredential program for the purpose of permitting any public elementary or secondary school teacher who holds a renewable or provisional license or any individual who participates in any alternate route to licensure program to complete additional in-person or blended coursework and earn microcredentials in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) endorsement areas, including computer science, for which there is a high need for additional qualified teachers. The bill requires the Department of Education to direct the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure to convene a workgroup including pertinent education stakeholders to determine how any microcredential awarded pursuant to any such program will be used to award add-on endorsements and certifications for teachers in such STEM endorsement areas. The bill provides certain conditions in which in-person coursework in a microcredential program not contributing to an endorsement is eligible for professional development points towards the renewal of a teaching license.HB2217 has been signed by the Governor. SB 1419 is on the Governor’s desk.

[**HB 2325**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2325)**(Thomas) School board employees; discipline; written reprimand.** Requires the Board of Education to include, in its regulations that prescribe the requirements for the licensure of teachers and other school personnel required to hold a license, procedures for the written reprimand of such license holders. The bill permits the Board of Education to issue written reprimand to any such license holder who knowingly and willfully commits a certain enumerated act relating to secure mandatory tests administered to students. The only express disciplinary actions that are permissible under current law in such a scenario are suspension or revocation of such individual's license. The bill also permits a school board or division superintendent to issue written reprimand to a teacher who breaches his employment contract after the school board or division superintendent declines to grant such teacher's request for release from such contract on the grounds of insufficient or unjustifiable cause. The only express disciplinary action that is permissible under current law in such a scenario is revocation of such teacher's license.

[**~~HB 2589~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2589)~~and~~[**SB 1575**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1575)**(~~Del. Tran &~~ Sen. Ebbin) Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure; teacher licensure; dual enrollment and career and technical education.**Grants to the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System voting privileges as an ex-officio member of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure. The bill requires the Advisory Board to report to the Board of Education and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health no later than December 1, 2019, recommendations relating to licensure qualifications for individuals (i) to teach career and technical education courses in a high school setting and (ii) to teach dual enrollment courses in a high school setting. The bill also requires the Board of Education to provide for the issuance of a three-year license to solely teach career and technical education courses or dual enrollment courses at public high schools in the Commonwealth to any individual who is employed as an instructor by an institution of higher education that is accredited by a nationally recognized regional accreditation body, is teaching in the specific career and technical education or dual enrollment subject area at such institution in which the individual seeks to teach at a public school, and complies with certain additional requirements.

[**HB 2702**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2702)**(Orrock) Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and Virginia State University; joint plan for new degree program.** Requires Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and Virginia State University to jointly develop and report to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education and Health no later than October 1, 2019, a plan for the establishment of a baccalaureate or other degree program that prepares graduates to be effective career and technical education teachers in order to address persistent teacher shortages in career and technical education subject areas in the Commonwealth.

[**SB 1227**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1227)**(Chase)** **Licensed local school board instructional or administrative employees; service retirement allowance.** Extends from July 1, 2020, to July 1, 2025, the sunset date for provisions (i) requiring school boards, division superintendents, if so requested, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to annually identify and report critical shortages of teachers and administrative personnel and (ii) permitting any person receiving a service retirement allowance who is hired as a local school board instructional or administrative employee required to be licensed by the Board of Education to elect to continue to receive the retirement allowance during such employment under certain conditions.

[**~~SB 1236~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1236)**~~(DeSteph)~~****~~Public schools; equal access; education employee associations.~~** ~~Requires school boards to adopt and implement policies to ensure that employees have equal access to education employee associations. The bill requires (i) the Department of Education to identify each education employee association operating in the Commonwealth and provide a list of such education employee associations to school boards and (ii) school boards to provide to each employee such list of available employee education associations and post such list on the school division website.~~

[**SB 1433**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1433) **(McClellan) Department of Education; teacher employment data.**Requires the Department of Education, upon the implementation of an automated teacher licensure and intake system, to aggregate and report to each education preparation program certain teacher employment data, as available, regarding such program's graduates.

# Transportation

[**~~HB 2222~~**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2222)**~~(O’Quinn) Local school boards; display of advertising material on school buses.~~** ~~Permits local school boards to display (i) commercial advertising material on the sides of school buses between the rear wheels and the rear of the bus, provided that no such material (a) obstructs the name of the school division or the number of the school bus, (b) is sexually explicit, or (c) pertains to alcohol; food or beverages that do not meet the nutrition standards developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture pursuant to the federal Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 or any additional state or local nutrition standards for food or beverages sold to students in school; gambling; politics; or tobacco and (ii) school-related advertising material, including advertising material relating to school events and school board employment opportunities, on the sides of school buses between the rear wheels and the rear of the bus, provided that no such material obstructs the name of the school division or the number of the school bus.~~

[**SB 1713**](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+SB1713)**(Vogel)** **School bus operators; training.** Requires the Board of Education to include in its training program for school bus operators safety protocols for responding to adverse weather conditions, unsafe conditions during loading and unloading of students, students on the wrong bus, and other circumstances, as determined by the Board, where student safety is at risk.

[**HB2344**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2344) **and** [**SB1520**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=191&typ=bil&val=sb1520) **(Del. & Sen. Carrico)** **Department of Motor Vehicle records; certain private vendors; penalty.**Requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to release certain vehicle owner data, upon request, to a private vendor operating a video-monitoring system on or in a school bus. The bill limits how such data can be used and stored and provides that any person who unlawfully discloses such data is subject to a civil penalty of $1,000 for each disclosure. The bill provides that drivers required to stop for a stopped school bus shall remain stopped until the school bus is put in motion.