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

## Date: April 25, 2019

### Title: Report on Changing Timeline and Expanding Review of the *Health Education Standards of Learning* from Grades Nine and Ten, as required by House Bill 1604 and Senate Bill 953 (2018), to Reviewing all *Health Education Standards of Learning* in response to 2019 Virginia General Assembly legislation *(written report)*

#### Presenter: Mrs. Vanessa C. Wigand, Coordinator for Health Education

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## Purpose of Presentation:

For information only. No action required.

## Executive Summary:

In 2018, the Virginia General Assembly through House Bill 1604 (Robert B. Bell) and Senate Bill 953 (R. Creigh Deeds) amended § [22.1-207](http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-207) of the *Code of Virginia,* directing the Board of Education to review the *Health Education Standards of Learning* for students in grades nine and ten to include mental health. *“Such health instruction shall incorporate standards that recognize the multiple dimensions of health by including mental health and the relationship of physical and mental health so as to enhance student understanding, attitudes, and behavior that promote health, well-being, and human dignity.”* In its review, the Board shall consult with mental health experts, including representatives from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, NAMI Virginia, Mental Health America of Virginia, the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, and VOCAL.

In 2019, the Virginia General Assembly through [House Bill 1881](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+HB1881ER) (Mark Lee Keam) amended  
§ [22.1-206](http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-206) to include “*C. Instruction concerning the health and safety risks of using nicotine vapor products, as that term is defined in §* [*18.2-371.2*](http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/18.2-371.2)*, shall be provided in the public schools.”* Further, several bills were introduced to amend § [22.1-207](http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-207) of the *Code of Virginia,* directing “*the Board of Education to review and update the health Standards of Learning for students in all grades ~~nine and 10~~ to include mental health*.” In lieu of legislation, however, a verbal request was made to review and update the health Standards of Learning to include mental health for all grades.

Using an established review process and criteria, the Board of Education received the anticipated timeline for the review of the *Health Education Standards of Learning* (2015) for students in grades nine and ten to include mental health at the January 24, 2019 meeting. Attachment A – Schedule for the Review of *Health Education Standards of Learning* is the amended timeline for the review of the *Health Education Standards of Learning* (2015)*.*

## Action Requested:

No action requested.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive the proposed amended timeline for the review of the *Health Education Standards of Learning*.

## Previous Review or Action:

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

Date: January 22, 2015

Action: Adopted proposed revisions to the *Health Education Standards of Learning.*

Date: October 18, 2018

Action: Accepted the written report on the Timeline for Review of the *Health Education Standards of Learning* for Grades Nine and Ten, as required by House Bill 1604 and Senate Bill 953 (2018).

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

The Board of Education has made a commitment to maintain rigorous and relevant expectations for student learning that meet or exceed national and international benchmarks for college and career readiness.

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

The *Health Education Standards of Learning* were adopted on January 22, 2015, and may be reviewed online at [2015 Health Standards of Learning](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/health/index.shtml).

In 2018, the Virginia General Assembly amended the *Code of Virginia*, § [22.1-207](http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-207) to include: “Physical and health education shall be emphasized throughout the public school curriculum by lessons, drills*,* and physical exercises, and all pupils in the public elementary, middle, and high schools shall receive as part of the educational program such health instruction and physical training as shall be prescribed by the Board of Education and approved by the State Board of Health. *Such health instruction shall incorporate standards that recognize the multiple dimensions of health by including mental health and the relationship of physical and mental health so as to enhance student understanding, attitudes, and behavior that promote health, well-being, and human dignity.*

2. That the Board of Education shall review and update the health *Standards of Learning* for students in grades nine and ten to include mental health. In its review, the Board shall consult with mental health experts, including representatives from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, NAMI Virginia, Mental Health America of Virginia, the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, and VOCAL.”

In 2019, the Virginia General Assembly through House Bill 1881 (Mark Lee Keam) amended  
§ [22.1-206](http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-206) to include “*C. Instruction concerning the health and safety risks of using nicotine vapor products, as that term is defined in §* [*18.2-371.2*](http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/18.2-371.2)*, shall be provided in the public schools.”* Further, several bills were introduce to amend § [22.1-207](http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-207) of the *Code of Virginia,* directing “*the Board of Education to review and update the health Standards of Learning for students in all grades ~~nine and 10~~ to include mental health*.”

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

It is anticipated that an action item with proposed changes to the *Health Education Standards of Learning* will be presented to the Virginia Board of Education for first review in August 2019.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

Any costs associated with the standards review process will be absorbed by the Virginia Department of Education existing resources according to state procurement policies and procedures.

# Attachment A

## SCHEDULE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE *HEALTH EDUCATION STANDARDS OF LEARNING*

**April 2019** The Department of Education presents the schedule for the review of the *Health Education Standards of Learning* to the Board of Education.

A Superintendent’s Memorandum is distributed that:

* announces the schedule of the review process;
* announces the availability of *Health Education Standards of Learning* review/comment pages on the Department of Education’s website;
* requests that division superintendents share information about the website with instructional staff; and
* requests that division superintendents submit nominations for review team members.

The Department of Education posts on its webpage a SOL review/comment for the 2015 *Health Education Standards of Learning*. The page will be active for 30 days.

**May 2019**  The Department of Education identifies members of the review team and other stakeholders.

The Department of Education shall consult with mental health experts, including representatives from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, NAMI Virginia, Mental Health America of Virginia, the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, and VOCAL.

**June 2019** The Department of Education aggregates and conducts a preliminary analysis of the comments entered by email through the webpage.

The *Health Education Standards of Learning* review team will meet to:

* analyze statewide input;
* review national documents and reports as necessary; and
* make recommendations for potential changes.

**July 2019** The Department of Education prepares a draft of the standards that reflect the review team’s comments.

A draft of the proposed *Health Education Standards of Learning* is made available to institutions of higher education and professional organizations for review and comment.

The Department of Education and the steering committee (a subgroup of the review team) meet to discuss and review the draft *Health Education Standards of Learning*.

**September 2019** The Department of Education presents the draft of the *Health Education Standards of Learning* documents to the Board of Education for first review.

**October –** The proposed *Health Education Standards of Learning* document are

**November 2019** distributed for public comment.

The document is placed on the Department of Education’s website for review, and public hearings are held as prescribed by the Board of Education.

**January 2020** The Superintendent of Public Instruction presents the proposed *Health Education Standards of Learning* to the Board of Education for final review and adoption. The final document is posted on the Department of Education’s website.