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

## Date: October 17, 2019

### Title: ****First Review of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's Recommendation for *Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure in Response to House Bill 2486* (2019 General Assembly)****

#### Presenter: Mrs. Patty S. Pitts, Assistant Superintendent for Teacher Education and Licensure

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## Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

**Executive Summary:**   
The Department of Education established a workgroup on August 27, 2019, to recommend to the Board of Education *Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure* ***in Response to House Bill 2486 of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly***. This initiative supports the Board of Education’s Comprehensive Plan to advance policies that increase the number of candidates entering the teaching profession and encourage and support the recruitment, development, and retention of well prepared and skilled teachers.

The workgroup was composed of school division human resources officials; an assistant superintendent; a teacher; university administrator; and representatives from the Virginia Education Association, Virginia Association of School Superintendents, Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals, Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals, Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, Virginia Community College System, and the Virginia Department of Education. The workgroup was facilitated by the Assistant Superintendent of Teacher Education and Licensure, Department of Education.

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) reviewed the recommendations of the workgroup on September 23, 2019. Pursuant to Section 22.1-305.2 of the *Code of Virginia*, ABTEL “shall advise the Board of Education and submit recommendations on policies applicable to the qualifications, examination, licensure, and regulation of school personnel…” ABTEL reviewed the workgroup’s report and recommended a few revisions.

Attached is ABTEL’s report recommending *Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure* ***in Response to House Bill 2486 of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly***. The Advisory Board unanimously approved the recommendations to be submitted to the Virginia Board of Education. As required by statute, the Board of Education must approve *Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure* by December 1, 2019.

## Action Requested:

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

## November 14, 2019

## Superintendent’s Recommendation:

## The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends the Board of Education receive for first review the *Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure* ***in Response to House Bill 2486 of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly.***

## Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

Background Information and Statutory Authority:   
Attached is the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure’s recommendation for *Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure* ***in Response to House Bill 2486 of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly.***

House Bill 2486 of the Virginia General Assembly states, in part, the following:

§ [**22.1-298.1**](http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-298.1). **Regulations governing licensure.**

1. As used in this section:

“Alternate route to licensure” means a nontraditional route to teacher licensure available to individuals who meet the criteria specified in the *guidelines developed pursuant to subjection* *M* or regulations issued by the Board of Education….

…K. The Board shall include in its regulations an alternate route to licensure for elementary education preK-6 and an alternate route to licensure for special education general curriculum K-12. Each such alternate route to licensure shall require individuals to (i) meet the qualifying scores on the content area assessment prescribed by the Board for the endorsements sought and (ii) complete an alternative certification program that provides training in the pedagogy and methodology of the respective content or special education areas prescribed by the Board. The curriculum of any such alternative certification program shall be approved by the Board. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude the Board from establishing other alternate routes to licensure.

L. The Board, in its regulations providing for licensure by reciprocity established pursuant to subsection J, shall*(i)* permit applicants to submit third-party employment verification forms *and (ii) 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*.

*M. The Board shall 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. Any such alternate route may include alternatives to the regulatory requirements for teacher preparation, including alternative professional assessments and coursework. The petitioner may proffer or the Board may impose conditions in conjunction with the approval of such petition.*

2. That the Board of Education shall develop guidelines as required by subsection M of § [**22.1-298.1**](http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-298.1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, no later than December 1, 2019.

The Department of Education established a workgroup on August 27, 2019, to recommend *Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure* ***in Response to House Bill 2486 of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly***. Pursuant to Section 22.1-305.2 of the *Code of Virginia*, ABTEL “shall advise the Board of Education and submit recommendations on policies applicable to the qualifications, examination, licensure, and regulation of school personnel…”

The workgroup was composed of school division human resources officials; an assistant superintendent; a teacher; university administrator; and representatives from the Virginia Education Association, Virginia Association of School Superintendents, Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals, Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals, Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, Virginia Community College System, and the Virginia Department of Education. The workgroup was facilitated by the Assistant Superintendent of Teacher Education and Licensure, Department of Education. Refer to the attachment for the membership of the workgroup.

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) reviewed the recommendations of the workgroup on September 23, 2019. ABTEL requested the following recommendations for edits in the guidelines to require:

* Programs to be initially reviewed by the Board of Education for a three-year period and then renewed for a seven-year period;
* Program proposals under the topic of “PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND JUSTIFICATION” to include a description of the capacity to deliver the program, including faculty/instructors’ qualifications and the background and expertise of the program provider; and
* Proposals to be reviewed by a panel convened by the Department of Education and restate that the Virginia Board of Education must approve programs.

The Advisory Board unanimously approved the recommendations to be submitted to the Virginia Board of Education. As required by statute, the Board of Education must approve Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure by December 1, 2019.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: The recommended *Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure* ***in Response to House Bill 2486 of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly*** will be presented to the Board of Education for final review on November 17, 2019. The Virginia General Assembly required that the Board of Education must develop the guidelines no later than December 1, 2019.  
  
**Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:**

The administrative impact will be absorbed within existing resources.