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

## Date: June 28, 2018

### Title: First Review of Proposal to Establish the Governor’s Health Sciences Academy at T. C. Williams High School

#### Presenter: Mr. George R. Willcox, Acting Director, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

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## Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by Board of Education regulation.

## Executive Summary:

The Governor’s Health Sciences Academy initiative is designed to increase career options for students in high-demand, high-wage, and high-skill occupations within the eight regions of the Commonwealth. The Academy must offer students a well-articulated plan of study consisting of rigorous academic and technical content for each of the five career pathways within the Health Sciences Cluster. The Academy must implement at least two pathways in year one; and the remaining three pathways must be fully implemented within the following three years. Strong partnerships developed among the school divisions, healthcare institutions, business and industry, higher education institutions, and other community organizations is a key component of the Academy.

The Academy’s plans of study are aligned with Priority 1 of the Virginia Board of Education Comprehensive Plan: 2018-2023. The plans of study focus on each of the five career pathways within the Health Science Career Cluster – Therapeutic Services, Diagnostic Services, Health Informatics, Support Services, and Biotechnology Research and Development.

The proposed beginning date for the Governor’s Health Sciences Academy at T. C. Williams High School, Alexandria City Public Schools is school year 2018-2019.

## Action Requested:

Other. Specify below:

The Board is requested to waive first review and approve the proposal to establish the Governor’s Health Sciences Academy at T.C. Williams High School, Alexandria City Public Schools.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the proposal to establish the Governor’s Health Sciences Academy at T. C. Williams High School, Alexandria City Public Schools.

## Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

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

On August 20, 2017, the Virginia Department of Education announced planning/implementation grants in the amount of $5,000 each for establishment of Governor’s Health Sciences Academies in the eight superintendents’ regions. The Governor’s Health Sciences Academies are intended to expand options for students to acquire health science literacy and other critical knowledge, skills, and credentials that will prepare them for high-demand, high-wage, and high-skill careers in Virginia.

These academies are the contextual learning complement to Virginia’s successful Governor’s Schools and Governor’s Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Academies. The Governor’s Health Sciences Academies offer five career pathways addressing both immediate regional skill gaps and longer-term health science related strategic skill gaps identified by the state through high standards, recognition, acceleration options, and industry and higher education partnerships.

The Governor’s Health Sciences Academies shall consist of partnerships of one or more public school divisions or multiple schools within a school division, healthcare institutions, business and industry, and higher education institutions; and offer rigorous academic content with career and technical instruction. The academy must include specialty programs within the five career pathways.

Additionally, the Academy proposal must be reviewed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), a representative of the appropriate Health and Medical Sciences regulatory agency, and approved by the Virginia Board of Education. Partners should take this process into consideration when preparing a planning and implementation timeline. The process includes the following steps:

1. Governor’s Health Sciences Academy must be partnerships of business and industry; public school divisions, health care institutions, and higher education institutions, and may include local government, including local work force and economic development entities.
2. Partnerships desiring to implement a Governor’s Health Sciences Academy shall provide the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) with documentation of the following:
3. The existence of an active, ongoing Governor’s Health Sciences Acadmey Planning Committee. The partners must include at least two or more division superintendents, regional healthcare executives, and postsecondary representatives.
4. A statement that demonstrates the need/rationale for the Academy. This statement should be concise and state the important reasons for offering a Governor’s Health Sciences Academy that provides enhanced or additional offerings in health sciences and career and technical education.
5. Identification of the fiscal agent, which must be a school division.
6. A description of the proposed program, including site location, number of students, grade levels, and general curriculum design.
7. A written memorandum of agreement, among the regional school divisions, healthcare institutions, businesses, and postsecondary institutions, and any other partners. This agreement will suggest ways in which community resources will contribute to the Governor’s Health Sciences Academy to broaden the scope of the students’ educational experiences.
8. A statement of assurance that the Governor’s Health Sciences Academy Planning Committee has reviewed provisions of the [*Administrative Procedures Guide for the Establishment of a Governor’s Health Sciences Academy*](http://doe.virginia.gov/instruction/career_technical/gov_health_sciences_academies/health_sciences_academy_guidance.docx)and agrees to follow the guidelines set forth in the document.
9. A statement of assurance that an ongoing Governing Board will be established to reflect current Board of Education regulations relative to jointly operated schools and programs.
10. The Department of Education will review the proposal and documentation and forward the completed proposal to SCHEV and the appropriate health and medical sciences regulatory agencies.
11. The appropriate health and medical sciences regulatory agency will review the proposal to determine if it meets the criteria for a Governor’s Health Sciences Academy and will recommend or not recommend the proposal to the Board of Education.
12. The Board of Education will approve or deny designation as a Governor’s Health Sciences Academy.
13. At any point in the process, the applicant may withdraw its proposal from consideration and resubmit at a later time if desired.
14. The VDOE will provide technical assistance to programs during the planning and implementation process as needed.

## **Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

Upon Board approval, the document will be posted on its website. The Department staff will provide technical assistance as requested and collect annual academy performance data.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

The administrative impact pursuant to the establishment of the academy is expected to be minimal.