# Agenda Item: H

## Date: March 23, 2023

## Title: First Review of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and

## Licensure's Recommendation to Approve New Education (Endorsement) Programs

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## Presenter: Dr. Joan B. Johnson, 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 Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia

[(8VAC20-543)](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter543/) requires that the Virginia Board of Education (Board) approve requests from

Virginia institutions of higher education to add new endorsement programs. Requests for new

programs must be submitted annually by March 31.

Board regulation [8VAC20-543-30](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter543/section30/) requires institutions seeking education program approval to

establish partnerships and collaborations based on PreK-12 school needs. All institutions of

higher education provided a copy of the Virginia Department of Education – Standards for

Biennial Approval of Education Programs Accountability Measurement of Partnerships and

Collaborations Based on PreK-12 School Needs Education Programs form for the requested

program endorsement area.

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) staff have verified program endorsement

competencies through the review of course descriptions and syllabi to determine alignment with

regulatory criteria, including supervised classroom instruction. A review of the Request for New

Endorsement Program application submitted by the institution includes evidence of written

documentation of school divisions’ demand data, as well as institutional and school division

support for the requested programs.

During meetings on January 9, 2023, and February 6, 2023, the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) recommended that the Board grant approval for the new endorsement programs. The following is a list of the institutions of higher education and the new endorsements requested.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **College/University**  | **Education Endorsement Program**  | **Program Level**  |
| **Averett University** | Early/Primary Education PreK-3 | Undergraduate |
| **Hollins University** | Elementary Education PreK-6 | Undergraduate |
| **Mary Baldwin University** | Elementary Education PreK-6 | Undergraduate |
| **Randolph College** | Science-Biology | Graduate |

Approving new education programs aligns with the Board’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

and school leaders.

## Action Requested:

Action will be requested at a future meeting.

April 20, 2023

## Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept for

first review, ABTEL's recommendation to approve New Education (Endorsement) Programs.

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## Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

## Background Information and Statutory Authority:

## The Code of Virginia requires education preparation programs to meet requirements for accreditation and program approval as prescribed by the Board in its regulations.

[**§ 22.1-298.2. Regulations governing education preparation programs**](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter15/section22.1-298.2/)**.**

A. As used in this section, "education preparation program" includes four-year bachelor's

degree programs in teacher education.

B. Education preparation programs shall meet the requirements for accreditation and

program approval as prescribed by the Board in its regulations.

C. The Board’s regulations shall provide for education preparation programs

offered by institutions of higher education, Virginia public school divisions, and certified

providers for alternate routes to licensure.

D. The Board may prescribe requirements for admission to Virginia's approved education.

preparation programs in its regulations.

E. The Board shall establish accountability measures for approved education programs. Data shall be submitted to the Board no less than on a biennial basis.

The Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia

([8VAC20-543](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter543/)) set forth the requirements for the accreditation and approval of programs

preparing teachers, administrators, and other instructional personnel requiring licensure in order

to ensure educational quality for Virginia public school students. Colleges and universities that

offer programs for the preparation of professional school personnel must obtain education

endorsement program approval from the Board. Requests to offer new education endorsement

programs are submitted to the VDOE. VDOE staff reviews programs to ensure competencies and other requirements have been addressed.

The Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia

([8VAC20-543](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter543/)) stipulate the following:

**VAC20-543-30. Application for New Education Endorsement Programs**.

*Part III Application for New Education Endorsement Programs*

*A. Requests for new education endorsement programs shall be approved by the Virginia*

*Board of Education*.

*B. The professional education program shall submit a request for the new program in a*

*format provided by the Department of Education that shall address the following*

*requirements:*

*1. Rationale for the new education endorsement program, to include local*

*division or service area demand data and statements of support from the*

*institution's dean, provost, president, or designee and Virginia school divisions. A summary of the stakeholders involvement in the development of the education*

*endorsement program must be included.*

*2. Capacity of the institution to offer the education endorsement program.*

*3. List of the requirements for the education endorsement program, to include the*

*degree, major, and the curriculum.*

*4. Matrices demonstrating that the competencies set forth in this chapter have*

*been incorporated in the education endorsement program.*

*5. Description of structured and integrated field experiences to include early*

*clinical experiences and a summative supervised student teaching experience.*

*6. Description of the partnerships and collaborations based on preK-12 school*

*Needs.*

Requests from Virginia institutions of higher education to add new education endorsement

programs must be approved by the Board. Requests are submitted by March 31 of each year.

Program specialists at the VDOE have reviewed the requests for the new education endorsement

programs. VDOE staff have verified program endorsement competencies, based on the

*Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia*, were

verified through the review of course descriptions and syllabi to determine alignment with

regulatory criteria each of the competencies required, including supervised classroom instruction.

A review of the Request for New Endorsement Program application submitted by the institution

evidenced written documentation of school division’s demand data, as well as institutional and

school division support for the requested programs.

Board regulation [8VAC20-543-30](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter543/) requires institutions seeking education program approval to

establish partnerships and collaborations based on PreK-12 school needs. All institutions of

higher education submitted the form, *Standards for Biennial Approval of Education Programs*

*Accountability Measurement of Partnerships and Collaborations Based on PreK-12 School*

*Needs Education Programs*, for the requested program endorsement areas.

## Timetable for Further Review/Action:

It anticipated that this item would come back to the Board for final review at its April 20,2023, meeting. Upon Board approval, the institutions will be notified, and the programs will be

posted on the VDOE website.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

The administrative impact of this process will be absorbed within existing agency resources.