# Agenda Item: O-Report

## Date: April 20, 2023

## Title: Report from the College Partnership Laboratory School Standing Committee

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## Presenter: Andy Rotherham, Standing Committee Member

**Bill Hansen, Standing Committee Member**

**Jim Chapman, Regulatory and Legal Coordinator**

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## Purpose of Presentation:

For information only: No action required.

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## Executive Summary:

The College Partnership Laboratory Schools Standing Committee (Standing Committee) of the Board of Education (Board) met on April 12, 2023.

The Standing Committee unanimously approved a lab school application life cycle visualization (Attachment A). The purpose of this document is to offer a transparent visualization of the application process, delineate roles and responsibilities, and create a predictable path for the Board, applicants, the public and stakeholders. This document aligns to State Board practices, such as the inclusion of a public comment period. Together with the previously approved Standing Committee meeting calendar, the Standing Committee has worked to create a planned, transparent timeline and process to review lab school applications.

As part of the review process, the Standing Committee offers four recommendations to the Board:

1. **Lab School Planning Grant PLC:** The Standing Committee recommends the Board support the creation of a professional learning community (PLC) for planning grant awardees.
2. **Technical Assistance:** The Standing Committee recommends the Board support internal or external technical assistance for lab school applicants.
3. **Lab School PLC:** The Standing Committee recommends that the Board support the creation of a Lab School PLC, for lab schools approved by the Board as they operate in the Commonwealth.
4. **\*Expedited Review Process:** Given the use of the Standing Committee to review and deliberate on lab school applications, the Board may consider an expedited review process—where the Board waives first review—if the application is recommended by the Standing Committee (at the discretion of the Board). The use of the expedited review process would be the sole discretion of the Board.

The Standing Committee previewed revisions to the original Lab School Application which was approved by the Board on July 26, 2012, and updated August 31, 2022 (updated for date restrictions only). The document will undergo additional review by VDOE and the Standing Committee, and in turn, the Board. The goal of the review is (1) to clarify and prompt more complete information from the institutes of higher education; (2) to ensure inclusion and alignment with *Code of Virginia* (and applicable federal law or regulations); and (3) to apply a continuous improvement process to refine the application.

In addition, the Standing Committee recommended that Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) staff begin an internal review of lab school related documents and create additional documents to build a durable, transparent ecosystem to support innovation and lab school application review and consideration. The documents will help clarify roles and responsibilities, refine the application, create an evaluation rubric, align the application to evaluation rubrics, create a VDOE report to the Standing Committee, and prepare a report from the Standing Committee to advise the Board.

The Standing Committee also discussed the need for the following VDOE resources or connections to build an ecosystem to support innovation and lab schools. These tools would help build a durable foundation to support innovation by applying lessons learned from prior innovation models, equipping education stakeholders with new information, and applying continuous improvement process improvement to VDOE and the Committee’s work.

1. **Provide a 10-year history of innovation in education in Virginia.** This catalog of knowledge would include the types of schools that have been implemented (e.g., Governor’s Schools), GPS map the models, include lessons learned from this work and available data.
2. **Develop a process to apply lessons learned in the lab school processes.** Develop and apply a continuous improvement process to identify “points of friction” in the planning grant process or application process, and work to model best in class “points of learning” to reduce friction and improve the process and outcomes.
3. **Identify “points of friction” and pathways to resolution.**  This may include VDOE preparing a resource document to identify elements in the VA Lab School Statute where waivers or may not be permitted, and should flexibility exist, the process, steps, and application to request such flexibility. This may include additional education for institutions of higher education on lab school requirements.
4. **Identify and catalog new or existing federal funding that support innovation.** This may include VDOE collecting and sharing information on changes in federal policy or federal funding opportunities that could support innovation, such as the recent change to support teacher apprenticeships programs. Mr. Bailey and the VDOE team would work together to collect and share this information.
5. **Create a connection with SCHEV** to share information regarding institutes of higher education relative to lab school development and lesson learned, such as insights on teacher preparation or instructional models at lab schools.

VDOE staff will update the Standing Committee on progress and suggestions at the next meeting on May 1, 2023.

## Action Requested:

No action required.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive this written report.

## Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

**Background Information and Statutory Authority:**

Subsection A of § [22.1-349.6](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter19.1/section22.1-349.6/) of the Code of Virginia states, in part, that “[t]he Board shall establish procedures for receiving, reviewing, and ruling upon applications and shall make a copy of any such procedures available to all interested parties upon request. . . . The Board’s review procedures shall establish a review committee that may include experts with the operation of similar schools located in other states.”