



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**DATE:** April 27, 2023  
**TO:** Division Superintendents  
**FROM:** Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
**SUBJECT:** **Board of Education Meetings on April 19–20, 2023**

The Virginia Board of Education (Board) convened for its regularly scheduled meetings last week on April 19 and 20. The Board considered numerous items that are of interest to students, parents, and school divisions, including the History and Social Science Standards of learning, the suspension of chronic absenteeism in the 2022–2023 accreditation calculation, and approval of sprint-to-spring growth calculations. A full agenda is [available on the Virginia Department of Education's website](#).

The most notable item on the Board's agenda was the final review of the Proposed Revised History and Social Science Standards of Learning (the Standards). After detailed review during its Wednesday meeting, the Board unanimously adopted the Standards on Thursday. The approved Standards offer a sweeping revision of the previous Standards that significantly increase content knowledge. The standards raise the Commonwealth's aspirations for history and social science instruction, while also restoring excellence, curiosity, and excitement around teaching and learning history.

The Board retained chronic absenteeism as one of the factors included in accreditation ratings for the 2023–2024 school year. The Board emphasized the importance of school attendance and the correlation between attendance and student achievement.

Consistent with the Governor's [Executive Directive 3](#), the Board continues to consider opportunities to allow alternate routes to teacher licensure. At its March meeting, the Board

[approved a petition for an alternate route from Arlington Public Schools](#). Another petition, this from numerous school divisions looking to partner with iTeach, was discussed last week and will return to the Board at its June meeting.

Additional items of note include revisions to the Board's [High Quality Work-Based Learning Guide](#) and [Approved Industry Credentials, Occupational Competency Assessments, and Professional Licenses](#).

I am incredibly proud of the work our Board is doing and the wonderful service its members offer to our schools, teachers, parents, and—most importantly—our children.

For questions regarding the Board of Education, please contact Jim Chapman, Interim Director of Board Relations, at [Jim.Chapman@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Jim.Chapman@doe.virginia.gov).

LC/jc