# Agenda Item: A

## Date: June 5, 2023

**Title:** **SVCC – VDOE Documentation of Complete and Compliant Application**

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## Presenter: Dr. Jeremy Raley, Chief of Staff of the Virginia Department of Education

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## Email: [Jeremy.Raley@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:jeremy.raley@doe.virginia.gov) Phone: 804-546-1496

## Purpose of Presentation

Review of documentation of complete and compliant College Partnership Laboratory School Application for Southern Career Academy, a laboratory school proposal from a collaboration between Southside Virginia Community College and Mecklenburg County High School.

## Executive Summary

The laboratory school application entitled Southern Virginia Career Academy (“SVCA Application”) was received from Southside Virginia Community College and Mecklenburg County High School (“Applicants”) on April 10, 2023. In accordance with the College Partnership Laboratory School Application Process, the SVCA Application was reviewed for completion and compliance by the Application Review Technical Expert Committee, a team of Virginia Department of Education Subject Matter Experts (“VDOE SME”). The goal of the Application Review Technical Expert Committee is to document the needed technical expertise and provide counseling to the Applicants to identify and correct any potential deficiencies in the planning and implementation of the proposed College Partnership Laboratory School, determine compliance with state law or regulation, highlight potential problems or red flags with information contained in the SVCA Application, and to identify aspects of the proposal that are especially exciting or unique.

Dr. Jeremy Raley, Chief of Staff of the Virginia Department of Education, coordinated the efforts of the VDOE SME team who reviewed the SVCA Application and the SVCA Addendum for completeness and compliance. The VDOE SME team is comprises the following VDOE staff:

* Dr. Jeremy Raley, Chief of Staff
* Mr. Kent Dickey, Deputy Director of Budget, Finance, and Operations
* Dr. Samantha Hollins, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Student Services
* Ms. Melissa Velazquez, Assistant Superintendent of Policy and Communication
* Dr. Brendon Albon, Director of STEM and Innovation
* Mr. Jim Chapman, Director of Board Relations
* Ms. Maggie Clemmons, Director of Licensure and School Leadership
* Dr. Leslie Sale, Director of Policy
* Ms. Amy Siepka, Director of Accountability
* Ms. Rebecca Askew, Senior Policy Analyst

Each VDOE SME was provided with the College Partnership Laboratory School Criteria Checklist Worksheet. Areas of expertise were assigned to various staff subject to their education expertise at the VDOE. A compilation of these comments is included in the Excel spreadsheet entitled VDOE Completeness and Compliance Report (Attachment 3).

The first round of counseling from VDOE SME review was provided to the Applicants in April and May of 2023 via phone call and written documentation from the VDOE SME. The Applicants analyzed the feedback constructively and provided an SVCA Addendum with responses to each of the VDOE SME action discussion points. The SVCA Addendum to the original SVCA Application was received by VDOE on May 23, 2023. The VDOE SME met via conference call on May 25, 2023, to provide insights and feedback on the SVCA Addendum for completion of this report to the Laboratory School Standing Committee. No additional feedback has been provided to the Applicants.

The approval of College Partnership Laboratory Schools is in alignment with Priority 1 of the [Board of Education Comprehensive Plan 2018-2023](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1154/637946384285670000): provide high-quality, effective learning environments for all students.

## Action Requested

The SVCA application is being submitted to the College Partnership Laboratory Schools Standing Committee (“Standing Committee) for first review.

If accepted for first review with no additional comments or requests for information from the Standing Committee, the application will be posted for public comment on the VDOE website, consistent with the Standing Committee application process.

Public comment on the application will be compiled by VDOE staff and returned to the Standing Committee for final review at its next meeting.

## VDOE Recommendation

The concept of a dual enrollment career academy proposed by the SVCA Application and Addendum is an innovative and desirable laboratory school program. With the students remaining enrolled in MCPS, it appears SVCA functions more as a program than a standalone Lab School. This is an acceptable approach to meeting the intent of the lab school concept.

The Applicants responded very well to initial feedback and coaching provided by the VDOE SME team, and provided the additional information requested. Along with the SVCA Addendum, the Applicants included nine (9) letters of reference supporting the proposed laboratory school. Many of those letters were from local industry, including Microsoft.

The strengths of the SVCA proposal includes using AVID and DEALS as the basis for the program as it is an already known and successful curriculum. In addition, the Applicants have a strong and sustainable governance structure, including a sustainable financial model for the operation of the lab school program.

The Virginia Department of Education will continue to collaborate with the Applicants to meet the needs of the mandated state SOL program, as well as to collaborate to support any teacher licensure needs that may arise in the future.

Overall, the VDOE recommends the SVCA Program is operational and ready to implement.

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## Previous Review or Action

No previous review or action by the Laboratory School Committee.

**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.”