

# Report On 2023

# General Assembly

# Activity

This report provides an update on legislative and budget

provisions related to prek-12 education as well as

early childhood care and licensure that passed during

the 2023 regular and special sessions of the general assembly.

July 1, 2023

Virginia Department of Education

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## Assessments

[HB1629](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1629) (Coyner) ([CH652](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0652)) /[SB1329](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1329) (McClellan) ([CH653](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0653)) Board of Education; creation and maintenance of Virginia Parent Data Portal; report. Requires the Board of Education, on or before July 1, 2025, to create and maintain the Virginia Parent Data Portal that, among other things, (i) displays individualized student assessment data on all state-supported assessments, as that term is defined in the bill, (a) in a format that shows both current and cumulative data over time and (b) within 45 days of a state-supported assessment window closing for each state-supported assessment; (ii) provides a description of the purpose of each state-supported assessment, an explanation of how to interpret student data on each state-supported assessment, and a comparison of a student's performance on each state-supported assessment with the performance of the student's school, the student's school division, and the Commonwealth; (iii) is viewable from a mobile device in addition to a desktop computer; and (iv) provides functionality to enable school division personnel to manage and restrict user access to students and their parents.

The bill requires the Board and the Department of Education to provide certain guidance and technical assistance to local school divisions on professional development for principals and teachers in parent engagement on and interpretation of student assessment data available through the Portal and requires each school board to annually provide high-quality professional development to principals and teachers on such topics. The foregoing provisions of the bill do not become effective unless reenacted by the 2024 Session of the General Assembly.

Finally, the bill establishes a work group for the purpose of advising the Board of Education on the criteria for and the process of procuring the goods and services necessary to implement the Portal and requires such work group to submit a report containing its findings and any recommendations to the Board of Education and the General Assembly no later than November 1, 2023.

[HB1820](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0524) (Avoli) ([CH524](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0524)) Virtual school programs; virtual through-year growth assessment administration. Permits, subject to certain enumerated conditions, any student enrolled in a virtual school program to take any beginning-of-year or mid-year growth assessment required pursuant to relevant law in a virtual setting that best meets the educational needs of the student.

[HB1884](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0157) (Wampler) ([CH157](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0157)) Standards of Learning assessment revision work group; consideration of effectiveness of assessments for students with disabilities. Requires the work group established by the Secretary of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to study and develop a plan relating to revisions to Standards of Learning assessments to consider the effectiveness of assessments for students with disabilities, including the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program for those students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, and the use of those assessments to improve and individualize instruction.

[HB2225](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB2225) (Batten) ([CH158](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0158)) /[SB1253](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1253) (Dunnavant) ([CH159](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0159)) Certain student assessment results; availability. Requires each school board to provide teachers, parents, principals, and other school leaders with their students' results on any Standards of Learning assessment or Virginia Alternate Assessment Program assessment as soon as practicable after the assessment is administered.

[HB2469](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0525) (Cherry) ([CH525](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0525)) Department of Education; Standards of Learning assessment revision work group; timeline for Request for Proposal for provider of revised assessments. Prohibits the Department of Education from releasing a Request for Proposal for a provider of revised Virginia Standards of Learning summative assessments of proficiency until after the work group convened for the purpose of developing a plan for the implementation of such revised assessments has submitted its initial iteration of such plan. The bill permits the Department of Education to extend the current state assessment contract until December 31, 2025, to ensure continuity in the administration of the state assessment program.

## Career & Technical Education, Workforce and Work-base Learning

[SB1277](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0145) (Dunnavant) ([CH145](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0145)) High school students; academic credit for certain work experience and fine arts programs; guidelines. Directs the Board of Education to develop guidelines and policies permitting any high school student in grades 11 and 12 to earn one-half standard unit of credit per semester for employment in certain fields or industries or participation in certain fine arts programs in which such student works or participates a certain minimum number of hours per week for each week of the semester, as determined by the Board. The bill requires the Board to collaborate with and seek input from the Coordinator of Fine Arts for the Department of Education and a representative from the Virginia Coalition for Fine Arts Education in developing and implementing guidelines and policies for awarding academic credit for participation in certain fine arts programs.

[SB1281](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0479) (Dunnavant) ([CH479](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0479)) Board of Education; Passport dual enrollment courses; course credit; guidelines. Directs the Board of Education to develop guidelines for prioritizing to the maximum extent practicable dual enrollment programs, including the Passport Program, the Uniform Certificate of General Studies Program, the New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Program, and other courses that allow high school students to receive credit toward the completion of an undergraduate course, degree, or credential offered in the Virginia Community College System. The bill provides that such guidelines shall include recommendations on how to direct prioritization of funding to such programs. The bill requires the Department of Education to convene a stakeholder work group, consisting of representatives from the Virginia Education Association, the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, and the local school boards, to make recommendations on policies for the prioritization of such dual enrollment programs and requires such recommendations to be submitted to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by November 1, 2024. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2024.

[SB1430](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0480) (Suetterlein) ([CH 480](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0480)) Department of Education; work group on reducing barriers to access to paid work-based learning experiences for English language learner students. Requires the Department of Education to convene a stakeholder work group to make recommendations on reducing barriers to and improving the access of paid work-based learning experiences for English language learner students.

## Child Care and Safety

[HB1636](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0128) (Bulova) ([CH128](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0128)) Operating or engaging in the conduct of a child day program or family day system without a license; penalty. Clarifies that, for the purpose of the Class 4 felony prescribed for any parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the care of a child younger than the age of 18 who by willful act or willful omission or refusal to provide any necessary care for the child's health causes or permits serious injury to the life or health of such child, the term "willful act or willful omission" includes operating or engaging in the conduct of a child day program or family day system without first obtaining a license such person knows is required by relevant law or after such license has been revoked or has expired and not been renewed.

[HB1698](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0010) (Simon) ([CH10](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0010)) Child day programs; exemption from licensure; certain programs offered by local school divisions. Exempts from the requirement to be licensed by the Board of Education any child day program offered by a local school division that is operated for no more than four hours per day on full instructional days or for more than four hours per day on shortened instructional days or noninstructional days, staffed by local school division employees, and attended by children who are at least three years of age and are enrolled in public school or a preschool program within such school division. Under current law, only a child day program offered by a local school division that is operated for no more than four hours per day, staffed by local school division employees, and attended by children who are at least three years of age and are enrolled in public school or a preschool program within such school division is eligible to be exempt from licensure.

## Early Childhood

[HB1424](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0008) (Coyner) ([CH 8](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0008))/[SB1404](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0009) (Barker) ([CH 9](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0009))

School Readiness Committee; renaming as Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education; purpose; membership; powers and duties. Renames the School Readiness Committee as the Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education and makes several changes to the Commission, including adjusting its purpose, increasing and adjusting its membership, and establishing eight enumerated powers and duties for the Commission.

[HB1700](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1700) (Cherry) ([CH285)](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0285) /[SB1097](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1097) (Norment) ([CH286](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0286)) Early childhood care and education; licensure requirements; certain accredited private school exempt. Provides that child day programs that are affiliated with an accredited private school located west of Sandy Ridge and on the watersheds of Big Sandy River and to which no contributions are made by the Commonwealth shall not be required to obtain licensure to operate in the Commonwealth. Current law exempts only those programs that are offered to children who reside at such private school.

[HB2140](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=231&typ=bil&val=hb2140) (Delaney) ([CH122](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0122)) /[SB1146](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1146) (Boysko) ([CH123](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0123)) Policies for the possession and administration of epinephrine at early childhood care and education entities; scope. Limits, in the context of early childhood care and education entities, the requirement for the implementation of policies for the possession and administration of epinephrine to child day centers. Under current law, such requirement applies to all early childhood care and education entities, which include child day centers, family day homes, and family day systems serving children younger than the age of five. The bill also requires the Board of Education to amend its regulations to require each family day home provider or at least one other caregiver employed by such provider in the family day home to be trained in the administration of epinephrine and to notify the parents of each child who receives care in such family day home whether the provider stores an appropriate weight-based dosage of epinephrine in the residence or home in which the family day home operates.

## Military Students and Families

[HB1929](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0783) (Durant) ([CH783](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0783)) Educational opportunities for certain children established. Establishes certain rights and privileges for any school-age child who is a dependent of a foreign service employee or civilian member of the Armed Forces of the United States under federal orders when the parent produces documentation indicating that he is required to move in order to perform his job responsibilities and such move results in the student's relocation from another state to a school division in the Commonwealth, including rights and privileges relating to educational records, enrollment, placement, attendance, extracurricular activities, and graduation.

## Miscellaneous

[HB1419](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0605) (Kory) ([CH 605](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0605)) / [SB1498](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0606) (McClellan) ([CH 606](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0606))

Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program; extension of eligibility. Extends eligibility for the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program to the lineal and collateral descendants of persons who were residing in jurisdictions in Virginia in which the public schools were closed to avoid desegregation between 1954 and 1964 and whose educations were affected by the school closings. Currently, only persons who resided in such jurisdictions at the time of the school closings are eligible for the program.

[HB1514](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0007) (Adams) [(CH7](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0007)) Deceased high school seniors; waiver of graduation requirements and award of posthumous high school diplomas. Requires the Board of Education, in establishing high school graduation requirements, to provide for the waiver of certain graduation requirements and the subsequent award of a high school diploma upon the request of the parent of any high school senior who died in good standing prior to graduation during the student's senior year. The bill provides that such waivers shall be granted only for good cause and shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

[HB1701](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0253) (Cherry) ([CH 253](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0253)) Certain private schools in the Commonwealth; disclosure of certain employee records for purpose of accreditation. Permits private elementary and secondary schools to disclose to the Virginia Council for Private Education criminal history record information received for current employees for the purpose of seeking or maintaining Council accreditation.

[HB1713](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0254) (Cherry) ([CH 254](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0254)) / [SB964](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0255) (Peake) ([CH255](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0255)) Certain child day programs exempt from licensure by the Superintendent of Public Instruction; age of children in attendance. Clarifies that any child day program offered by a private school accredited by and in good standing with the Virginia Council for Private Education, operated for no more than four hours per day, staffed by the accredited private school's employees, and attended by school-age children who are enrolled in the accredited private school is exempt from licensure by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Current law provides a licensure exemption for any such program that is attended by children who are at least five years of age.

[HB1726](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0453) (Head) ([CH453](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0453)) /[SB1019](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0454) (Edwards) ([CH454](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0454)) Department of Education; Virginia-based nonprofit organizations; schools for adults to earn credentials, college credit, and high school diplomas. Requires the Department of Education to authorize a Virginia-based nonprofit organization with demonstrated evidence of positive student outcomes to provide schools for adults to earn (i) (a) an industry-recognized credential awarded through a partnership with a Virginia-based community college or an approved training provider or (b) dual college credit awarded through a partnership with a Virginia-based community college and (ii) a high school diploma on one or more diploma pathways set forth in the relevant Board of Education regulation in which enrollment is open, on a space-available basis, to adults who reside throughout the Commonwealth.

[HB2195](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0624) (Byron) ([CH624](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0624)) / SB[1470](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0624) (Ruff) ([CH625](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0624)) Certain child day programs exempt from licensure by the Superintendent of Public Instruction; age of children in attendance. Clarifies that any child day program offered by a private school accredited by and in good standing with the Virginia Council for Private Education, operated for no more than four hours per day, staffed by the accredited private school's employees, and attended by school-age children who are enrolled in the accredited private school is exempt from licensure by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Current law provides a licensure exemption for any such program that is attended by children who are at least five years of age

[HJR475](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+HJ475ER) (McGuire) Career and Technical Education Letter of Intent Signing Day. Designates the fourth Wednesday in April, in 2023 and in each succeeding year, as Career and Technical Education Letter of Intent Signing Day.

## School Buildings and Facilities

[SB 1124](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0752) (Stanley) ([CH752](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0752)) Board of Education; standards for the maintenance and operations, renovation, and new construction of public elementary and secondary school buildings. Requires the Board of Education to make recommendations to the General Assembly for amendments to the Standards of Quality to establish standards for the maintenance and operations, renovation, and new construction of public elementary and secondary school buildings. The bill requires such recommendations to include standards for the percentage of the current replacement value of a public school building that a school board should budget for the maintenance and operations of the building and such other standards as the Board deems appropriate. The bill also requires the Board to solicit the input of relevant stakeholders and the public in developing such recommendations. Finally, the bill requires the Board to submit its recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health no later than July 1, 2024.

[SB1546](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0342) (Ebbins) ([CH342](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0342)) Department of Health; definition of restaurant; emergency. Adds any place or operation that prepares or stores food for distribution to child or adult day care centers or schools, regardless of whether the receiving day care center or school holds a restaurant license, to the definition of "restaurant" as it applies to Title 35.1 (Hotels, Restaurants, Summer Camps, and Campgrounds). This bill became effective March 23, 2023.

## School Lunches and Meals

[HB2021](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0125) (Roem) ([CH125](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0125)) School boards; back to school night events; free or reduced price meals applications. Requires each school board to ensure that at any back to school night event in the local school division to which the parents of enrolled students are invited, any such parent in attendance receives prominent notification of and access, in paper or electronic form, or both, to information about application and eligibility for free or reduced price meals for students and a fillable free or reduced price meals application that may be completed and submitted on site.

[HB2025](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0350) (Roem) ([CH350](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0350)) Department of Social Services; school boards; SNAP benefits program parent information sheet; free or reduced price meals application. Requires the Department of Social Services to develop, annually update, and provide to each school board in advance of the start of each school year an information sheet on the SNAP benefits program that sets forth the application process and such other information as the Department deems necessary or appropriate in order to properly inform the parents of students enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools of such program and encourage application by those who are eligible. The bill requires each school board to ensure that such information sheet is sent home with each student enrolled in a public elementary or secondary school in the local school division at the beginning of each school year or, in the case of any student who enrolls after the beginning of the school year, as soon as practicable after enrollment. The bill also requires each school board to ensure that a fillable free or reduced price meals application is sent home with each such student at the beginning of each school year or, in the case of any student who enrolls after the beginning of the school year, as soon as practicable after enrollment.

## School Safety And Security

[HB1575](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0111) (Walker) ([CH111](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0111)) Council (the Council) established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction to collaborate with certain agencies and organizations with expertise in child online safety issues and human trafficking prevention and requires the Council to establish model instructional content on certain student internet safety topics and post on the Department of Education website resources and assistance programs available for any child or parent who may have encountered online solicitation by sexual predators or other illegal online communications or activities, including the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline.

[HB1691](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0609) (Greenhalgh) ([CH609](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0609)) /[SB1099](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0610) (Norment) ([CH610](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0610)) School Resource Officer Grants Program and Fund. Provides that matching grants from the School Resource Officer Incentive Grants Fund may be awarded to local law-enforcement agencies and local school boards for the expenses related to the equipment necessary for uniformed school resource officers, school security officers, and other relevant school safety personnel and the enhancement of the school-law enforcement partnership through training and programming as determined by the Department; provided, however, that such grants shall not be used for any expense related to the purchase of firearms, handcuffs or other wrist restraints, or any stun weapon.

[HB1704](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1704) (Bell) ([CH282](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0282)) /[SB821](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB821) (Surovell) ([CH283](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0283)) Public elementary and secondary schools; reports of certain arrests and convictions; receipt, report, and compilation. Requires each division superintendent to annually designate an employee in the local school division as the division safety official whose duty is to receive all reports required to be made pursuant to relevant law from (i) every state official or agency and every sheriff, police officer, or other local law-enforcement officer or conservator of the peace having the power to arrest for a felony upon arresting a person who is known or discovered by the arresting official to be a full-time, part-time, permanent, or temporary teacher or any other employee in such local school division for a felony or a Class 1 misdemeanor or an equivalent offense in another state and (ii) the clerk of any circuit court or any district court in the Commonwealth upon the felony conviction of any person known by such clerk to be employed by such local school division.

The bill requires each division superintendent to include such division safety official designation in the collated packet of school safety audits submitted to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety pursuant to relevant law and requires the Center to designate an employee of the Center as the school personnel safety official for the Commonwealth whose duty is to compile, maintain, and make publicly available a list of each such division safety official. The bill requires such designation to include updated contact information for the division safety official and requires such safety official to at least annually confirm with each division superintendent that such contact information is up to date and accurate.

The bill also provides that a probation and parole officer who is supervising a person employed by a local school division in the Commonwealth shall, upon discovering that such supervised person has been arrested or convicted of a felony offense or an equivalent offense in another state, report such arrest or conviction to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the designated division safety official in the local school division where such supervised person is employed as soon as practicable. The bill requires any such report to be transmitted via certified mail to the mailing address identified by the division superintendent or via fax and email to the fax number and email address identified by the division superintendent, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the bill. Finally, the bill requires, until July 1, 2027, that all such arresting officials or agencies request in writing that the Virginia Employment Commission provide the name of the current employer of each arrested person for purposes of determining whether such notice is required.

[HJR469](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+HJ469ER) (Taylor) School Security Officer Day. Designates the first Monday in October, in 2023 and in each succeeding year, as School Security Officer Day in Virginia.

[SB1359](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0295) (Norment) ([CH295](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0295)) Public elementary and secondary schools; threat assessment team members; training requirement. Requires new threat assessment team members at each public elementary and secondary school to complete initial threat assessment training and all threat assessment team members to complete refresher training every three years.

[SB1044](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0223) (McPike) ([CH223](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0223)) Public schools and public institutions of higher education; student identification cards; 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline telephone number required. Requires each local school division that issues student identification cards for any grade level, kindergarten through grade 12, and each public institution of higher education that issues student identification cards to clearly and conspicuously include on one side of each student identification card the telephone number for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) and to annually review the telephone number for accuracy and currency. The bill provides that each new student identification card and any replacement student identification card issued by any school division or by any public institution of higher education must comply with the provisions of the bill beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

## Special Education

[HB1492](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0004) (Davis) ([CH4](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0004)) Board of Education; special education and related services; certain evaluation deadlines. Requires the Board of Education to amend certain regulations to permit local educational agencies to shorten the deadline of 65 business days from the date of receipt of referral for an initial evaluation or a reevaluation of a child to determine eligibility for special education and related services.

[HB1884](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0157) (Wampler) ([CH157](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0157)) Standards of Learning assessment revision work group; consideration of effectiveness of assessments for students with disabilities. Requires the work group established by the Secretary of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to study and develop a plan relating to revisions to Standards of Learning assessments to consider the effectiveness of assessments for students with disabilities, including the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program for those students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, and the use of those assessments to improve and individualize instruction.

[HB1554](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1554) (Brewer) ([CH280](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0280)) /[SB943](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0281) (Sutterlein) ([CH281](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0281)) Public high schools; special education; identification of faculty member responsible for school transition planning and coordination. Requires each public high school in the Commonwealth to publicly identify on its official website the faculty member responsible for special education transition planning and coordination at such high school.

## Staffing, Conduct, Licensing, and Training

[HB1928](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0156) (Durant) ([CH156](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0156)) School bus operators; training; remote online and Spanish language options. Permits the training program developed by the Board of Education for school bus operators to offer the option for an applicant for employment as a school bus operator to (i) except as otherwise provided in relevant law, complete all or any portion of the required hours of classroom training in a remote online format, as determined by the local school division, and (ii) receive instruction in the Spanish language for all or any portion of the required hours of classroom training, as determined by the local school division.

[HB1822](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0703) (Avoli) ([CH703](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0703)) Public school employees; offense involving solicitation of sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse, or rape of a child; penalty. Provides that the convictions that bar employment and contract work that requires direct contact with students on school property during school hours or school-sponsored activities in public schools include any offense involving the solicitation of sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse, or rape of a child. Current law prohibits any school board from employing or contracting with anyone who has been convicted of a violent felony set forth in the definition of barrier crime or any offense involving sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse, or rape of a child, but does not specify that this includes any offense involving the solicitation of any such offense.

[HB2124](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0348) (Wilt) ([CH348](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0348)) School psychologists; staffing flexibility. Provides that in order to fill vacant school psychologist positions, any local school board may employ, under a provisional license issued by the Department of Education for three school years with an allowance for an additional two-year extension with the approval of the division superintendent, clinical psychologists licensed by the Board of Psychology, provided that any such individual makes progress toward completing the requirements for full licensure as a school psychologist during such period of employment. The bill requires the Department to consult the Virginia Academy of School Psychologists, and other stakeholders as necessary, to ensure that the process and criteria for provisionally licensed school psychologists to obtain full licensure as school psychologists appropriately address the challenges that are unique to school psychology training requirements and the school psychology profession generally.

[HB2187](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0347) (Rasoul) ([CH347](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0347)) School counselors; staff time. Defines the terms "direct counseling" and "program planning and school support" for the purpose of the provision of law that requires each school counselor to spend at least 80 percent of his staff time during normal school hours in the direct counseling of individual students or groups of students and clarifies that each school counselor may also spend up to 20 percent of his staff time during normal school hours on program planning and support. This bill is a recommendation of the Behavioral Health Commission and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission.

## Student Conduct

[HB1982](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0523) (Kory) ([CH523](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0523)) Public school principals; parental notification of certain student violations. Requires the principal of any public elementary or secondary school or his designee to notify the parents of any student who violates a school board policy or the compulsory school attendance requirements when such violation is likely to result in the student's suspension or the filing of a court petition. Current law permits such principals to make such a notification when the violation could result in the student's suspension or the filing of a court petition and is silent on the designation of such power.

[HB1592](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+HB1592) (Davis) ([CH296](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0296)) /[SB1072](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1072) (Bell) ([CH297](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0297)) Public schools; codes of student conduct; policies and procedures prohibiting bullying; parental notification. Requires each local school board to require the principal of each public school or his designee to notify the parent of any student who is involved in an alleged bullying incident of the alleged incident within 24 hours of learning of such allegation. Current law only requires the principal to notify any such parent of the status of any investigation into an alleged incident of bullying within five school days of when such allegation was made.

## Student Health

[SB1043](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0349) (McPike) ([CH349](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0349)) Public education; student mental health and counseling; definitions; licensure requirements. Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Medical Assistance Services, to develop, adopt, and distribute to each school board a model memorandum of understanding between a school board and a public or private community mental health services provider that sets forth parameters for the provision of mental health services to public school students enrolled in the local school division by such provider. The bill requires the memorandum of understanding to be available to each school board no later than the beginning of the 2023–2024 school year. The bill also permits, in order to fill vacant school psychologist positions, any local school board to employ, under a provisional license issued by the Department of Education for three school years with an allowance for an additional two-year extension, clinical psychologists licensed by the Board of Psychology, provided that any such individual makes progress toward completing the requirements for full licensure as a school psychologist during such period of employment. Finally, the bill defines the terms "direct counseling" and "program planning and school support" for the purpose of the provision of law that requires each school counselor to spend at least 80 percent of his staff time during normal school hours in the direct counseling of individual students or groups of students.

[SB1300](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0572) (Deeds) ([CH572](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0572)) Department of Education; Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports Research and Implementation Center; Trauma Learning Modules; modifications; report. Directs the Department of Education to collaborate with the Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports Research and Implementation Center (VTSS-RIC) to modify the existing Trauma Learning Modules provided by VTSS-RIC to incorporate (i) the definitions of "childhood trauma" and "trauma-informed" provided in the bill and (ii) information and guidance on concepts including (a) the impacts of childhood trauma on a child's physical, emotional, and behavioral development and health; (b) the importance of mental health and wellness; (c) how to foster a trauma-informed classroom environment; (d) how to recognize the signs of childhood trauma in students; (e) how to respond when a student informs a teacher of a traumatic experience or exhibits signs that such student has had a traumatic experience; and (f) when and how to contact support services or other resources outside the classroom to ensure any student who has experienced trauma receives the necessary support. The bill requires the Department and the VTSS-RIC to provide the report required pursuant to the bill to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 1, 2023.

[SB1453](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0767) (McPike) ([CH767](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0767)) Public elementary and secondary schools; automated external defibrillators required. Requires each local school board to develop a plan for the placement, care, and use of an automated external defibrillator in every public elementary and secondary school in the local school division and to place an automated external defibrillator in every public elementary and secondary school in the local school division. Under current law, such a plan is optional and there is no requirement for each school board to place an automated external defibrillator in every public elementary and secondary school in the local school division. Finally, the bill requires the Department of Education to compile and make publicly available on its website by August 1, 2024 a list of available public and private programs, grants, or funding sources for fulfilling the requirements of the act.

## Student Literacy

[HB1526](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0645) (Coyner) ([CH645](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0645)) Student literacy measures; scope; students in grades four through eight. Expands several provisions of the Virginia Literacy Act, enacted during the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly, effective with the 2024–2025 school year, and currently applicable to students in kindergarten through grade three, to students in grades four through eight, including (i) requiring each local school board to provide a program of literacy instruction to such students that is aligned with science-based reading research and provides evidenced-based literacy instruction; (ii) requiring each local school board to provide reading intervention services to such students who demonstrate substantial deficiencies based on their individual performance on the Standards of Learning reading assessment or a literacy screener provided or approved by the Department of Education; (iii) permitting the reading plan required for certain students in grades six through eight to include a literacy course, in addition to the course required by the Standards of Learning in English, that provides the specific evidence-based literacy instruction identified in such plan; (iv) requiring the Department to develop a list of core literacy curricula, supplemental instruction practices and programs, and intervention programs that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with science-based reading research for such students; (v) requiring each local school board to employ one reading specialist for each 550 students in kindergarten through grade eight; (vi) requiring the Board of Education to provide guidance on and each local school board to provide high-quality professional development and training in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction for certain middle school personnel; and (vii) requiring each divisionwide comprehensive plan to include a divisionwide literacy plan for such students.

[SB1175](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0646) (Lucas) ([CH646](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0646)) Student literacy measures; scope; students in grades four through eight. Expands several provisions of the Virginia Literacy Act, enacted during the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly, effective with the 2024–2025 school year, and currently applicable to students in kindergarten through grade three, to students in grades four through eight, including (i) requiring each local school board to provide a program of literacy instruction to such students that is aligned with science-based reading research and provides evidenced-based literacy instruction; (ii) requiring each local school board to provide reading intervention services to such students who demonstrate substantial deficiencies based on their individual performance on the Standards of Learning reading assessment or a literacy screener provided or approved by the Department of Education; (iii) permitting the reading plan required for certain students in grades six through eight to include a literacy course, in addition to the course required by the Standards of Learning in English, that provides the specific evidence-based literacy instruction identified in such plan; (iv) requiring the Department to develop a list of core literacy curricula, supplemental instruction practices and programs, and intervention programs that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with science-based reading research for such students; (v) requiring each local school board to employ one reading specialist for each 550 students in kindergarten through grade five and for each 1,100 students in grades six through eight; (vi) requiring the Board of Education to provide guidance on and each local school board to provide high-quality professional development and training in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction for certain middle school personnel; and (vii) requiring each divisionwide comprehensive plan to include a divisionwide literacy plan for such students.

[HB2137](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0124) (Delaney) ([CH124](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0124)) School boards; divisionwide literacy plans; contents; posting. Requires each divisionwide literacy plan to be submitted to the Department of Education and to identify which core literacy curricula, supplemental instructional practices and programs, and intervention programs from the list developed by the Department or alternative programs approved by the Department that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction and align with science-based reading research will be used in each grade level, kindergarten through 12, at each of the schools within such school division. The bill requires each local school board to post, maintain, and update as necessary on such school board's website a copy of its divisionwide literacy plan and the job description and contact information for any reading specialist employed by such school division pursuant to relevant law and for any dyslexia specialist employed by such school division. The bill requires the Department to post each divisionwide literacy plan on its website.

## Teacher Education, Licensure, And Compensation

[HB1550](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0771) (Campbell) ([CH771](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0771)) Teachers; reinstatement of licensure in certain circumstances; application and disposition. Provides that in the case of a teacher who is the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse or neglect and whose license has been revoked by the Board of Education, in the event that a court reverses such finding of abuse or neglect and the individual submits to the Department of Education an application for the reinstatement of his license as a teacher, the Board of Education shall consider and act upon such application no later than 90 days after the date of submission.

[HB1762](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0429) (Reid) ([CH429](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0429)) School boards; Teacher Reengagement Program established. Establishes the Teacher Reengagement Program for the purpose of addressing instructional personnel shortages and COVID-19 pandemic-related student learning loss. The bill permits any school board to hire an individual pursuant to the Program, subject to the following conditions and limitations: (i) the individual works on a part-time basis; (ii) the individual is compensated with part-time pay, with any health, dental, and vision insurance coverage that is available to full-time school board employees, or with some combination of such pay and coverage; (iii) in the case of an individual who holds a renewable or provisional teaching license issued by the Board of Education, the individual's duties consist of teaching students, providing one-on-one tutoring services to students, or mentoring teachers, or some combination thereof; (iv) in the case of an individual who does not hold a renewable or provisional teaching license issued by the Board, the individual has professional experience or expertise in a certain subject matter area and the individual's duties consist of providing one-on-one tutoring services to students in such subject matter area; and (v) the individual complies with all laws, regulations, and school board policies and procedures applicable to part-time school board employees. The bill requires any school board that hires any part-time employee pursuant to the Program to annually report to the Department of Education such data on the implementation of the Program that the Department deems necessary to evaluate its continued effectiveness at addressing instructional personnel shortages and student learning loss. The foregoing provisions of the bill expire on July 1, 2028. The bill requires the Department to submit to the General Assembly no later than October 1, 2027, its recommendation for preserving, extending, or eliminating such expiration date.

[HB2375](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0800) (Sewell) ([CH800](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0800)) Provisional teacher licensure; permissive extension; filed satisfactory performance evaluations during years of actual employment. Requires the Board of Education to extend for at least one additional year, but for no more than two additional years, the three-year provisional license of a teacher upon receiving from the division superintendent (i) a recommendation for such extension and (ii) satisfactory performance evaluations for such teacher for each year during the original three-year provisional license that such teacher was actually employed and received a filed performance evaluation. Current law requires satisfactory performance evaluations for such teacher for each year of the original three-year provisional license in order to be eligible for such an extension.

[HB2457](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0641) (Batten) ([CH641](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0641)) Public elementary and secondary school teachers; frequency of certain training activities; length of temporary teacher employment. Prohibits any public elementary or secondary school teacher from being required to participate more frequently than once every five years in certain training relating to the appropriate management of student conduct and student offenses in violation of school board policies or relating to secure mandatory test violations. The bill also permits, during the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years, any school board to employ a temporarily employed teacher to fill a vacancy for a period of time not to exceed 180 days during one school year, with certain conditions and limitations.

[SB1052](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0748) (McPike) ([CH748](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0748)) Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure; teacher licensure, recruitment, and retention. Directs the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure to advise the Board of Education and submit recommendations on policies related to helping school divisions more effectively recruit and retain licensed teachers. The bill also requires the Board of Education to extend for at least one additional year, but for no more than two additional years, a teacher's three-year provisional license upon receiving from the division superintendent (i) a recommendation for such extension and (ii) satisfactory performance evaluations for such teacher for each year during the original three-year provisional license for which such teacher was actually employed and received a filed performance evaluation. Current law requires satisfactory performance evaluations for such teacher for each year of the original three-year provisional license in order to be eligible for such an extension.

[SB1215](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0725) (Lucas) ([CH725](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0725)) Department of Education; stakeholder work group; competitive teacher pay; report. Requires the Department of Education to convene a stakeholder work group no later than August 15, 2023, to consider and make recommendations no later than November 1, 2023, on the appropriateness, feasibility, potential fiscal impact, and potential unintended consequences of certain definitions for and calculations of competitive teacher pay.

[SB1289](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0690) (Deeds) ([CH690](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0690)) Virginia Retirement System; return to work. Reduces from 12 to six the number of months for the required break in service for a teacher, bus driver, school administrator, or school security officer to return to work full time and continue to receive his pension under the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). The bill adds specialized student support positions to the list of employees that may return to work with a six-month break in service and specifies that the employer shall include such employees' compensation in membership payroll for purposes of the employer contributions to VRS. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2028, for the reduction of the required break in service for all classes of employees. Finally, the bill requires VRS to submit a report regarding options for employing certain enumerated positions part-time during the required six-month break in service period.

[SB1479](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0708) (Lucas) ([CH 708](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+ful+CHAP0708)) Reduces from 12 to six the number of months for the required break in service for a teacher, bus driver, school administrator, or school security officer to return to work full time and continue to receive his pension under the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). The bill adds specialized student support positions to the list of employees who may return to work with a six-month break in service and specifies that the employer shall include such employees' compensation in membership payroll for purposes of the employer contributions to VRS. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2028, for the reduction of the required break in service period for all classes of employees. Finally, the bill requires VRS to submit a report regarding options for employing certain enumerated positions part-time during the required six-month break in service period.