



VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item: K

Date: December 12, 2023

Title: First and Final Review of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's Recommendation to Approve New Education (Endorsement) Programs

Presenter: Rob Gilstrap, Assistant Superintendent for Education Preparation

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](#)) 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](#) 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. The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure ("ABTEL") then reviewed the applications and recommended them for approval by the Board.

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.

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	Elementary Education PK-6	Undergraduate
	Chemistry - Secondary	Undergraduate
Bridgewater College	Elementary Education PK-6	Undergraduate
Norfolk State University	Middle Education Grades 6-8 (Science and Math ONLY)	Graduate
Radford University	Early Childhood for 3-year-old-Add on	Undergraduate
	Special Education: General Curriculum K-12	Undergraduate
	Special Education: General Curriculum K-6 Add-on	Undergraduate
Randolph College	Early/Elementary Grades K-6	Graduate
	English	Graduate
	History and Social Sciences	Graduate

Regent University	Special Education-General Curriculum 6-12 Add-on	Graduate
	Special Education-General Curriculum 6-8 Add-on	Graduate
	Special Education-General Curriculum K-6 Add-on	Graduate
	Science -Biology	Undergraduate
University of Lynchburg	Gifted Education Add-on	Graduate
University of Richmond	Mathematics	Graduate
	Science-Biology	Graduate
	Science-Physics	Graduate
	Science-Chemistry	Graduate
Virginia Tech	CTE-Technology Education	Graduate
	Special Education – General Curriculum Elementary Education K-6-Add-on	Undergraduate

Action Requested

Final review: action requested at this meeting.

Superintendent's Recommendation

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board waive first review and approve ABTEL's recommendation regarding New Education (Endorsement) Programs.

Rationale for Action

The Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia ([8VAC20-543](#)) requires that the Board approve requests from Virginia institutions of higher education to add new endorsement programs.

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.

- 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](#)) 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](#)) 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 ([8VAC20-543](#)), 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](#) 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.

Stakeholder Engagement

During the November 9, 2023 meeting, ABTEL recommended that the Board grant approval for the new endorsement programs.

Implementation and Communication

Upon adoption by the Board, a written communication will notify each educator preparation program of the approval of the new education endorsement programs. The new programs will be listed on the VDOE's website.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources

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