

## **An Overview of Advisory Committees to the Virginia Board of Education**

The *Bylaws of the Virginia Board of Education* allow for the Board to create advisory committees for special purposes, including those committees that are mandated by federal or state law. The Board currently has six advisory committees with members appointed by the Board for three-year terms. This document provides an overview of the Board's advisory committees.

1. Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure ("ABTEL")

ABTEL was established by § [22.1-305.2](#) of the Code of Virginia to advise the Board and submit recommendations on policies applicable to qualifications, examination, licensure and regulation of school personnel. ABTEL must meet five times per year. The membership composition of ABTEL is set by § 22.1-305.2.

2. Early Childhood Advisory Committee ("ECAC")

ECAC is required by § [22.1-289.04](#) of the Code of Virginia to advise the Board on programs, systems, and regulations established by Chapter 14.1 of Title 22.1. This includes VQB5, early childhood licensure regulations, administration of statutes governing unlicensed programs, receipt of complaints, and investigations. The membership composition of ECAC is set by § 22.1-289.04.

3. State Special Education Advisory Committee ("SSEAC")

SSEAC was created by [8VAC20-81-20](#)(15) of the *Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia* in order to comply with the provision of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"). SSEAC is tasked with advising on unmet needs in the education of children with disabilities; commenting on rules and regulations regarding special education; advising in developing evaluations and reporting on data required by the IDEA; advising on corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports under the IDEA; advising on policies related to the coordination of services for children with disabilities; and reviewing the annual plan submitted by state-sponsored programs and the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind. The membership composition of SSEAC is set by 8VAC20-81-20(15), and the Board has delegated appointments to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

4. Advisory Committee for Career & Technical Education ("ACCTE")

ACCTE was created to comply with the federal Perkins Act. Its purpose is to advise, assist, and support high-quality programs in CTE. The membership composition of ACCTE is set by the Board. ACCTE meets quarterly.

5. Adult Education & Literacy Advisory Committee ("AELAC")

AELAC was established to make recommendations for the delivery of quality adult education and literacy programs and services throughout the commonwealth. The membership composition of AELAC is set by the Board and includes members from business and industry, educational institutions, and community-based organizations. AELAC meets twice a year.

6. Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted ("VACEG")

VACEG was created to provide guidance about the needs of gifted students and is composed of representatives from school divisions, professional organizations, institutions of higher education, Governor's Schools, business and industry, and parent groups. VACEG currently meets four times during the school year (October, December, February, and April). The Board is currently considering a proposal to reconstitute VACEG as the Virginia Advisory Committee on Advanced Learning.