



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

August 1, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: 2014 General Assembly Revision to Statutory Requirements for College Laboratory Partnership Schools

The 2014 General Assembly revised the *Code of Virginia* related to tuition for college laboratory partnership schools. These revisions, emphasized by italics in the following section of the *Code*, became law effective July 1, 2014.

§ 23-299.2. Establishment and operation of college partnership laboratory schools; requirements.

- A. A college partnership laboratory school shall be subject to all federal and state laws and regulations and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services.

Enrollment shall be open to any child who is deemed to reside within the Commonwealth through a lottery process on a space-available basis. A waiting list shall be established if adequate space is not available to accommodate all students whose parents have requested to be entered in the lottery process. Such waiting list shall also be prioritized through a lottery process and parents shall be informed of their student's position on the list. *For college partnership laboratory schools that form a collaborative partnership, in accordance with subsection F, with one or more public school divisions, enrollment in the college partnership laboratory school shall be administered by one of the partnering divisions.*

- B. A college partnership laboratory school shall be administered and managed by a governing board. Pursuant to a contract and as specified in § 23-299.3, a college partnership laboratory school shall be subject to the requirements of the Standards of Quality, including the Standards of Learning and the Standards of Accreditation, and such regulations as determined by the Board of Education.
- C. Pursuant to a college partnership laboratory school agreement, a college partnership laboratory school shall be responsible for its own operations, including, but not limited to, such budget preparation, contracts for services, and personnel matters as are specified in the agreement. A college partnership laboratory school may also negotiate and contract with a school board, the governing body of an institution of higher education, or any third party for the use of a school building and grounds, the operation and maintenance thereof, and the provision of any service, activity, or undertaking that the college partnership laboratory

school is required to perform in order to carry out the educational program described in its contract. Any services for which a college partnership laboratory school contracts with a school board or institution of higher education shall not exceed the school division's or institution's costs to provide such services.

- D. A college partnership laboratory school shall not charge tuition for courses required for high school graduation. However, (i) tuition may be charged for courses for which the student receives college credit and for enrichment courses that are not required to earn a Board of Education approved high school diploma, and (ii) *for college partnership laboratory schools that form a collaborative partnership, in accordance with subsection F, with one or more public school divisions, the school board of the partnering school division that administers student enrollment in accordance with subsection A may charge tuition in accordance with § 22.1-5 for students who do not reside within the partnering school division.*
- E. An approved college partnership laboratory school shall be designated as a local education agency, but shall not constitute a school division.
- F. College partnership laboratory schools are encouraged to develop collaborative partnerships with public school divisions for the purpose of building seamless education opportunities for all Virginia students, from preschool to postsecondary education. An educational program provided to students enrolled in a public school division pursuant to a collaborative partnership between the college partnership laboratory school and the public school division shall be considered to be the educational program of the public school division for purposes of the Standards of Accreditation.

Please refer to the Web site, http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/laboratory_schools/, for additional information on the application process for college laboratory partnership schools.

If you have any questions regarding the revisions to the statute or the application process for college laboratory partnership schools, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Patty S. Pitts, assistant superintendent for teacher education and licensure, by telephone at (804) 371-2522 or by e-mail at Patty.Pitts@doe.virginia.gov.

SRS/psp

c: Deans/Directors of Virginia Approved Preparation Programs