



The latest action by the General Assembly follows the findings of the feasibility study and requires further action by the Board of Education to make decisions about the process for consolidation including site selection and the method for achieving the capital requirements necessary to consolidate the schools. The newest requirements placed on the Board of Education are described in language in the appropriation act, Chapter 951, 2005 Acts of Assembly. Specifically, this language states:

*"D.1. In order to provide improved services through up-to-date facilities as well as to achieve long-term cost savings, notwithstanding other provisions of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton and the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind, and Multi-disabled at Hampton shall be consolidated into one school upon completion of any renovations, additions, or new facility construction at a site as determined by the State Board of Education with assistance from the Department of General Services.*

*2.a. The State Board of Education, assisted by the Department of General Services, shall consider, among other options, Public-Private Education Act (PPEA) proposals to plan and design the consolidation of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton and the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-disabled at Hampton into a single campus and the transfer of students, programs, and services to a single campus, the location of which shall be incorporated into a PPEA proposal or a conventional capital construction project proposal that will be accepted, reviewed and adopted by the State Board of Education no later than July 31, 2005.*

*b. In the event that the State Board of Education selects a PPEA proposal, the Department of General Services is authorized to enter into an agreement for construction of the new school at a total cost not to exceed \$61.5 million.*

*3. The Departments of Education and General Services shall provide an update on the final location selected by the State Board of Education and on the planning and construction process to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committees on Education and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Finance and Education and Health by October 1, 2005. At a minimum, the report shall address:*

*a. Revised cost estimates and proposed timelines for construction of the new facility for consolidating services for the students served by Virginia's two schools at Staunton and Hampton;*

*b. In cooperation with the Department of Planning and Budget, revised projected operating budgets for fiscal years 2007 through 2010, including any one-time transition costs;*

*c. The status of proposed mechanisms to assist school divisions with programs for children transferring into local school divisions rather than continuing enrollment at the new school location;*

*d. Detailed cost estimates of possible program enhancements, including specialized technology, expanding services to include deaf children with emotional disabilities; and*

*e. Potential alternative uses of the existing campuses in Hampton and Staunton."*

## Summary of Major Elements

At the Board's planning session in April 2005, staff presented the requirements outlined in the appropriation act and outlined the process that the department would follow in order to position the Board with as much information as possible to make the decisions required by the appropriation act. The most immediate Board action stipulated in the appropriation act requires the Board to make decisions about the location of a consolidated school and whether or not to pursue a process for obtaining a single school through the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act (PPEA). If the Board wants to use the PPEA process, it should take certain actions prior to July 31, 2005; however, those specific actions are unclear since the actions outlined in the appropriation act language do not match actions required in a PPEA process.

In order to have the option to engage in the PPEA process, department staff have worked with the Department of General Services to solicit PPEA proposals for a consolidated school facility. As a result of these efforts, the following actions have taken place:

- a process and timeline was developed for interested parties to submit proposals under a PPEA solicitation;
- an advertisement announcing the anticipated solicitation of proposals under the PPEA appeared in the Washington Post, the Virginia Pilot, the Richmond-Times Dispatch, and the Roanoke Times on Sunday, May 1, 2005;
- a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued to the public (with a closing date of June 15, 2005) on Friday, May 6, 2005, soliciting PPEA proposals including options for the location of a consolidated school;
- an optional pre-proposal conference was held on May 20, 2005, in the James Monroe Building in Richmond, Virginia;
- on May 23 and May 24, 2005, an optional tour was conducted at the sites of the existing schools in Hampton and Staunton for parties interested in responding with proposals that would be located at one of the existing school sites; and,
- finally, two proposals were received and during the month of June 2005, the Department of General Services coordinated the review of the PPEA proposals.

The Department of General Services will present the results of the review committee to the Board of Education for consideration at this meeting. They will also respond to any questions related to the PPEA process. Ultimately, if the Board decides to pursue a PPEA project, the Department of General Services will be the "responsible public entity" that will manage the remainder of the PPEA process, which will include: collection of budget estimates for selected site options, movement to the phase of developing detailed proposals for one or more sites, and finally, entering a comprehensive agreement with a selected vendor for the site selected by the Board of Education.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education take action on the PPEA proposals that were submitted. If the Board wants to continue the PPEA process with one or both of the proposals, an action to do so should be adopted at this meeting and the Board should direct the next steps of the process that it wants to occur and a timeline for completion. If the Board does not want to continue the PPEA process with either of these proposals as the means for consolidating the two schools, the Board should reject both proposals and direct department staff regarding the next steps that should be taken with respect to the process to consolidate the two schools.

**Impact on Resources:**

The impact on resources will depend upon the action chosen by the Board of Education. The General Assembly has authorized up to \$61.5 million for this project if the PPEA process is used.

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

The timetable for further action will depend upon the action chosen by the Board of Education at this meeting. The Department of Education and the Department of General Services must provide an update on the final location selected by the State Board of Education and on the planning and construction process to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committees on Education and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Finance and Education and Health by October 1, 2005.

## **First Action by the General Assembly Regarding the Consolidation of the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind**

### **First Appeared in Chapter 1042, 2003 Acts of Assembly Item 138, Appropriation Act**

*“S.1. The Board of Education shall convene a task force to develop a plan for consolidating services for the deaf and/or blind and multi-disabled students served by Virginia's two schools for these students. The task force shall include at least one member of the Board of Education; the Superintendent of Public Instruction; the Superintendent of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton; the Superintendent of the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled at Hampton; the co-chairmen of the Advisory Commission on the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind; one parent of a currently enrolled student from each of the schools; and one representative each from the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, the Department for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, the Department of Rehabilitative Services, and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.*

*2. The plan shall include an examination of appropriate academic programs, staffing requirements, facilities requirements, student transportation requirements, and individual arrangements necessary for all students currently receiving services to continue receiving services. All options for serving students shall be considered. The plan shall also include the steps necessary to achieve consolidation, funding requirements and/or savings, alternative uses of facilities, and a suggested timeline for achieving consolidation.*

*3. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the task force in its development of the plan, upon request. The task force shall submit its plan to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Education, and the Senate Finance and Education and Health Committees by November 1, 2003.”*

**Second Action by the General Assembly Regarding the Consolidation of  
the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind**

**First Appeared in Chapter 4, 2004 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I  
Item 135, Appropriation Act**

*“F. Out of this appropriation, \$100,000 the first year from the general fund is provided for the following capital needs assessment and feasibility study. In the pre-planning phase for the consolidation at a single campus, the Secretaries of Education, Health and Human Resources, Administration, and Finance, together with the State Board of Education, the Department of Education, the two schools for the deaf, blind, and multi-disabled, the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, the Department of General Services, and the Department of Planning and Budget shall complete a capital needs assessment and feasibility study for consolidating the State's two existing schools for the deaf, blind, and multi-disabled. The Secretaries of Education, Health and Human Resources, Administration, and Finance shall submit a joint report on the capital needs assessment and feasibility study to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committees on Appropriations and Education, and the Senate Committees on Finance and Education and Health by October 1, 2004. Building upon the work of the 2003 Consolidation Task Force, the report shall also include a suggested timeline of steps necessary to achieve a well-planned consolidation of the two existing schools at the new location no later than September 1, 2007, including the closing of the existing sites and disposition of the properties as well as a mechanism to assist the local school divisions with program development for those children who will not continue at the new school.”*