

**Statement of Administrative Impact and Projected Costs of Implementing the
Proposed Revisions to 8 VAC 20-21-10 et seq. Licensure
Regulations for School Personnel (Establish an Endorsement in
American Sign Language)**

Prior to the adoption of any regulations affecting school divisions, Section 22.1-17 of the *Code of Virginia* requires that the Board of Education and the Department of Education prepare a statement of the administrative impact of such regulations on school divisions and the projected costs of implementing and complying with such regulations. The Department is required to send a copy thereof to each division superintendent.

The Board of Education is in the process of revising its Licensure Regulations for School Personnel.

Authority: Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-16. **Bylaws and regulations generally:**
"The Board of Education may adopt bylaws for its own government and promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out its powers and duties and the provisions of this title."

Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-298. **Regulations governing licensure:** "The Board of Education shall, by regulation, prescribe the requirements for the licensure of teachers. Such regulations shall include a requirement that every teacher seeking initial licensure take a professional teacher's assessment prescribed by the Board. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Board may provide for the issuance of a provisional license, valid for a period not to exceed three years, to any person who does not meet this requirement or any other requirement for licensure by law."

Purpose: The Board of Education has approved the provision of three years of instruction in American Sign Language (ASL) for foreign language credit toward an advanced studies diploma. The Board of Education also requested licensure requirements of teachers of ASL. These requirements need to be incorporated into the current licensure regulations for school personnel to ensure that prospective teachers have met competencies to teach ASL as a foreign language credit.

Substance: The Licensure Regulations for School Personnel contain provisions governing:

- Administration of the Regulations
- Purpose and responsibility for licensure
- Conditions for licensure

Statement of Administrative Impact and Projected Costs of
Implementing the Proposed Revisions to the Licensure
Regulations for School Personnel

- Types of licenses, dating of licenses
- Adding and deleting endorsements
- Alternative route to licensure
- Requirements for renewing a license
- Requirements for endorsement areas for teachers, support personnel (reading specialists, counselors, school social workers, etc.), and school leaders
- Revocation, cancellation, suspension, denial and reinstatement of teaching licenses

Summary of the Proposed Regulations:

The primary purpose of this revision is to add an endorsement (teaching) area in American Sign Language. The proposed addition is as follows:

Foreign language preK-12 -- American Sign Language

1. The program in American Sign Language will ensure that the candidate has:
 - a. demonstrated the following competencies:
 - (1) Understanding of native users of American Sign Language at a normal tempo;
 - (2) Ability to sign with a command of vocabulary, nonmanual behaviors, and syntax adequate for expressing thoughts to an American Sign Language user not accustomed to dealing with non-American Sign Language users;
 - (3) Knowledge of history, social structure and artistic and literary contributions of the Deaf culture;
 - (4) Ability to interpret contemporary lifestyles, customs, and cultural patterns of the Deaf culture;
 - (5) Understanding of the application of basic concepts of phonology (e.g., handshapes, types of signs, orientation on the body, sign movements), syntax, and morphology to the teaching of the American Sign Language;
 - (6) Knowledge of the national standards for foreign language learning, current proficiency-based objectives of the teaching of foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels, elementary and secondary methods and techniques for attaining these objectives, the assessment of foreign language skills, the use of media in teaching languages, current curricular developments, the relationship of language study to other areas of the curriculum, and the professional literature of foreign language teaching; and
 - (7) Understanding of and proficiency in English grammar, usage, and mechanics and their integration in writing.
 - b. Participation in opportunities for significant study of the linguistics of American Sign Language and immersion experiences in the Deaf culture.

Statement of Administrative Impact and Projected Costs of
Implementing the Proposed Revisions to the Licensure
Regulations for School Personnel

2. **Endorsement requirements. The candidate must have:**

- a. Graduated from an approved teacher preparation program in a foreign language--American Sign Language; or
- b. Completed a major in American Sign Language or 24 semester hours above the intermediate level in American Sign Language. The program shall include (i) courses in advanced grammar and syntax, conversation, and culture and (ii) a minimum of 3 semester hours of methods of teaching foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels; or
- c. Native users or candidates who have learned American Sign Language without formal academic credit in a college or university must complete the following requirements:
 - (1) Competency in American Sign Language demonstrated by written documentation of one of the following:
 - (a) hold a current, valid Qualified or Professional certification by the American Sign Language Teachers Association;
 - (b) hold a current, valid Virginia Quality Assurance Screening Interpreting Level III or higher issued by the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing;
 - (c) hold a current, valid Registry of Interpreters for Deaf certification in at least one of the following: Certificate of Interpretation (CI), Certificate of Deaf Interpretation (CDI), Reverse Skills Certification (RSC), or Comprehensive Skills Certificate (CSC);
 - (d) hold current, valid National Association for the Deaf certification at Level IV or higher
 - (2) Earned a minimum of 3 semester hours of methods of teaching foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels from an accredited college or university in the United States.

Individuals who are serving as teachers of American Sign Language in a public or accredited nonpublic school who hold a current, valid Virginia teaching license (Collegiate Professional or Postgraduate Professional License) will be given a period of two years within the effective date of these regulations to meet the requirements for the endorsement in American Sign Language.

Estimated Administrative Impact:

Local school boards choosing to offer American Sign Language must employ individuals who hold a teaching endorsement in American Sign Language. Individuals who are currently serving as teachers of American Sign Language will be given a period of two years within the effective date of these regulations to meet the requirements for the endorsement.

Statement of Administrative Impact and Projected Costs of
Implementing the Proposed Revisions to the Licensure
Regulations for School Personnel

The proposed revisions do not impact funding to school divisions. The only cost impact of this revision will be to school divisions in recruiting qualified teachers who meet the requirements for the American Sign Language endorsement and the cost of course work for individuals currently employed who need to seek the American Sign Language endorsement.