

# Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



**Agenda Item:** B

**Date:** June 25, 2015

<b>Title</b>	Final Review of <i>2015-2017 Addendum to the Educational Technology Plan for Virginia: 2010-2015</i>		
<b>Presenter</b>	Mr. Mark Saunders, Director, Office of Technology and Virtual Learning Ms. Jean Weller, Educational Technology Specialist		
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**Purpose of Presentation:**

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

**Previous Review or Action:**

Previous review and action. Specify date and action taken below:

First Review: May 28, 2015

**Action Requested:**

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

**Alignment with Board of Education Goals: Please indicate (X) all that apply:**

	Goal 1: Accountability for Student Learning
	Goal 2: Rigorous Standards to Promote College and Career Readiness
	Goal 3: Expanded Opportunities to Learn
	Goal 4: Nurturing Young Learners
	Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Educators
	Goal 6: Sound Policies for Student Success
	Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools
x	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify: Board of Education Comprehensive Plan

**Background Information and Statutory Authority:**

This item addresses the requirement that the Board of Education Comprehensive Plan include a long-range plan for technology integration consistent with or as part of the Plan.

§ 22.1-253.13:6. Standard 6. Planning and public involvement.

A. "The Board shall also develop, consistent with, or as a part of, its comprehensive plan, a detailed comprehensive, long-range plan to integrate educational technology into the Standards of Learning and the curricula of the public schools in Virginia, including career and technical education programs. The Board shall review and approve the comprehensive plan for educational technology and may require the revision of such plan as it deems necessary."

The Commonwealth's first long-range technology plan was the 1988-1994 Six-Year Technology Plan

for Virginia. Three long-range plans have been produced since then with the most recent plan being the Educational Technology Plan for Virginia: 2010-2015 (the other two were 1996-2002 and 2003-2009). Generally, these plans have been developed apart from the Board's Comprehensive Plan. Treating technology separately from other educational priorities made sense in the earlier days, when a specific focus on educational technology was needed to give technology a greater presence in the classroom environment. Educational technology meant that schools had a few computers, a couple of modems and a few enthusiastic teachers who used technology for special projects. It also made sense because technology demands a systemic view-one must consider a variety of things such as infrastructure, device compatibility, and professional development in order to support the use of technology in learning.

However, since then technology has become more and more a part of every facet of schooling, from scheduling school buses to scheduling student classes, from learning how to play an instrument to learning how to communicate with other students around the world, from assessing students to introducing them to job skills. Technology is not a stand-alone focus anymore, and the systems that supported educational technology now support just about everything that school divisions do. It is part of how educational goals are met.

The decisions made by the Board for their long-range technology plan impact the schools, as divisions must have a long-range plan which aligns to the state plan.

§ 22.1-253.13:6. Standard 6. Planning and public involvement.

B. "The divisionwide comprehensive plan shall include, but shall not be limited to... (vii) a technology plan designed to integrate educational technology into the instructional programs of the school division, including the school division's career and technical education programs, consistent with, or as a part of, the comprehensive technology plan for Virginia adopted by the Board of Education...."

### **Summary of Important Issues:**

The state technology plan is currently on an update schedule (2015-2021) that makes it difficult to align with the Board's comprehensive plan, which is to be updated in 2017. The development of the next state technology plan in concert with the next Board of Education Comprehensive Plan increases the chances that the two plans complement and support each other. This decision also provides an opportunity for the staff of the Department of Education to work closely with the Board to avoid the continued two year gap between the two plans. Considering the ever-changing nature of technology, two years is a significant time gap that can be erased with this decision.

In the most recent state technology plan, school divisions were encouraged to ensure that their technology plans were tied to their comprehensive plans. In so doing, technology was approached as a tool for supporting broad educational goals rather than narrow technology-based ends. This by no means implies that schools do not need experts, both in overseeing/maintaining technology and mentors who can help their fellow educators to effectively use technology as a learning tool. It does mean that divisions should continue to approach their use and support for technology as a systemic issue.

Attachment A is the proposed 2010-2015 Virginia Educational Technology Plan: Addendum for 2015-2017. The Addendum adds to the original plan by updating various objectives and their attendant strategies.

This addendum fills the two year gap (2015 - 2016 and 2016 - 2017) between the expiration of the current technology plan on June 30, 2015, and the start of a new technology plan on July 1, 2017. The state technology plan for 2010 through 2015 provides goals that are still viable. Some objectives need revising due to the ever-changing nature of technology and by creating an addendum to the 2010-2015 plan, we address necessary revisions.

The integration of the goals of the Board of Education into educational technology goals, strategies, and objectives results in greater alignment among two critical plans. This alignment creates the potential for initiatives such as greater virtual course offerings and the operation of a virtual school to be addressed from a policy, instructional, and technical perspective with greater efficiency.

Technology has a significant role in reaching at least five of the seven current Board of Education Goals.

- Goal 1: Accountability for Student Learning - Technology has a role in the use of accountability systems that measure academic progress. The focus is not on the technology, but technology has a relevant role in the delivery of assessment and the evaluation of the related data. Goal 5 of the *Educational Technology Plan for Virginia 2015 – 2017* provides more information on the significant role technology has in reaching this goal.
- Goal 3: Expanded Opportunities to Learn - Technology allows for expanded learning opportunities for students. Goals 3 and 4 of the *Educational Technology Plan for Virginia 2015 – 2017* provide more information on the significant role technology has in reaching this goal.
- Goal 4: Nurturing Young Learners - Technology can play a role in the work the Board takes on to work cooperatively with partners to promote new and innovative partnerships. Goals 1, 3, and 4 of the *Educational Technology Plan for Virginia 2015 – 2017* provide more information on the significant role technology has in reaching this goal.
- Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Educators - Technology has an obvious role in the continued development of highly qualified and effective educators through professional development and the revision of the Technology Standards for Instructional Personnel. Goals 1, 2, and 5 of the *Educational Technology Plan for Virginia 2015 – 2017* provide more information on the significant role technology has in reaching this goal.
- Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools - Technology plays a role in creating safe and secure school environments. In addition to the Virginia Public School Authority grants provided to support the Standards of Learning Web-based Technology Initiative and Virginia e-Learning Backpack Initiative grants, state law authorized \$6.0 million last year in school security equipment grants as part of Series XIV. Proceeds of these additional equipment notes will be used to help offset the related local costs associated with the purchase of appropriate security equipment that will improve and help ensure the safety of students attending public schools in Virginia.

School divisions must create a new technology plan to align with the state technology plan. In order to assist divisions in staying up-to-date but without going through the demanding process that a new technology plan requires, we would ask they they create an addendum to their existing plans for 2016-2018, along the same lines as the addendum to the state technology plan. School division addendum

plans would be valid from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018 because school divisions have one year to align to any new technology plan.

**Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:**

The two-year addendum to the 2010-2015 plan would require less resources than a completely new plan for 2015-2017 for both the Virginia Department of Education staff as well as school division staff.

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

If the Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendation, the Department will notify school divisions of the decision via a Superintendent's Memorandum and by posting the revised information on the appropriate sections of the Department's Web site.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education approve the proposed two-year addendum to the current *Educational Technology Plan for Virginia: 2010 - 2015*.

**Rationale for Action:**

The development of the next state technology plan in concert with the next Board of Education Comprehensive Plan increases the chances that the two plans complement and support each other. This decision also provides an opportunity for the staff of the Department of Education to work closely with the Board to avoid the continued two year gap between the two plans.