

# Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: O

Date: November 17, 2016

<b>Title</b>	Annual Report from the Virginia Council for Private Education		
<b>Presenter</b>	Josie Webster, Executive Director, Virginia Council for Private Education		
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**Purpose of Presentation:**

For information only. No action required.

**Previous Review or Action:**

No previous review or action.

**Action Requested:**

No action requested.

**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: Annual Report from the Virginia Council for Private Education

**Background Information and Statutory Authority:**

In November 1993, the Board of Education adopted a resolution that recognized the accrediting process for nonpublic elementary and secondary schools as administered through the Commission on Accreditation of the Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE). The resolution was primarily for the purpose of public school acceptance of credits earned by students who attended such schools when they transfer to public schools and for any other such purpose(s) which may, from time to time, be specified by the *Code of Virginia* or as may be mutually agreed upon by the Board and VCPE. The resolution specifies, among other things, that the Board of Education will receive an annual report from VCPE.

**Summary of Important Issues:**

VCPE facilitates a statewide framework for communication and cooperation among private schools, their public school counterparts, state and local governments, and other agencies and organizations.

VCPE oversees accreditation of nonpublic preschool, elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth as authorized by the Virginia Board of Education in §22.1-19 of the *Code of Virginia*. State recognized accreditation comes through accreditation granted by any VCPE approved accrediting organization.

All approved accrediting organizations must meet the VCPE core set of standards. The VCPE peer review process and an annual reporting requirement have been developed to monitor the standards. Each association has standards that meet and exceed those that are monitored by VCPE and must be considered individually by an interested school.

There are currently 15 VCPE approved accrediting associations. Please see the attached report for more information.

**Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:**

None

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

None

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive the Annual Report from the Virginia Council for Private Education.



*§22.1-19:*

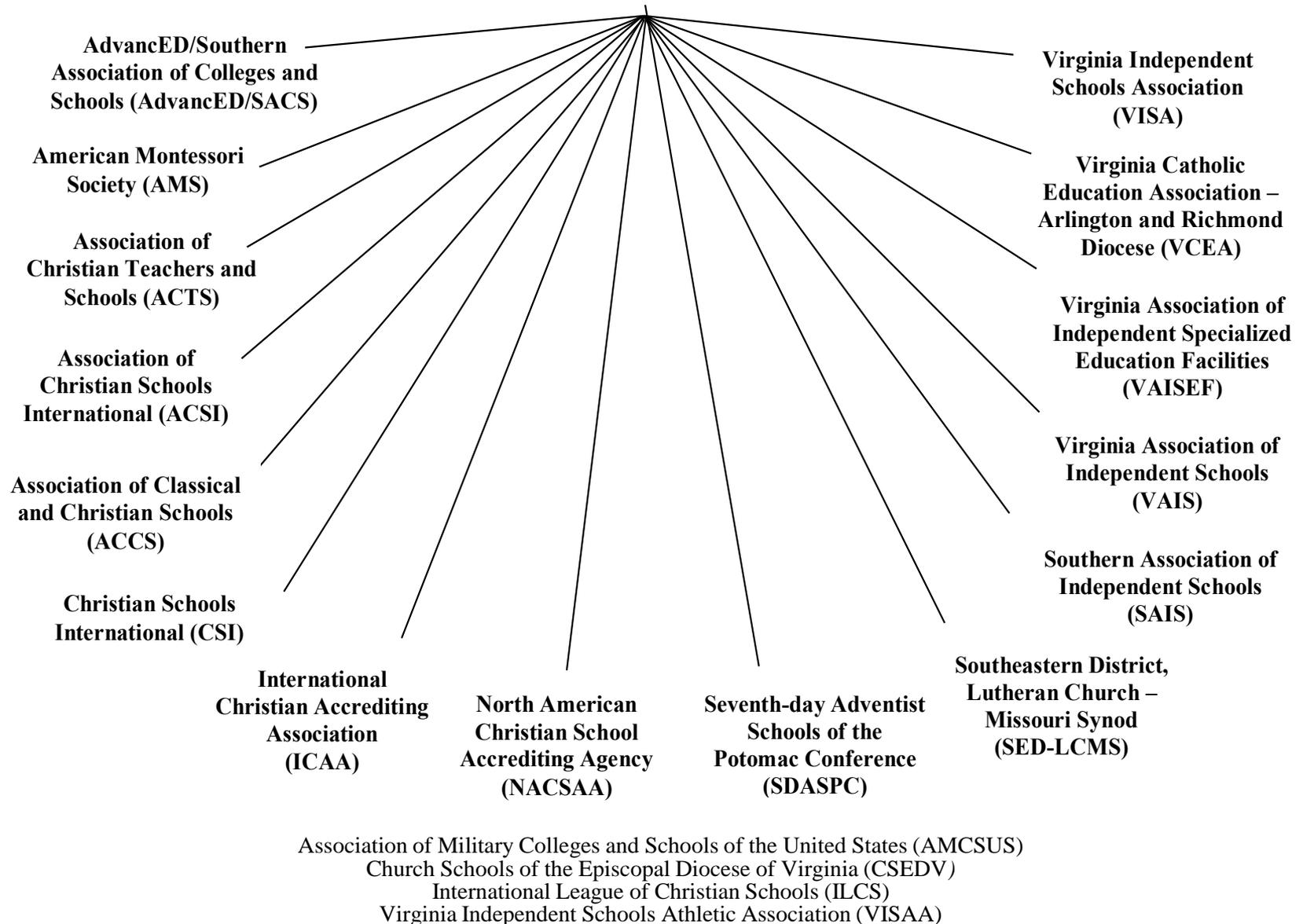
**Virginia's Unique Accountability  
System for Private Schools**

# *VCPE History*

VCPE founded as state affiliate of CAPE in 1974

- 1985** – VBOE transferred accreditation oversight on 2-year trial
- 1987** – VBOE fully approved VCPE accreditation process
- 1993** – VBOE reaffirmed relationship through a resolution
- 2000** – General Assembly passed §22.1-19, granting accreditation oversight of private nursery, preschool, elementary and secondary schools to VCPE as authorized by the Board of Education

# The VCPE Umbrella



# VCPE Growth

YEAR	2000	2005	2010	2015
Associations	9	11	14	15
Schools	212	305	347	452

2016

**15 Accrediting Associations**

**466 of 587 Private Schools ACCOUNTABLE**

**440 Accredited - 26 Candidates**

100,132 students

**587 Private Schools CONNECTED\***

*\*84 percent of schools captured by  
National Center for Education Statistics*

# *Peer Review System:*

## *Process*

- Review of Association Standards required - 3-5 years
  - *Whole School*
  - *Virtual School*
  - *System*
  - *Early Education*
- Association and School Self Studies
- On-site Observation at School
- Annual Association and School Reporting

# *Peer Review System:*

## *Accountability*

- Examples of Association Level Standards
  - *Non-Profit and Non-Discriminatory*
  - *Financial Viability*
  - *Enforcement of School Level Standards*
- Examples of School Level Standards
  - *Published Mission and Philosophy*
  - *Financial Integrity and Governance*
  - *Student and Staff Records*
  - *Teacher Qualifications and Professional Development*
  - *Emergency Management and Response Plans*

# *VCPE Continuous Improvement*

- 2016 VCPE Organizational Assessment
- Standards Task Force
  - *Review of Association Standards*
  - *Annual Reporting Process Improvement*
- Policy Task Force
  - *School Culture and Bullying*
  - *Student Safety and Concussions*
- Communication with Affiliated Private Schools
- VCPE Website and Database

# *VCPE and VDOE as Partners: Implementation of § 22.1-19*

- Transfer of Credit from Private to Public
- Standards for Accrediting Public Schools
  - *Graduation Requirements*
  - *Verified Credits*
  - *Compulsory Attendance*
  - *Definition of Instructional Day*
- Recognition of Time Served for Teachers (ABTEL)

# *VCPE and VDOE as Partners: Collaboration and Communication*

- State Superintendent and Department Divisions
- Equitable Services Workgroup
  - *National Recognition: USDOE Leadership Conference*
  - *Department to School Engagement: VCPE Fall Forum*
- *Virginia Law and Private Schools:  
A Guide to Opening and Operating a Private  
School in Virginia*



## **VIRGINIA COUNCIL FOR PRIVATE EDUCATION**

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