

Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: L

Date: October 26, 2017

Title	Annual Report from the Virginia Council for Private Education		
Presenter	Josie Webster, Executive Director, Virginia Council for Private Education Dr. Kathleen Smith, State Director of AdvancED and Member of the Virginia Council for Private Education Board of Directors		
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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.

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:

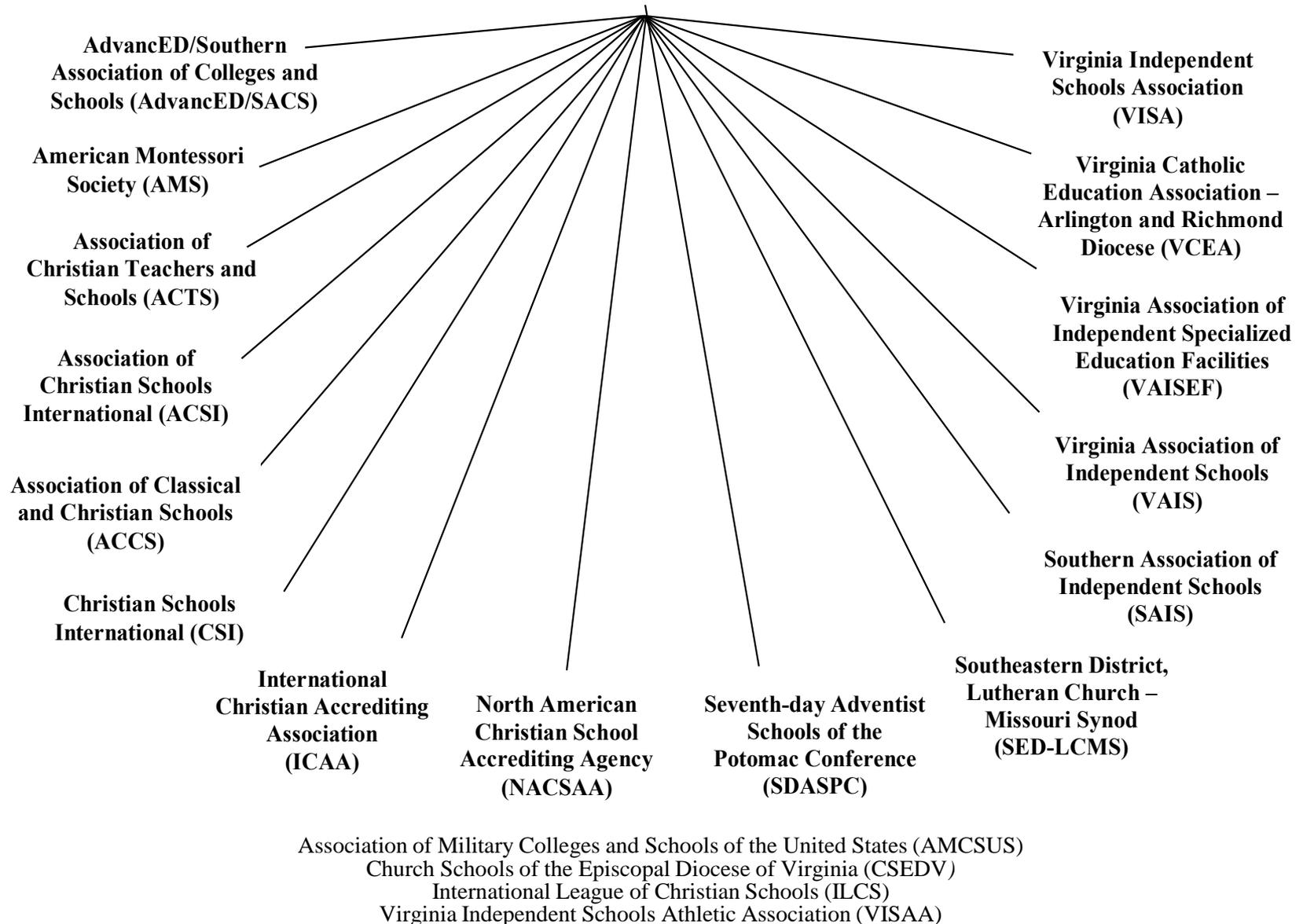
**Virginia's Unique Accountability
System for Private Schools**

VCPE History

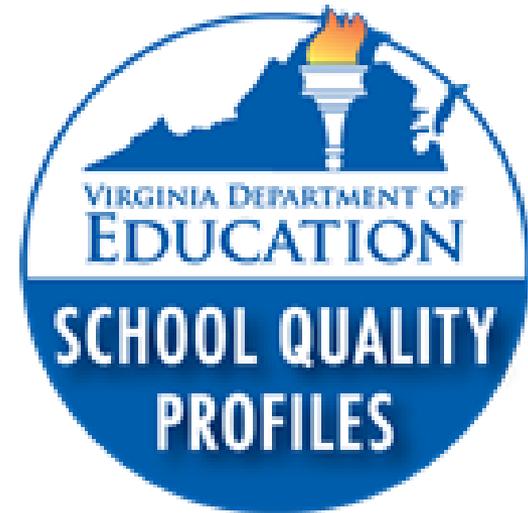
VCPE founded as state affiliate of CAPE in 1974

- 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 and VDOE as Partners



Alignment to the *Profile of a Virginia Graduate*

Students shall acquire and demonstrate foundational skills in

- Critical Thinking,
- Creative Thinking,
- Collaboration,
- Communication, and
- Citizenship

in accordance with the *Profile of a Virginia Graduate* approved by the board.

Critical Thinking – Content Mastery

Veritas School in Richmond emphasizes critical thinking through a traditional liberal arts (classical) approach. Hallmarks of a Veritas education include:



- a concentration on the great works of art, literature and philosophy,
- exceptional instruction in math and science,
- formal training in Latin, logic and rhetoric, and
- fully integrated visual and performing arts.

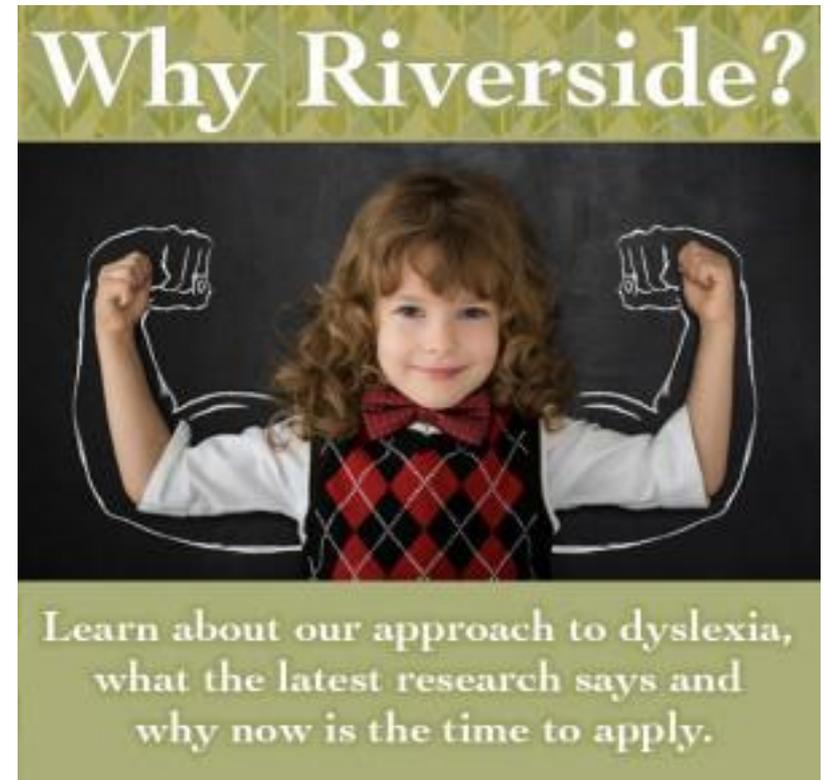
The Great Books curriculum, Socratic seminars and de-emphasis on digitally mediated learning cultivate a longing for fully-orbed human-to-human experiences. Coupled with natural curiosity, rich student-faculty relationships and experience-based math and science courses, students at classical schools like Veritas are uniquely prepared to contribute and advance the STEM innovations of the future.

Creative Thinking – Personal Interests and Productive Behaviors

Riverside School in Richmond is an independent day school located in Richmond, VA dedicated to students in grades K-8 with dyslexia and similar language-based differences.

Hallmarks of Riverside School include:

- small classes,
- individualized curriculum,
- one-on-one instruction, and a
- nurturing environment.



“At Riverside, I learned that education was not a hurdle for someone with dyslexia, but rather an achievable objective. Riverside gave me the tools at a young age to learn that hard work and determination can overcome any academic challenge.” -Riverside Alumnus

Collaboration – A Learned Skill

“Model What We Want Students to Do”

Holy Family Catholic School in Dale City is collaborating with Prince William County Schools on the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant Program at Hampton Middle School. The program:

- serves high-risk, low performing students and
- provides safe and educationally enriching alternatives.
- Prince William County Department of Parks and Recreation offers off-site activities once a week for students.
- Other partners include Northern Virginia Community College, Omega U Fraternity, Virginia STAR and the National Society of Black Engineers.



Communication – Tied to Leadership

Collegiate School's curriculum, programming, fundraising and community engagement, help the students foster a strong sense of self and responsible citizenship to the local and global community. This emphasis has yielded:

- JK-12th grade student body of 1,680 students includes
 - 20% students of color with diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Academic programming infuses
 - global education and global languages.
- Service learning opportunities teach
 - the need to serve others while
 - exploring (through design thinking) to uniquely serve or offer solutions.
- Capstone programs in 4th, 8th and 12th foster
 - collaboration,
 - empathy,
 - creativity,
 - communication, and
 - problem-solving skills.



Citizenship – Promoting a Sense of Community and Fellowship to Parents

Promoting unity and purpose within a Christian school.

Banner Christian School Chesterfield



- Banner encourages parent involvement through volunteering and open access to praise and worship.
- The school community (Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, students and parents) seeks to treat one another, and the larger community with love, justice, humility and service.
- Teaching/learning process reflects a Christ-like sensitivity in a diverse school community.
- Banner business development, marketing, personnel and government relations remain thoroughly Christian.

Citizenship – Promoting a Sense of Community and Fellowship to Parents

Promoting unity and purpose within a Muslim school.

Palm Tree School Fairfax



- The Date Palm represents the Muslims and citizens the Palm Tree School strives to graduate.
- Muslims and citizens are beneficial to themselves, their family and friends, and to society as a whole; just as every part of the Palm Tree is beneficial.
- Students are taught to be constructive and helpful in every aspect of their lives in every way.



Finally, VCPE would like to thank the
Virginia Board of Education for...

*Setting rigorous academic standards
with a high bar for all students.*

VCPE requires its associations to ensure that schools meet or exceed state standards. This ensures that high quality education is provided to all students in the Commonwealth, both public and private schools.



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Grace Creasey – Executive Director – Effective November 1, 2017