

DRAFT

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: 2017-2023**



**Board of Education
Commonwealth of Virginia**

**Adopted
November XX, 2017**

**Members of the Board of Education
as of November 16, 2017**

Mr. Daniel A. Gecker, President
Chesterfield, VA

Mrs. Diane T. Atkinson, Vice President
Ashland, VA

Ms. Kim E. Adkins
Martinsville, VA

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Richmond, VA

Mrs. Elizabeth V. Lodal
McLean, VA

Mr. Sal Romero, Jr.
Harrisonburg, VA

Dr. Jamelle S. Wilson
Ashland, VA

Superintendent of Public Instruction
Dr. Steven S. Staples
Virginia Department of Education

Statutory Requirement for Adopting the Comprehensive Plan

§ [22.1-253.13:6](#). Standard 6. Planning and public involvement.

A. The Board of Education shall adopt a statewide comprehensive, unified, long-range plan based on data collection, analysis, and evaluation. Such plan shall be developed with statewide participation. The Board shall review the plan biennially and adopt any necessary revisions. The Board shall post the plan on the Department of Education's website if practicable, and, in any case, shall make a hard copy of such plan available for public inspection and copying.

This plan shall include the objectives of public education in Virginia, including strategies for improving student achievement then maintaining high levels of student achievement; an assessment of the extent to which these objectives are being achieved; a forecast of enrollment changes; and an assessment of the needs of public education in the Commonwealth. In the annual report required by § [22.1-18](#), the Board shall include an analysis of the extent to which these Standards of Quality have been achieved and the objectives of the statewide comprehensive plan have been met. 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...

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Education plays a vital role in determining how someone will spend his or her adult life – a higher level of education leads to higher earnings, better health, and a longer life. By the same token, the long-term social and financial costs of educational failure are high. A fair and inclusive system that makes the advantages of education available to all is one of the most powerful levers to achieve equity in our society.

The Virginia Board of Education has set its mission and goals for the next several years. By working with its many partners, the Board of Education intends to move Virginia's education system forward by: 1) promoting equitable access to high-quality, effective learning environments; 2) fostering continuous improvement for all students; 3) advocating for resources; and 4) fostering student engagement that promotes the 5 C's and real world problem solving. Virginia's young people are the hope of a bright future not only for themselves and their families, but for the state and the nation.

The Board of Education's vision is to create a quality statewide system of public education that prepares all students for success, for realization of personal goals, and for responsible contributions to the quality of civic life in our state, nation, and the world. The Board is committed to advancing its vision and regularly examining the conditions and needs of public education. Through its adopted policies, the Board conveys high standards for student learning and achievement in preparation for graduation and life beyond high school. Moreover, the Board's work to successfully realize its mission must focus on building the capacity of Virginia educators and the systems that support them.

Landscape of Public Education

Our schools continue to grow in diversity, representing our every-changing communities. During the last ten years, the total student population has increased by just over five percent (66,271 students), from 1,220,440 students in 2006-2007 to 1,286,711 students in 2016-2017. However, the number of economically disadvantaged students, English language learners, and students with disabilities has increased dramatically. The changing makeup of our schools affects the resources required to meet all students' needs, especially some of our most vulnerable student populations.

The number of economically disadvantaged students has increased by 39 percent (137,739 students), from 350,095 students in 2006-2007 to 487,834 students in 2016-2017, currently representing 39 percent of the student population. The number of English language learners has increased by 78 percent (67,630 students), from 86,390 students in 2006-2007 to 154,020 students, currently representing seven percent of the student population. In addition, during that same period, the number of students identified with autism has increased by 222 percent (12,582 students), from 5,674 students in 2005-2006 to 18,256 in 2015-2016, and the number of students identified in the other health impairments disability category has increased by 26 percent (6,683 students), from 25,600 students in 2005-2006 to 32,283 students in 2015-2016.

Purpose of the Comprehensive Plan

The Board of Education's *Comprehensive Plan: 2017-2023* provides the framework for its leadership, advocacy, and oversight that will meet and prioritize the future needs and goals of students, educators, and schools. The priorities and goals are forward-looking to address the increasingly diverse needs of schools and students who will live and work in a complex global, high-technology economy.

Board of Education's Mission

The mission of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction, in cooperation with their partners, is to develop policies and provide leadership that improve student achievement and prepare students to succeed in postsecondary education and the workplace, and to become engaged and enlightened citizens.

Priorities and Goals for Public Education: 2017-2023

The Board of Education's priorities and goals are a roadmap for providing exceptional educational opportunities for all public school students in Virginia. In identifying these priorities and goals, the Board has reached out to families, students, educators, administrators, community members, business leaders, higher education institutions, and the public through hundreds of comments provided during Board public hearings, presentations, and through correspondence. To ensure that all children in the Commonwealth have access to a high-quality education that prepares them for a successful, healthy, and fulfilling life, the Board has developed the following priorities and goals:

Priority 1: Promote equitable access to high-quality, effective learning environments for all students

- Recruit, retain, and support high-quality, effective instructional personnel.
- Promote instructional and support personnel improvement that is data-driven, aligned, and coordinated to improve personnel capacity through professional development, training, and team-based learning opportunities.
- Support policies that promote and measure equitable distribution of high-quality teachers.
- Develop building and facility standards for schools physical plants.
- Support and expand equitable learning opportunities with access to courses and programs.
- Set standards for attracting top students into the teaching profession that include cultural competencies for working in urban, rural, and suburban areas with diverse and economically disadvantaged students, families, and communities.
- Promote closer alignment and continuity with higher education and workforce needs.
- Recognize and support the essential role that counselors, nurses, librarians, school psychologists, school social workers, food service and maintenance workers, and other school support personnel play in providing a high-quality education.
- Support efforts to reduce the impact of the digital divide.
- Promote mental and physical wellness, use data to identify needs and integrate tiered academic, social, emotional, behavioral, and physical health instruction, supports, and interventions that increase equal opportunity for all students to achieve.

Priority 2: Promote continuous improvement for all students and reporting groups through building capacity of educators and monitoring school quality indicators

- Champion, support, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of the Profile of a Virginia Graduate and the Standards of Accreditation.
- Support and implement robust systems that track achievement, improvement, and effectiveness for all student groups.
- Engage educators and students in continuous improvement for instruction and learning.
- Ensure rigorous standards to promote college, career, and civic readiness.
- Develop a knowledge repository of exemplars, best practices, and promising approaches to share with local school divisions.
- Utilize data to identify and implement proactive and preventative evidence-based practices to support measurable improvements in attendance, academics, behavior, and social-emotional health linked to college and career success and workforce readiness skills.

Priority 3: Advocate for the resources required to fully support a system of continuous improvement for all students

- Align funding and human resources with the needs of schools.
- Promote policies that support the individualized learning process for all students.
- Review the Standards of Quality to identify ways to better support challenged schools.
- Promote an equitable distribution of high-quality school personnel determined by an index of economic and other risk indicators.

Priority 4: Foster student engagement in instruction that promotes the 5 C's and real world problem solving

- Actively foster equitable, supportive, and safe academic, discipline, and physical environments.
- Encourage and support respectful, caring relationships among staff and students that create a positive school climate.
- Use data-informed problem solving, decision-making, and progress monitoring to meet instructional needs and support positive behaviors.
- Building an integrated framework that promotes shared leadership at the division, school, classroom, parent, and community levels.
- Promote a culture of continuous growth through ongoing professional learning.

The Board will continue to meet all statutory and regulatory requirements and work to engage all stakeholders in policy decisions and actions related to the Board's priorities and goals.

Current economic conditions remind us that the key to economic recovery is a strong education system. The Board of Education will continue to think creatively and work collaboratively to make sure that its priorities and goals are relevant, practical, and effective.

Assessment of the Extent to Which the Goals are Being Met

Board members believe that accountability in Virginia's public schools begins with them. Accordingly, the Board will update the public, the governor, and the General Assembly on the extent to which its goals are being met through its Annual Report.

Forecast of Enrollment Changes

Additional data will be added.

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