

# Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



**Agenda Item:** H                      **Date:** July 27, 2017

<b>Title</b>	Report on Designing Career Investigations Options for Middle School Students		
<b>Presenter</b>	Dr. Steven M. Constantino, Chief Academic Officer/Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Mr. Joseph Wharff, School Counseling Specialist		
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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
X	Goal 2: Rigorous Standards to Promote College and Career Readiness
X	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
	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify:

**Background Information and Statutory Authority:**

**8VAC20-131-90.A: Instructional program in middle schools.**  
 “Each middle school shall provide a course in career investigation for seventh grade students in accordance with the provisions of 8VAC20-131-140. School divisions may seek alternate means of delivering the career investigation course provided it is equivalent in content and rigor and provides the foundation for a student to develop their Academic and Career Plans as described in 8VAC20-131-140.B.2. Possible alternative means to deliver the career investigation course could include, but not be limited to: online methods, middle school exploratory course options, and delivering the course content through other courses.”

During the 2016 legislative session, the Governor and the General Assembly supported the development of a Profile of a Virginia Graduate through the introduction and adoption of legislation which directed the Board to redefine the expectations of high school graduates in the Commonwealth.

The Career Investigations course requirement is a component of the proposed Standards of Accreditation (SOA) regulations. The SOA regulations will move through the Administrative Process Act Provisions. One of the proposed revisions included a Career Investigations course requirement in middle school to support the development of the Academic and Career Plan (ACP).

At its January 26, 2017 meeting, the Board of Education added language to provide flexibility for school divisions to seek alternate means of delivering the career investigation course, provided that it is equivalent in content and academic rigor.

At the June 22, 2017, Board meeting language was added to clarify that if the career investigation course is delivered through alternate means, it must provide the foundation for students to develop their Academic and Career Plans.

**Summary of Important Issues:**

As a result of the Board of Education's proposed SOA requirement to establish a Career Explorations Course at the middle school level, concerns were raised about the nature of the course and how it would impact scheduling and student elective choices. The purpose of this convening was to clearly understand the options and opportunities open to schools in designing the experience for students and to brainstorm different course delivery options (traditional, online, blended, competency-based, multiyear units of study, etc.). As a result of the convening, a document will be created and shared through Superintendent's Memo that provides school divisions with information and flexible programming options.

Participants both from the field and the DOE were invited to attend. The 15 participants represented the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals, the Virginia Fine Arts Commission, Career/Tech educators, school counselors and representatives from the DOE Divisions of Instruction, Professional Development, and Student Services.

Department staff are working on a draft document designed to be distributed to school divisions in the fall of 2017 with the goal of clarifying the proposed requirement and offering exemplars and suggestions for flexible scheduling options that do not impact student scheduling choices.

**Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:**

None

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

None

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends the Board of Education receive this report.