

House Bill 324 – Overview

Legislation

- HB 324 was introduced by Delegate Dickie Bell and approved by the 2015 General Assembly
- Establishes Board of the Virginia Virtual School and creates the Virginia Virtual School (i.e., “the School”)
- Sets forth the Board’s powers and duties and enrollment eligibility
- A third enactment clause provides that the bill will become effective on July 1, 2016, but only if reenacted by the 2016 General Assembly

Board of the Virginia Virtual School

- Policy agency in the executive branch of government
- For the purpose of governing the full-time online educational programs and services provided to students enrolled in the Virginia Virtual School
- Charged with the operational control of the School

Membership/staffing

- Six legislative members, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and six non-legislative citizen members
 - four members of the House of Delegates appointed by the Speaker (Delegates Dickie Bell, Greason, Hester and Robinson)
 - two members of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules (Senators Barker and McDougle)
- Six non-legislative citizen members appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly
 - one parent of a student enrolled in a full-time online virtual school program
 - one current member of the Board of Education
 - one expert in distance or online learning
- Four-year terms (after the initial staggering of terms)
- Superintendent of Public Instruction must designate a member of the VDOE staff “to serve as a consultant to the Board on matters pertaining to instruction, federal and state special education requirements, and school accreditation and to provide technical assistance to the Board in meeting specific instructional and school accreditation needs”

Enrollment Eligibility

- Any school-age person in the Commonwealth will be eligible to enroll full-time in the School provided that his/her parent
 - determines that access to the educational services at the School is in the best interest of such student and
 - completes the enrollment procedure through an approved multidivision online provider (MOP) that provides full-time virtual school programs through the School
 - a student who attends the School shall only enroll with one MOP at a time

Virginia Virtual School

- Enrollment capped at two percent of any local school division's enrolled students, based on the previous school year's March 31 average daily membership (ADM)
- Must provide an educational program that meets the Standards of Quality for children in K-12
- All educational programs must be provided through an approved MOP as defined in Va. Code § [22.1-212.23](#)
- Eligible for accreditation by the Board of Education
- Not permitted to charge tuition
- Must provide appropriate special education for students with disabilities participating in the School (releases the local school division of residence from the obligations for the special education of students with disabilities)

MOPs

- MOPs for the School must meet the criteria to provide full-time virtual school programs in Va. Code § [22.1-212.24](#)
- The School may enter into contracts with any approved MOP and such contracts are exempt from the Virginia Public Procurement Act
- The selection of an approved MOP is at the discretion of the student's parent
- The Board of the Virginia Virtual School, VDOE, and the Board of Education must promote all approved MOPs equally to students

Funding

- The average state share of Standards of Quality per pupil funding for any student who enrolls full-time in the School will be transferred directly to the School by VDOE on a semimonthly basis
 - The total per pupil funding transferred consists of the average per pupil amounts on the basis of March 31 ADM
- VDOE must transfer all federal funds directly associated with any enrolled student to the School, including funds for the Individualized Education Program (IEP) of any special education student
- Students who enroll on a full-time basis in the School cannot be counted in the March 31 ADM of their local school division of residence
 - "local school division of residence" is defined as that school division in which a student enrolled full-time in the School resides
- The School is responsible for all federal and state accountability requirements applicable to any student who enrolls full-time
- Any costs or fees associated with the administration of the School will be borne proportionally by each of the School's approved MOPs