

SENATE BILL NO. 627

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health  
on February 8, 2024)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Lucas)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-1, 22.1-206.3, and 22.1-253.13:1, as they shall become effective, 23.1-100, 23.1-203, 23.1-905.1, 23.1-907, 23.1-908, 23.1-2904, and 23.1-3137 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 13 of Title 22.1 an article numbered 5.1, consisting of sections numbered 22.1-237.1 through 22.1-237.5, relating to Department of Education and Virginia Community College System; College and Career Ready Virginia Program and Fund established.

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 22.1-1, 22.1-206.3, and 22.1-253.13:1, as they shall become effective, 23.1-100, 23.1-203, 23.1-905.1, 23.1-907, 23.1-908, 23.1-2904, and 23.1-3137 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 13 of Title 22.1 an article numbered 5.1, consisting of sections numbered 22.1-237.1 through 22.1-237.5, as follows:**

**§ 22.1-1. (For Effective Date, see 2022 Acts cc. 549, 550, cl. 2) Definitions.**

As used in this title, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Board" or "State Board" means the Board of Education.

"Department" means the Department of Education.

"Division superintendent" means the division superintendent of schools of a school division.

"Dual enrollment" means the enrollment of a qualified high school student in a postsecondary course that is creditable toward high school completion and a career certificate or an associate or baccalaureate degree at a public institution of higher education. "Dual enrollment" does not include the enrollment of a qualified high school student in a postsecondary course that is not creditable toward high school completion.

27 "Elementary" includes kindergarten.

28 "Elementary and secondary" and "elementary or secondary" include elementary, middle, and high  
29 school grades.

30 "Evidence-based literacy instruction" means structured instructional practices, including  
31 sequential, systematic, explicit, and cumulative teaching, that (i) are based on reliable, trustworthy, and  
32 valid evidence consistent with science-based reading research; (ii) are used in core or general instruction,  
33 supplemental instruction, intervention services, and intensive intervention services; (iii) have a  
34 demonstrated record of success in adequately increasing students' reading competency, vocabulary, oral  
35 language, and comprehension and in building mastery of the foundational reading skills of phonological  
36 and phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, phonics, spelling, and text reading fluency; and (iv) are  
37 able to be differentiated in order to meet the individual needs of students.

38 "Governing body" or "local governing body" means the board of supervisors of a county, council  
39 of a city, or council of a town, responsible for appropriating funds for such locality, as the context may  
40 require.

41 "Middle school" means separate schools for early adolescents and the middle school grades that  
42 might be housed at elementary or high schools.

43 "Parent" or "parents" means any parent, guardian, legal custodian, or other person having control  
44 or charge of a child.

45 "Person of school age" means a person who will have reached his fifth birthday on or before  
46 September 30 of the school year and who has not reached twenty years of age on or before August 1 of  
47 the school year.

48 "School board" means the school board that governs a school division.

49 "Science-based reading research" means research that (i) applies rigorous, systematic, and  
50 objective observational or experimental procedures to obtain valid knowledge relevant to reading  
51 development, reading instruction, and reading and writing difficulties and (ii) explains how proficient  
52 reading and writing develop, why some children have difficulties developing key literacy skills, and how

53 schools can best assess and instruct early literacy, including the use of evidence-based literacy instruction  
54 practices to promote reading and writing achievement.

55 "Superintendent" means the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

56 **§ 22.1-206.3. (Effective July 1, 2024) Passport dual enrollment; course credit; guidelines.**

57 The Board shall, consistent with the provisions of Article 5.1 (§ 22.1-237.1 et seq.), develop  
58 guidelines and policies for prioritizing to the maximum extent practicable dual enrollment programs,  
59 including the Passport Program, the ~~Uniform Certificate of General Studies~~ Passport Plus Program, the  
60 New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Program, and other such programs that allow high school  
61 students to receive credit toward the completion of an undergraduate course, degree, or credential offered  
62 in the Virginia Community College System. Such guidelines and policies shall include recommendations  
63 and strategies on how to ensure the prioritization of such programs to the maximum extent practicable,  
64 including ways to direct prioritization of funding to such programs.

65 **§ 22.1-253.13:1. (For Effective Date, see 2022 Acts cc. 549, 550, cl. 2) Standard 1.**  
66 **Instructional programs supporting the Standards of Learning and other educational objectives.**

67 A. The General Assembly and the Board believe that the fundamental goal of the public schools  
68 of the Commonwealth must be to enable each student to develop the skills that are necessary for success  
69 in school, preparation for life, and reaching their full potential. The General Assembly and the Board find  
70 that the quality of education is dependent upon the provision of (i) the appropriate working environment,  
71 benefits, and salaries necessary to ensure the availability of high-quality instructional personnel; (ii) the  
72 appropriate learning environment designed to promote student achievement; (iii) quality instruction that  
73 enables each student to become a productive and educated citizen of Virginia and the United States of  
74 America; and (iv) the adequate commitment of other resources. In keeping with this goal, the General  
75 Assembly shall provide for the support of public education as set forth in Article VIII, § 1 of the  
76 Constitution of Virginia.

77 B. The Board shall establish educational objectives known as the Standards of Learning, which  
78 shall form the core of Virginia's educational program, and other educational objectives, which together  
79 are designed to ensure the development of the skills that are necessary for success in school and for

80 preparation for life in the years beyond. At a minimum, the Board shall establish Standards of Learning  
81 for English, mathematics, science, and history and social science. The Standards of Learning shall not be  
82 construed to be regulations as defined in § 2.2-4001.

83 The Board shall seek to ensure that the Standards of Learning are consistent with a high-quality  
84 foundation educational program. The Standards of Learning shall include, but not be limited to, the basic  
85 skills of communication (listening, speaking, reading, and writing); computation and critical reasoning,  
86 including problem solving and decision making; proficiency in the use of computers and related  
87 technology; computer science and computational thinking, including computer coding; and the skills to  
88 manage personal finances and to make sound financial decisions.

89 The English Standards of Learning for reading in kindergarten through grade eight shall align with  
90 evidence-based literacy instruction and science-based reading research.

91 The Standards of Learning in all subject areas shall be subject to regular review and revision to  
92 maintain rigor and to reflect a balance between content knowledge and the application of knowledge in  
93 preparation for eventual employment and lifelong learning. The Board shall establish a regular schedule,  
94 in a manner it deems appropriate, for the review, and revision as may be necessary, of the Standards of  
95 Learning in all subject areas. Such review of each subject area shall occur at least once every seven years.  
96 Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Board from conducting such review and revision  
97 on a more frequent basis.

98 To provide appropriate opportunity for input from the general public, teachers, and local school  
99 boards, the Board shall conduct public hearings prior to establishing revised Standards of Learning. Thirty  
100 days prior to conducting such hearings, the Board shall give notice of the date, time, and place of the  
101 hearings to all local school boards and any other persons requesting to be notified of the hearings and  
102 publish notice of its intention to revise the Standards of Learning in the Virginia Register of Regulations.  
103 Interested parties shall be given reasonable opportunity to be heard and present information prior to final  
104 adoption of any revisions of the Standards of Learning.

105 In addition, the Department shall make available and maintain a website, either separately or  
106 through an existing website utilized by the Department, enabling public elementary, middle, and high

107 school educators to submit recommendations for improvements relating to the Standards of Learning,  
108 when under review by the Board according to its established schedule, and related assessments required  
109 by the Standards of Quality pursuant to this chapter. Such website shall facilitate the submission of  
110 recommendations by educators.

111 School boards shall implement the Standards of Learning or objectives specifically designed for  
112 their school divisions that are equivalent to or exceed the Board's requirements. Students shall be expected  
113 to achieve the educational objectives established by the school division at appropriate age or grade levels.  
114 The curriculum adopted by the local school division shall be aligned to the Standards of Learning.

115 The Board shall include in the Standards of Learning for history and social science the study of  
116 contributions to society of diverse people. For the purposes of this subsection, "diverse" includes  
117 consideration of disability, ethnicity, race, and gender.

118 The Board shall include in the Standards of Learning for health instruction in emergency first aid,  
119 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator, including hands-on  
120 practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Such instruction shall be based  
121 on the current national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines for cardiopulmonary  
122 resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator, such as a program developed by the  
123 American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. No teacher who is in compliance with  
124 subdivision D 3 of § 22.1-298.1 shall be required to be certified as a trainer of cardiopulmonary  
125 resuscitation to provide instruction for non-certification.

126 With such funds as are made available for this purpose, the Board shall regularly review and revise  
127 the competencies for career and technical education programs to require the full integration of English,  
128 mathematics, science, and history and social science Standards of Learning. Career and technical  
129 education programs shall be aligned with industry and professional standard certifications, where they  
130 exist.

131 The Board shall establish content standards and curriculum guidelines for courses in career  
132 investigation in elementary school, middle school, and high school. Each school board shall (i) require  
133 each middle school student to take at least one course in career investigation or (ii) select an alternate

134 means of delivering the career investigation course to each middle school student, provided that such  
135 alternative is equivalent in content and rigor and provides the foundation for such students to develop their  
136 academic and career plans. Any school board may require (a) such courses in career investigation at the  
137 high school level as it deems appropriate, subject to Board approval as required in subsection A of § 22.1-  
138 253.13:4, and (b) such courses in career investigation at the elementary school level as it deems  
139 appropriate. The Board shall develop and disseminate to each school board career investigation resource  
140 materials that are designed to ensure that students have the ability to further explore interest in career and  
141 technical education opportunities in middle and high school. In developing such resource materials, the  
142 Board shall consult with representatives of career and technical education, industry, skilled trade  
143 associations, chambers of commerce or similar organizations, and contractor organizations.

144 C. Local school boards shall develop and implement a program of instruction for grades K through  
145 12 that is aligned to the Standards of Learning and meets or exceeds the requirements of the Board. The  
146 program of instruction shall emphasize reading, writing, speaking, mathematical concepts and  
147 computations, proficiency in the use of computers and related technology, computer science and  
148 computational thinking, including computer coding, and scientific concepts and processes; essential skills  
149 and concepts of citizenship, including knowledge of Virginia history and world and United States history,  
150 economics, government, foreign languages, international cultures, health and physical education,  
151 environmental issues, and geography necessary for responsible participation in American society and in  
152 the international community; fine arts, which may include, but need not be limited to, music and art, and  
153 practical arts; knowledge and skills needed to qualify for further education, gainful employment, or  
154 training in a career or technical field; and development of the ability to apply such skills and knowledge  
155 in preparation for eventual employment and lifelong learning and to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

156 Local school boards shall also develop and implement programs of prevention, intervention, or  
157 remediation for students who are educationally at risk including, but not limited to, those who fail to  
158 achieve a passing score on any Standards of Learning assessment in grades three through eight or who fail  
159 an end-of-course test required for the award of a verified unit of credit. Such programs shall include  
160 components that are research-based.

161 Any student who achieves a passing score on one or more, but not all, of the Standards of Learning  
162 assessments for the relevant grade level in grades three through eight may be required to attend a  
163 remediation program.

164 Any student who fails to achieve a passing score on all of the Standards of Learning assessments  
165 for the relevant grade level in grades three through eight or who fails an end-of-course test required for  
166 the award of a verified unit of credit shall be required to attend a remediation program or to participate in  
167 another form of remediation. Division superintendents shall require such students to take special programs  
168 of prevention, intervention, or remediation, which may include attendance in public summer school  
169 programs, in accordance with clause (ii) of subsection A of § 22.1-254 and § 22.1-254.01.

170 Remediation programs shall include, when applicable, a procedure for early identification of  
171 students who are at risk of failing the Standards of Learning assessments in grades three through eight or  
172 who fail an end-of-course test required for the award of a verified unit of credit. Such programs may also  
173 include summer school for all elementary and middle school grades and for all high school academic  
174 courses, as defined by regulations promulgated by the Board, or other forms of remediation. Summer  
175 school remediation programs or other forms of remediation shall be chosen by the division superintendent  
176 to be appropriate to the academic needs of the student. Students who are required to attend such summer  
177 school programs or to participate in another form of remediation shall not be charged tuition by the school  
178 division.

179 The requirement for remediation may, however, be satisfied by the student's attendance in a  
180 program of prevention, intervention or remediation that has been selected by his parent, in consultation  
181 with the division superintendent or his designee, and is either (i) conducted by an accredited private school  
182 or (ii) a special program that has been determined to be comparable to the required public school  
183 remediation program by the division superintendent. The costs of such private school remediation program  
184 or other special remediation program shall be borne by the student's parent.

185 The Board shall establish standards for full funding of summer remedial programs that shall  
186 include, but not be limited to, the minimum number of instructional hours or the equivalent thereof  
187 required for full funding and an assessment system designed to evaluate program effectiveness. Based on

188 the number of students attending and the Commonwealth's share of the per pupil instructional costs, state  
189 funds shall be provided for the full cost of summer and other remediation programs as set forth in the  
190 appropriation act, provided such programs comply with such standards as shall be established by the  
191 Board, pursuant to § 22.1-199.2.

192 D. Local school boards shall also implement the following:

193 1. Programs in grades K through three that emphasize developmentally appropriate learning to  
194 enhance success.

195 2. Programs based on prevention, intervention, or remediation designed to increase the number of  
196 students who earn a high school diploma and to prevent students from dropping out of school. Such  
197 programs shall include components that are research-based.

198 3. Career and technical education programs incorporated into the K through 12 curricula that  
199 include:

200 a. Knowledge of careers and all types of employment opportunities, including, but not limited to,  
201 apprenticeships, entrepreneurship and small business ownership, the military, and the teaching profession,  
202 and emphasize the advantages of completing school with marketable skills;

203 b. Career exploration opportunities in the middle school grades;

204 c. Competency-based career and technical education programs that integrate academic outcomes,  
205 career guidance, and job-seeking skills for all secondary students. Programs shall be based upon labor  
206 market needs and student interest. Career guidance shall include counseling about available employment  
207 opportunities and placement services for students exiting school. Each school board shall develop and  
208 implement a plan to ensure compliance with the provisions of this subdivision. Such plan shall be  
209 developed with the input of area business and industry representatives and local comprehensive  
210 community colleges and shall be submitted to the Superintendent in accordance with the timelines  
211 established by federal law;

212 d. Annual notice on its website to enrolled high school students and their parents of (i) the  
213 availability of the postsecondary education and employment data published by the State Council of Higher  
214 Education on its website pursuant to § 23.1-204.1 and (ii) the opportunity for such students to obtain a

215 nationally recognized career readiness certificate at a local public high school, comprehensive community  
216 college, or workforce center; and

217 e. As part of each student's academic and career plan, a list of (i) the top 100 professions in the  
218 Commonwealth by median pay and the education, training, and skills required for each such profession  
219 and (ii) the top 10 degree programs at institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth by median  
220 pay of program graduates. The Department shall annually compile such lists and provide them to each  
221 local school board.

222 4. Educational objectives in middle and high school that emphasize economic education and  
223 financial literacy pursuant to § 22.1-200.03.

224 5. Early identification of students with disabilities and enrollment of such students in appropriate  
225 instructional programs consistent with state and federal law.

226 6. Early identification of gifted students and enrollment of such students in appropriately  
227 differentiated instructional programs.

228 7. Educational alternatives for students whose needs are not met in programs prescribed elsewhere  
229 in these standards. Such students shall be counted in average daily membership (ADM) in accordance  
230 with the regulations of the Board.

231 8. Adult education programs for individuals functioning below the high school completion level.  
232 Such programs may be conducted by the school board as the primary agency or through a collaborative  
233 arrangement between the school board and other agencies.

234 9. A plan to make achievements for students who are educationally at risk a divisionwide priority  
235 that shall include procedures for measuring the progress of such students.

236 10. An agreement for postsecondary credit and degree attainment with ~~a~~ any comprehensive  
237 community college in the Commonwealth specifying the options for students to complete an associate  
238 degree ~~or a one-year Uniform Certificate of General Studies, the Passport Plus Program, or the Passport~~  
239 Program from a comprehensive community college concurrent with a high school diploma, consistent  
240 with the requirements for the College and Career Ready Virginia Program set forth in Article 5.1 (§ 22.1-

241 237.1 et seq.) of Chapter 13. Such agreement shall specify the credit available for dual enrollment courses  
242 and Advanced Placement courses with qualifying exam scores of three or higher.

243 11. A plan to notify students and their parents of the availability of dual enrollment and advanced  
244 placement classes; career and technical education programs, including internships, externships,  
245 apprenticeships, credentialing programs, certification programs, licensure programs, and other work-  
246 based learning experiences; the International Baccalaureate Program and Academic Year Governor's  
247 School Programs; the qualifications for enrolling in such classes, programs, and experiences; and the  
248 availability of financial assistance to low-income and needy students to take the advanced placement and  
249 International Baccalaureate examinations. This plan shall include notification to students and parents of  
250 the College and Career Ready Virginia Program established pursuant to Article 5.1. (§ 22.1-237.1 et seq.)  
251 of Chapter 13 and its agreement with a comprehensive community college in the Commonwealth pursuant  
252 to subdivision 10 to enable students to complete an associate degree or a one-year Uniform Certificate of  
253 General Studies, the Passport Plus Program, or the Passport Program concurrent with a high school  
254 diploma.

255 12. Identification of students with limited English proficiency and enrollment of such students in  
256 appropriate instructional programs, which programs may include dual language programs whereby such  
257 students receive instruction in English and in a second language.

258 13. Early identification, diagnosis, and assistance for students with mathematics problems and  
259 provision of instructional strategies and mathematics practices that benefit the development of  
260 mathematics skills for all students.

261 Local school divisions shall provide algebra readiness intervention services to students in grades  
262 six through nine who are at risk of failing the Algebra I end-of-course test, as demonstrated by their  
263 individual performance on any diagnostic test that has been approved by the Department. Local school  
264 divisions shall report the results of the diagnostic tests to the Department on an annual basis, at a time to  
265 be determined by the Superintendent. Each student who receives algebra readiness intervention services  
266 will be assessed again at the end of that school year. Funds appropriated for prevention, intervention, and

267 remediation; summer school remediation; at-risk; or algebra readiness intervention services may be used  
268 to meet the requirements of this subdivision.

269 14. Incorporation of art, music, and physical education as a part of the instructional program at the  
270 elementary school level.

271 15. A program of physical activity available to all students in grades kindergarten through five  
272 consisting of at least 20 minutes per day or an average of 100 minutes per week during the regular school  
273 year and available to all students in grades six through 12 with a goal of at least 150 minutes per week on  
274 average during the regular school year. Such program may include any combination of (i) physical  
275 education classes, (ii) extracurricular athletics, (iii) recess, or (iv) other programs and physical activities  
276 deemed appropriate by the local school board. Each local school board shall implement such program  
277 during the regular school year. Any physical education class offered to students in grades seven and eight  
278 shall include at least one hour of personal safety training per school year in each such grade level that is  
279 developed and delivered in partnership with the local law-enforcement agency and consists of situational  
280 safety awareness training and social media education.

281 16. A program of student services for kindergarten through grade 12 that shall be designed to aid  
282 students in their educational, social, and career development.

283 17. The collection and analysis of data and the use of the results to evaluate and make decisions  
284 about the instructional program.

285 18. A program of instruction in the high school Virginia and U.S. Government course on all  
286 information and concepts contained in the civics portion of the U.S. Naturalization Test.

287 E. From such funds as may be appropriated or otherwise received for such purpose, there shall be  
288 established within the Department a unit to (i) conduct evaluative studies; (ii) provide the resources and  
289 technical assistance to increase the capacity for school divisions to deliver quality instruction; and (iii)  
290 assist school divisions in implementing those programs and practices that will enhance pupil academic  
291 performance and improve family and community involvement in the public schools. Such unit shall  
292 identify and analyze effective instructional programs and practices and professional development  
293 initiatives; evaluate the success of programs encouraging parental and family involvement; assess changes

294 in student outcomes prompted by family involvement; and collect and disseminate among school divisions  
295 information regarding effective instructional programs and practices, initiatives promoting family and  
296 community involvement, and potential funding and support sources. Such unit may also provide resources  
297 supporting professional development for administrators and teachers. In providing such information,  
298 resources, and other services to school divisions, the unit shall give priority to those divisions  
299 demonstrating a less than 70 percent passing rate on the Standards of Learning assessments.

300 F. Each local school board may enter into agreements for postsecondary course credit, credential,  
301 certification, or license attainment, hereinafter referred to as College and Career Access Pathways  
302 Partnerships (Partnerships), with comprehensive community colleges or other public institutions of higher  
303 education or educational institutions established pursuant to Title 23.1 that offer a career and technical  
304 education curriculum. Such Partnerships shall (i) specify the options for students to take courses as part  
305 of the career and technical education curriculum that lead to course credit or an industry-recognized  
306 credential, certification, or license concurrent with a high school diploma; (ii) specify the credit,  
307 credentials, certifications, or licenses available for such courses; and (iii) specify available options for  
308 students to participate in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs at comprehensive community  
309 colleges concurrent with the pursuit of a high school diploma and receive college credit and high school  
310 credit for successful completion of any such program.

311 G. Each local school board shall provide a program of literacy instruction that is aligned with  
312 science-based reading research and provides evidenced-based literacy instruction to students in  
313 kindergarten through grade eight and is consistent with the school board's literacy plan as required by  
314 subsection B of § 22.1-253.13:6. Pursuant to such program:

315 1. Each local school board shall provide reading intervention services to students in kindergarten  
316 through grade eight who demonstrate substantial deficiencies based on their individual performance on  
317 the Standards of Learning reading assessment or a literacy screener provided or approved by the  
318 Department. Such reading intervention services shall consist of evidence-based literacy instruction, align  
319 with science-based reading research, and be documented for each student in a written student reading plan,

320 consistent with the requirements in subdivision 2 and the list developed by the Department pursuant to  
321 subdivision H 2.

322           2. A reading specialist, in collaboration with the teacher of any student who receives reading  
323 intervention services pursuant to subdivision 1, shall develop, oversee implementation of, and monitor  
324 student progress on a student reading plan. The parent of each student who receives reading intervention  
325 services pursuant to subdivision 1 shall receive notice of and have the opportunity to participate in the  
326 development of the student reading plan. Each student reading plan (i) shall follow the Department  
327 template created pursuant to subdivision H 3; (ii) shall document such reading intervention services; (iii)  
328 shall include, at a minimum, (a) the student's specific, diagnosed reading skill deficiencies as determined  
329 or identified by diagnostic assessment data or the literacy screener provided or approved by the  
330 Department; (b) the goals and benchmarks for student growth in reading; (c) a description of the specific  
331 measures that will be used to evaluate and monitor the student's reading progress; (d) the specific evidence-  
332 based literacy instruction that the student will receive; (e) the strategies, resources, and materials that will  
333 be provided to the student's parent to support the student to make reading progress; and (f) any additional  
334 services the teacher deems available and appropriate to accelerate the student's reading skill development;  
335 and (iv) may include the following services for the student: instruction from a reading specialist, trained  
336 aide, computer-based reading tutorial program, or classroom teacher with support from an aide, extended  
337 instructional time in the school day or school year, or, for students in grades six through eight, a literacy  
338 course, in addition to the course required by the Standards of Learning in English, that provides the  
339 specific evidence-based literacy instruction identified in the student's reading plan. In accordance with §  
340 22.1-215.2, the parent of each student shall receive notice before services begin and a copy of the student  
341 reading plan.

342           3. Each student who receives such reading intervention services shall be assessed utilizing either  
343 the literacy screener provided or approved by the Department or the grade-level reading Standards of  
344 Learning assessment again at the end of that school year.

345           Funds appropriated for prevention, intervention, and remediation, summer school remediation, the  
346 at-risk add-on, or early intervention reading may be used to meet the requirements of this subsection.

347 H. In order to assist local school boards to implement the provisions of subsection G:

348 1. The Board shall provide guidance on the content of student reading plans;

349 2. The Department shall develop a list of core literacy curricula, supplemental instruction practices  
350 and programs, and intervention programs that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with  
351 science-based reading research for students in kindergarten through grade eight. The list shall be approved  
352 by the Board;

353 3. The Department shall develop a template for student reading plans that aligns with the  
354 requirements of subsection G;

355 4. The Department shall develop and implement a plan for the annual collection and public  
356 reporting of division-level and school-level literacy data, at a time to be determined by the Superintendent,  
357 to include results on the literacy screeners provided or approved by the Department and the reading  
358 Standards of Learning assessments; and

359 5. The Department shall provide free online evidence-based literacy instruction resources that can  
360 be accessed by parents and local school boards to support student literacy development at home.

361 Article 5.1.

362 College and Career Ready Virginia Program and Fund.

363 **§ 22.1-237.1. Definitions.**

364 As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:

365 "Associate-degree-granting public institution of higher education," "baccalaureate public  
366 institution of higher education," "comprehensive community college," "Council," "public institution of  
367 higher education," and "System" have the same meanings as provided in § 23.1-100.

368 "Career and technical education" has the same meaning as provided in § 23.1-2900.

369 "Fund" means the College and Career Ready Virginia Fund.

370 "Program" means the College and Career Ready Virginia Program.

371 "Qualified high school student" means a student who is eligible to participate in the Program in  
372 accordance with subdivision 3 of § 22.1-237.4.

373 **§ 22.1-237.2. College and Career Ready Virginia Program and Fund; establishment.**

374 A. The Board and the State Board for Community Colleges shall establish the College and Career  
375 Ready Virginia Program.

376 B. The purpose of the Program is to offer consistent, structured opportunities for all qualified high  
377 school students in the Commonwealth to enroll in postsecondary coursework offered by a comprehensive  
378 community college that is creditable toward high school completion and a certificate or degree from a  
379 public institution of higher education. Academic credits earned through the Program shall enable students  
380 to complete a postsecondary credential in less time and at lower cost.

381 C. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the  
382 College and Career Ready Virginia Fund. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller.  
383 All funds appropriated for such purpose and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds  
384 received on its behalf shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on  
385 moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund,  
386 including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain  
387 in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purpose of administering the Program.  
388 Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued  
389 by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Chancellor of the System and the Superintendent.

390 D. Comprehensive community colleges, the Online Virginia Network Authority, and local school  
391 boards shall not charge qualified high school students tuition or fees for enrolling and participating in  
392 Program courses.

393 **§ 22.1-237.3. College and Career Ready Virginia Program; requirements.**

394 A. The Program shall consist of the dual enrollment and participation of qualified high school  
395 students at the high school in college courses pursuant to the Passport Program and the Passport Plus  
396 Program established in accordance with the requirements set forth in subsection B of § 23.1-907.

397 B. Each school board shall, pursuant to the Program, offer each qualified high school student in  
398 the local school division access to courses at each high school that are sufficient to complete the Passport  
399 Program and the Passport Plus Program at a public institution of higher education at no cost to such  
400 student.

401 C. The System and the Online Virginia Network Authority shall, pursuant to the Program, offer  
402 each local school board access to courses at each high school, including virtual courses, that are sufficient  
403 for each local school board's qualified high school students to complete the Passport Program and the  
404 Passport Plus Program at a public institution of higher education, at no cost to such local school board.

405 D. Any credit earned through successful completion of Passport Program and Passport Plus  
406 Program courses through the Program shall transfer to each public institution of higher education pursuant  
407 to §§ 23.1-905.1 and 23.1-907.

408 E. The Program shall include appropriate counseling by high school and comprehensive  
409 community college staff to ensure that all high school students and parents of high school students receive  
410 thorough information about the availability of and process for enrolling in Program courses and the  
411 opportunity to earn Passport Program and Passport Plus Program credits that will transfer to public  
412 institutions of higher education.

413 F. The Program shall be data-driven and continually updated to (i) reduce socioeconomic,  
414 academic, and other barriers impeding students' access to Program courses; (ii) improve student academic  
415 and career outcomes; and (iii) align with the changing workforce needs of the Commonwealth.

416 G. The Auditor of Public Accounts shall annually audit the receipt and expenditure of any funds  
417 associated with the Program by any local school board, any comprehensive community college, the  
418 Department, or the System to ensure that such funds are expended exclusively in furtherance of the  
419 purposes of this article.

420 **§ 22.1-237.4. College and Career Ready Virginia Program; administration.**

421 The Department and the System shall administer the Program. In administering the Program, the  
422 Department and the System shall:

423 1. Establish an advisory committee composed of representatives from local school divisions from  
424 each of the eight Superintendent's regions, associate-degree-granting public institutions of higher  
425 education from each of the eight Superintendent's regions, baccalaureate public institutions of higher  
426 education, Richard Bland College, the Office of the Secretary of Education, the State Council of Higher  
427 Education for Virginia, the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia, the Virginia Office of Education

428 Economics, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, as well as  
429 parents of public school students from each of the eight Superintendent's regions, a parent of a student  
430 who receives home instruction, and a representative from the Department with expertise in state and  
431 federal requirements for meeting the needs of students with disabilities. Such advisory committee shall  
432 provide guidance to the Department and the System to ensure that the Program fulfills the purpose of the  
433 Program described in subsection B of § 22.1-237.2 and meets the requirements set forth in § 22.1-237.3.

434 2. Coordinate with the Council in its performance of its responsibilities under §§ 23.1-905.1, 23.1-  
435 907, and 23.1-908.

436 3. Review existing regulations, including 8VAC20-131-140, and policies, including policy 6.6.3  
437 in the VCCS Policy Manual, on dual enrollment student eligibility and admission requirements and  
438 develop consistent student eligibility and admission requirements for the Program that balance improving  
439 student access to and ensuring student preparedness for Program courses.

440 4. Develop and implement initiatives to improve participation in the Program by qualified high  
441 school students from groups of students that are underrepresented in baccalaureate public institutions of  
442 higher education.

443 5. Develop guidelines for school boards and comprehensive community colleges to provide notice  
444 of and counseling relating to the Program to high school students and their parents.

445 6. Develop guidelines for local school boards and comprehensive community colleges to provide  
446 students enrolled in the Program with appropriate support, including academic support services and  
447 activities, access and user privileges to adequate library collections and services, accommodations for  
448 students with disabilities, transportation, and any other learning information or resources.

449 7. Establish and implement initiatives to increase the number of high school teachers across the  
450 Commonwealth that meet the applicable dual enrollment faculty credential requirements.

451 8. In local school divisions in which in-person instruction by qualified high school faculty is not  
452 available, ensure that comprehensive community colleges and the Online Virginia Network Authority  
453 provide access to Program courses transmitted virtually.

454 9. Consider the unique needs of local school divisions related to their location, size, and proximity  
455 to a comprehensive community college when developing recommendations and implementing the  
456 Program.

457 10. Consider how to incorporate all associate-degree-granting public institutions of higher  
458 education in the Program, consistent with the establishment of the Program pursuant to § 22.1-237.2.

459 11. Make distributions from the Fund as set forth in subsection C of § 22.1-237.2.

460 12. Develop and implement a plan for the annual collection and public reporting of state-level and  
461 division-level Program data, including high school and postsecondary student outcomes.

462 13. Develop and implement a plan for the annual collection from local school divisions and  
463 comprehensive community colleges of data on their receipts and expenditures related to the Program.

464 14. Establish a Program webpage that provides information necessary for students and parents to  
465 understand and access the Program.

466 15. Complete an annual, comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the Program, including its  
467 cost, student outcomes, and the quality and rigor of Program courses, and prepare a plan for continuous  
468 Program improvement.

469 16. Annually report to the General Assembly the results of the review and the plan for continuous  
470 Program improvement in subdivision 15.

471 **§ 22.1-237.5. College and Career Ready Virginia Program; incorporation of career and**  
472 **technical education coursework; work group.**

473 A. In recognition of the fact that career and technical education is an essential element of workforce  
474 readiness in the Commonwealth, the Department and the System shall establish the Program career and  
475 technical education work group (the work group) for the purpose of developing and recommending a  
476 career and technical education program of coursework that is available to all qualified high school students  
477 as part of the Program.

478 B. The work group shall be composed of representatives from local school divisions from each of  
479 the eight Superintendent's regions, associate-degree-granting public institutions of higher education from  
480 each of the eight Superintendent's regions, Richard Bland College, the Office of the Secretary of

481 Education, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Council of Independent Colleges in  
482 Virginia, the Virginia Office of Education Economics, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, and the  
483 Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, as well as parents of public school students from each of the eight  
484 Superintendent's regions, a parent of a student who receives home instruction, and a representative from  
485 the Department with expertise in state and federal requirements for meeting the needs of students with  
486 disabilities.

487 C. The work group shall:

488 1. Review existing statutory requirements related to career and technical education, including §  
489 23.1-2906.1, and assess their relevance to qualified dual enrollment students;

490 2. Gather data sufficient to understand (i) what career and technical education courses and  
491 pathways are currently offered through dual enrollment to students; (ii) how the current dual enrollment  
492 course offerings differ across local school divisions; (iii) whether existing state funding programs that  
493 support career and technical education, including the Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back (G3) Program  
494 established pursuant to § 23.1-2911.2, the New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Program  
495 established pursuant to Article 4.1 (§ 23.1-627.1 et seq.) of Chapter 6 of Title 23.1, and the FastForward  
496 Program established by the System, are available to dual enrollment students; (iv) the current availability  
497 of instructors who are qualified to teach dual enrollment career and technical education courses across  
498 local school divisions; (v) the current costs of dual enrollment in career and technical education courses  
499 for students across local school divisions; (vi) the current cost to comprehensive community colleges to  
500 provide career and technical education through dual enrollment; and (vii) the extent to which current dual  
501 enrollment career and technical education coursework meets industry needs across the Commonwealth;  
502 and

503 3. Develop recommendations for the Department and the System to incorporate career and  
504 technical education coursework into the Program. Such recommendations shall address (i) what career  
505 and technical education coursework shall be available through dual enrollment to qualified high school  
506 students through the Program; (ii) how to ensure that all qualified dual enrolled students can access career  
507 and technical courses available through the Program; (iii) how to ensure that such courses meet the

508 industry needs of the Commonwealth; (iv) how to ensure that such courses are affordable for qualified  
509 high school students across the Commonwealth; (v) how to ensure that qualified instructors are available  
510 to teach career and technical education coursework through the Program; (vi) how to make career and  
511 technical education coursework offered through the Program available to qualified high school students  
512 through the Online Virginia Network; (vii) what measurable objectives and quantifiable goals the  
513 Department and the System should use to understand the cost, assess outcomes, and develop plans for  
514 continuous improvement of dual enrollment career and technical education coursework through the  
515 Program; and (viii) what legislative action is necessary to incorporate career and technical education  
516 coursework into the Program.

517 **§ 23.1-100. Definitions.**

518 As used in this title, unless the context requires a different meaning:

519 "Associate-degree-granting" means that an associate degree is the most advanced degree that is  
520 granted.

521 "Associate-degree-granting public institution of higher education" includes Richard Bland College  
522 and each comprehensive community college.

523 "Baccalaureate" means that bachelor's degrees or more advanced degrees, or both, are granted.

524 "Baccalaureate public institution of higher education" includes Christopher Newport University,  
525 George Mason University, James Madison University, Longwood University, the University of Mary  
526 Washington, Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, Radford University, the University of  
527 Virginia, the University of Virginia's College at Wise as a division of the University of Virginia, Virginia  
528 Commonwealth University, Virginia Military Institute, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State  
529 University, Virginia State University, and The College of William and Mary in Virginia.

530 "Chief executive officer" includes the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System, the  
531 Chancellor of the University of Virginia's College at Wise, the Superintendent of Virginia Military  
532 Institute, and the president of each other public institution of higher education.

533 "Comprehensive community college" means an associate-degree-granting public institution of  
534 higher education governed by the State Board that offers instruction in one or more of the following fields:

- 535 1. Freshman and sophomore courses in arts and sciences acceptable for transfer to baccalaureate  
536 degree programs;
- 537 2. Diversified technical curricula, including programs leading to an associate degree;
- 538 3. Career and technical education leading directly to employment;
- 539 4. Courses in general and continuing education for adults in the fields set out in subdivisions 1, 2,  
540 and 3; or
- 541 5. Noncredit training and retraining courses and programs of varying lengths to meet the needs of  
542 business and industry in the Commonwealth.

543 "Council" means the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

544 "Dual enrollment" means the enrollment of a qualified high school student in a postsecondary  
545 course that is creditable toward high school completion and a career certificate or an associate or  
546 baccalaureate degree at a public institution of higher education. "Dual enrollment" does not include the  
547 enrollment of a qualified high school student in a postsecondary course that is not creditable toward high  
548 school completion.

549 "Governing board" includes the State Board and the board of visitors of each baccalaureate public  
550 institution of higher education. "Governing board" does not include local community college boards.

551 "Local community college board" means the board established to act in an advisory capacity to the  
552 State Board and perform such duties with respect to the operation of a single comprehensive community  
553 college as may be delegated to it by the State Board.

554 "Nonprofit private institution of higher education" means any postsecondary school, as that term  
555 is defined in § 23.1-213, in the Commonwealth that is exempt from paying federal income taxes under §  
556 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is certified by the Council to offer degrees or exempt from  
557 such certification pursuant to Article 3 (§ 23.1-213 et seq.) of Chapter 2.

558 "Non-Virginia student" means any student who has not established domicile in the Commonwealth  
559 pursuant to § 23.1-502.

560 "Private institution of higher education" includes each nonprofit private institution of higher  
561 education and proprietary private institution of higher education in the Commonwealth.

562 "Proprietary private institution of higher education" means any postsecondary school, as that term  
563 is defined in § 23.1-213, in the Commonwealth that is privately owned, privately managed, and obligated  
564 to pay federal income taxes in the Commonwealth and is certified by the Council to offer degrees or  
565 exempt from such certification pursuant to Article 3 (§ 23.1-213 et seq.) of Chapter 2.

566 "Public institution of higher education" includes the System as a whole and each associate-degree-  
567 granting and baccalaureate public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth.

568 "State Board" means the State Board for Community Colleges.

569 "System" means the Virginia Community College System.

570 "Virginia student" means any student who has established domicile in the Commonwealth  
571 pursuant to § 23.1-502.

572 **§ 23.1-203. Duties of Council.**

573 The Council shall:

574 1. Develop a statewide strategic plan that (i) reflects the goals set forth in subsection A of § 23.1-  
575 1002 or (ii) once adopted, reflects the goals and objectives developed pursuant to subdivision B 5 of §  
576 23.1-309 for higher education in the Commonwealth, identifies a coordinated approach to such state and  
577 regional goals, and emphasizes the future needs for higher education in the Commonwealth at both the  
578 undergraduate and the graduate levels and the mission, programs, facilities, and location of each of the  
579 existing institutions of higher education, each public institution's six-year plan, and such other matters as  
580 the Council deems appropriate. The Council shall revise such plan at least once every six years and shall  
581 submit such recommendations as are necessary for the implementation of the plan to the Governor and  
582 the General Assembly.

583 2. Review and approve or disapprove any proposed change in the statement of mission of any  
584 public institution of higher education and define the mission of all newly created public institutions of  
585 higher education. The Council shall report such approvals, disapprovals, and definitions to the Governor  
586 and the General Assembly at least once every six years. No such actions shall become effective until 30  
587 days after adjournment of the session of the General Assembly next following the filing of such a report.  
588 Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to authorize the Council to modify any mission statement

589 adopted by the General Assembly or empower the Council to affect, either directly or indirectly, the  
590 selection of faculty or the standards and criteria for admission of any public institution of higher education,  
591 whether relating to academic standards, residence, or other criteria. Faculty selection and student  
592 admission policies shall remain a function of the individual public institutions of higher education.

593           3. Study any proposed escalation of any public institution of higher education to a degree-granting  
594 level higher than that level to which it is presently restricted and submit a report and recommendation to  
595 the Governor and the General Assembly relating to the proposal. The study shall include the need for and  
596 benefits or detriments to be derived from the escalation. No such institution shall implement any such  
597 proposed escalation until the Council's report and recommendation have been submitted to the General  
598 Assembly and the General Assembly approves the institution's proposal.

599           4. Review and approve or disapprove all enrollment projections proposed by each public institution  
600 of higher education. The Council's projections shall be organized numerically by level of enrollment and  
601 shall be used solely for budgetary, fiscal, and strategic planning purposes. The Council shall develop  
602 estimates of the number of degrees to be awarded by each public institution of higher education and  
603 include those estimates in its reports of enrollment projections. The student admissions policies for such  
604 institutions and their specific programs shall remain the sole responsibility of the individual governing  
605 boards but all baccalaureate public institutions of higher education shall adopt dual admissions policies  
606 with comprehensive community colleges as required by § 23.1-907.

607           5. Review and approve or disapprove all new undergraduate or graduate academic programs that  
608 any public institution of higher education proposes.

609           6. Review and require the discontinuance of any undergraduate or graduate academic program that  
610 is presently offered by any public institution of higher education when the Council determines that such  
611 academic program is (i) nonproductive in terms of the number of degrees granted, the number of students  
612 served by the program, the program's effectiveness, and budgetary considerations or (ii) supported by state  
613 funds and unnecessarily duplicative of academic programs offered at other public institutions of higher  
614 education. The Council shall make a report to the Governor and the General Assembly with respect to the

615 discontinuance of any such academic program. No such discontinuance shall become effective until 30  
616 days after the adjournment of the session of the General Assembly next following the filing of such report.

617 7. Review and approve or disapprove the establishment of any department, school, college, branch,  
618 division, or extension of any public institution of higher education that such institution proposes to  
619 establish, whether located on or off the main campus of such institution. If any organizational change is  
620 determined by the Council to be proposed solely for the purpose of internal management and the  
621 institution's curricular offerings remain constant, the Council shall approve the proposed change. Nothing  
622 in this subdivision shall be construed to authorize the Council to disapprove the establishment of any such  
623 department, school, college, branch, division, or extension established by the General Assembly.

624 8. Review the proposed closure of any academic program in a high demand or critical shortage  
625 area, as defined by the Council, by any public institution of higher education and assist in the development  
626 of an orderly closure plan, when needed.

627 9. Develop a uniform, comprehensive data information system designed to gather all information  
628 necessary to the performance of the Council's duties. The system shall include information on admissions,  
629 enrollment, self-identified students with documented disabilities, personnel, programs, financing, space  
630 inventory, facilities, and such other areas as the Council deems appropriate. When consistent with the  
631 Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act (§ 2.2-3800 et seq.), the Virginia  
632 Unemployment Compensation Act (§ 60.2-100 et seq.), and applicable federal law, the Council, acting  
633 solely or in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education or the Virginia Employment  
634 Commission, may contract with private entities to create de-identified student records in which all  
635 personally identifiable information has been removed for the purpose of assessing the performance of  
636 institutions and specific programs relative to the workforce needs of the Commonwealth.

637 10. In cooperation with public institutions of higher education, develop guidelines for the  
638 assessment of student achievement. Each such institution shall use an approved program that complies  
639 with the guidelines of the Council and is consistent with the institution's mission and educational  
640 objectives in the development of such assessment. The Council shall report each institution's assessment

641 of student achievement in the revisions to the Commonwealth's statewide strategic plan for higher  
642 education.

643 11. In cooperation with the appropriate state financial and accounting officials, develop and  
644 establish uniform standards and systems of accounting, recordkeeping, and statistical reporting for public  
645 institutions of higher education.

646 12. Review biennially and approve or disapprove all changes in the inventory of educational and  
647 general space that any public institution of higher education proposes and report such approvals and  
648 disapprovals to the Governor and the General Assembly. No such change shall become effective until 30  
649 days after the adjournment of the session of the General Assembly next following the filing of such report.

650 13. Visit and study the operations of each public institution of higher education at such times as  
651 the Council deems appropriate and conduct such other studies in the field of higher education as the  
652 Council deems appropriate or as may be requested by the Governor or the General Assembly.

653 14. Provide advisory services to each accredited nonprofit private institution of higher education  
654 whose primary purpose is to provide collegiate or graduate education and not to provide religious training  
655 or theological education on academic, administrative, financial, and space utilization matters. The Council  
656 may review and advise on joint activities, including contracts for services between public institutions of  
657 higher education and such private institutions of higher education or between such private institutions of  
658 higher education and any agency or political subdivision of the Commonwealth.

659 15. Adopt such policies and regulations as the Council deems necessary to implement its duties  
660 established by state law. Each public institution of higher education shall comply with such policies and  
661 regulations.

662 16. Issue guidelines consistent with the provisions of the federal Family Educational Rights and  
663 Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. § 1232g), requiring public institutions of higher education to release a student's  
664 academic and disciplinary record to a student's parent.

665 17. Require each institution of higher education formed, chartered, or established in the  
666 Commonwealth after July 1, 1980, to ensure the preservation of student transcripts in the event of  
667 institutional closure or revocation of approval to operate in the Commonwealth. An institution may ensure

668 the preservation of student transcripts by binding agreement with another institution of higher education  
669 with which it is not corporately connected or in such other way as the Council may authorize by regulation.  
670 In the event that an institution closes or has its approval to operate in the Commonwealth revoked, the  
671 Council, through its director, may take such action as is necessary to secure and preserve the student  
672 transcripts until such time as an appropriate institution accepts all or some of the transcripts. Nothing in  
673 this subdivision shall be deemed to interfere with the right of a student to his own transcripts or authorize  
674 disclosure of student records except as may otherwise be authorized by law.

675 18. Require the development and submission of articulation, dual admissions, and guaranteed  
676 admissions agreements between associate-degree-granting and baccalaureate public institutions of higher  
677 education.

678 19. Provide periodic updates of base adequacy funding guidelines adopted by the Joint  
679 Subcommittee Studying Higher Education Funding Policies for each public institution of higher  
680 education.

681 20. Develop, pursuant to the provisions of § 23.1-907, guidelines for articulation, dual admissions,  
682 and guaranteed admissions agreements, including guidelines related to a one-year ~~Uniform Certificate of~~  
683 ~~General Studies~~ Passport Plus Program and a one-semester Passport Program to be offered at each  
684 comprehensive community college. The guidelines developed pursuant to this subdivision shall be  
685 developed in consultation with all public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth, the  
686 Department of Education, and the Virginia Association of School Superintendents and shall ensure  
687 standardization, quality, and transparency in the implementation of the programs and agreements. At the  
688 discretion of the Council, private institutions of higher education eligible for tuition assistance grants may  
689 also be consulted.

690 21. Cooperate with the Board of Education in matters of interest to both public elementary and  
691 secondary schools and public institutions of higher education, particularly in connection with coordination  
692 of the college admission requirements, coordination of teacher training programs with the public school  
693 programs, and the Board of Education's Six-Year Educational Technology Plan for Virginia. The Council

694 shall encourage public institutions of higher education to design programs that include the skills necessary  
695 for the successful implementation of such Plan.

696 22. Advise and provide technical assistance to the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship  
697 Committee in the implementation and administration of the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship  
698 Program pursuant to Chapter 34.1 (§ 30-231.01 et seq.) of Title 30.

699 23. Insofar as possible, seek the cooperation and utilize the facilities of existing state departments,  
700 institutions, and agencies in carrying out its duties.

701 24. Serve as the coordinating council for public institutions of higher education.

702 25. Serve as the planning and coordinating agency for all postsecondary educational programs for  
703 all health professions and occupations and make recommendations, including those relating to financing,  
704 for providing adequate and coordinated educational programs to produce an appropriate supply of properly  
705 trained personnel. The Council may conduct such studies as it deems appropriate in furtherance of the  
706 requirements of this subdivision. All state departments and agencies shall cooperate with the Council in  
707 the execution of its responsibilities under this subdivision.

708 26. Carry out such duties as the Governor may assign to it in response to agency designations  
709 requested by the federal government.

710 27. Insofar as practicable, preserve the individuality, traditions, and sense of responsibility of each  
711 public institution of higher education in carrying out its duties.

712 28. Insofar as practicable, seek the assistance and advice of each public institution of higher  
713 education in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities.

714 29. Administer the Virginia Longitudinal Data System as a multiagency partnership for the  
715 purposes of developing educational, health, social service, and employment outcome data; improving the  
716 efficacy of state services; and aiding decision making.

717 30. Assist the Department of Education with collecting and compiling information for distribution  
718 to high school students that assist such students in making more informed decisions about post-high-  
719 school educational and training opportunities pursuant to § 22.1-206.2.

720 **§ 23.1-905.1. Course credit; dual enrollment courses.**

721 A. The Council, in consultation with each public institution of higher education, shall establish a  
722 policy for granting undergraduate course credit to any entering student who has successfully completed a  
723 dual enrollment course. The policy shall:

724 1. Outline the conditions necessary for each public institution of higher education to grant course  
725 credit for the successful completion of a dual enrollment course;

726 2. Identify whether each dual enrollment course offered in the Commonwealth is transferrable to  
727 a public institution of higher education as (i) a ~~Uniform Certificate of General Studies~~ Passport Plus  
728 Program or Passport Program course credit, (ii) a general elective course credit, or (iii) a course credit  
729 meeting other academic requirements of a public institution of higher education, or if such course is not  
730 likely to transfer for course credit. The policy shall also require that each school division and  
731 comprehensive community college offering a dual enrollment course clearly specify such transfer  
732 information on any website, literature, or other materials describing or advertising the course;

733 3. Require each public institution of higher education offering a dual enrollment course to identify  
734 the equivalent non-dual enrollment course;

735 4. Ensure that the grant of course credit is consistent across each public institution of higher  
736 education and each such dual enrollment course; and

737 5. Require that the following information be made available on the online portal maintained by the  
738 System pursuant to subsection C of § 23.1-908: (i) a description of each dual enrollment course offered in  
739 the Commonwealth; (ii) the specific academic, career, or technical programs in the System that will accept  
740 the course credit and which specific comprehensive community colleges offer such programs; and (iii) if  
741 available, the pathway maps in which the dual enrollment course is included.

742 B. The Council and each public institution of higher education shall make the policy available to  
743 the public on their websites. The Council shall also forward the policy to the System for inclusion in the  
744 online portal maintained by the System pursuant to § 23.1-908.

745 C. The Council shall annually report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate  
746 Committee on Education and Health on the implementation of the course credit policy by each public  
747 institution of higher education.

748 § 23.1-907. Articulation, dual admissions, and guaranteed admissions agreements; admission  
749 of certain comprehensive community college graduates.

750 A. The board of visitors of each baccalaureate public institution of higher education shall develop,  
751 consistent with Council guidelines and the institution's six-year plan as set forth in § 23.1-306, articulation,  
752 dual admissions, and guaranteed admissions agreements with each associate-degree-granting public  
753 institution of higher education. Such guaranteed admissions agreements may provide for the guaranteed  
754 admission of a student who earns an associate degree concurrently with a high school diploma through a  
755 dual enrollment program, in addition to any guaranteed admission for a student who earns an associate  
756 degree post-high school.

757 B. The System, in cooperation with the Council and each public institution of higher education,  
758 and consistent with the guidelines developed pursuant to subdivision 20 of § 23.1-203, shall establish a  
759 one-semester Passport Program and a one-year ~~Uniform Certificate of General Studies~~ Passport Plus  
760 Program. The Passport Program shall consist of 15 course credit hours and shall be a component of the  
761 30-credit-hour ~~Uniform Certificate of General Studies~~ Passport Plus Program. Each ~~Uniform Certificate~~  
762 ~~of General Studies~~ Passport Plus Program and Passport Program course shall be transferable and shall  
763 satisfy a lower division general education requirement at any public institution of higher education. The  
764 ~~Uniform Certificate of General Studies~~ Passport Plus Program and Passport Program shall be available at  
765 each comprehensive community college and through the Online Virginia Network.

766 C. The Council shall establish procedures under which a baccalaureate public institution of higher  
767 education may seek a waiver from the Council from accepting the transfer of a ~~Uniform Certificate of~~  
768 ~~General Studies~~ Passport Plus Program or Passport Program course to satisfy the requirements for the  
769 completion of a specific pathway or degree. A waiver shall not be granted allowing a baccalaureate public  
770 institution to (i) generally reject the transfer of all coursework that is a part of the ~~Uniform Certificate of~~  
771 ~~General Studies~~ Passport Plus Program or Passport Program or (ii) generally reject the transfer of a course  
772 from the ~~Uniform Certificate of General Studies~~ Passport Plus Program or Passport Program for all  
773 pathway maps and degrees. An application for a waiver shall identify with particularity the course for  
774 which the institution is seeking a waiver and the particular pathway or degree to which the waiver would

775 apply. The application shall provide justification for the waiver and shall designate alternative courses  
776 offered through the System that may be completed by a student in order to complete a transferable, 30-  
777 credit-hour ~~Uniform Certificate~~ Passport Plus or 15-credit-hour Passport. The Council shall adopt  
778 guidelines regarding the criteria to be used to review and issue decisions regarding waiver requests. Such  
779 waiver requests shall only be granted if the baccalaureate public institution of higher education provides  
780 evidence that the specified pathway or degree requires a specialized, lower division course not available  
781 through the System. Once approved, notice of a waiver granted by the Council shall be included in the  
782 online portal established pursuant to § 23.1-908.

783 D. The Council shall develop guidelines for associate-degree-granting and baccalaureate public  
784 institutions of higher education to use in mapping pathways for the completion of credits in particular  
785 programs of study, including the courses recommended to be taken in a dual enrollment, comprehensive  
786 community college, and baccalaureate public institution setting in order to pursue a specific degree or  
787 career. Such guidelines shall define the elements of a pathway map and identify the pathway maps to be  
788 developed. Initial guidelines adopted for mapping such pathways shall establish a multiyear schedule for  
789 the development and implementation of pathway maps for all fields of study.

790 E. Each baccalaureate public institution of higher education, in cooperation and consultation with  
791 the System, shall develop pathway maps consistent with the guidelines established pursuant to subsection  
792 D. Such pathways maps shall clearly set forth the courses that a student at a comprehensive community  
793 college is encouraged to complete prior to transferring to the baccalaureate institution. The goal of the  
794 career education pathway maps shall be to assist students in achieving optimal efficiencies in the time and  
795 cost of completing a degree program. Such program map shall also clearly identify the courses, if any, for  
796 which the baccalaureate institution has received a waiver from transfer pursuant to subsection C.

797 F. The Council shall prepare a comprehensive annual report on the effectiveness of transferring  
798 from comprehensive community colleges to baccalaureate public institutions of higher education,  
799 including a review of the effectiveness of the use of pathway maps in achieving efficiencies and cost  
800 savings in the completion of a degree program. The report shall include the following elements:  
801 completion rates, average time to degree, credit accumulation, post-transfer student academic

802 performance, and comparative efficiency. The Council shall adopt guidelines for data submission from  
803 public institutions of higher education necessary for such report, and all institutions shall report such data  
804 in accordance with the guidelines. The report shall be made publicly available on the Council website and  
805 on the online portal maintained pursuant to § 23.1-908.

806 G. Each comprehensive community college shall develop agreements for postsecondary credit and  
807 degree attainment with the public high schools in the school divisions that such comprehensive community  
808 college serves specifying the options for students to complete an associate degree, the Passport Plus  
809 Program, or the ~~Uniform Certificate of General Studies~~ Passport Program concurrent with a high school  
810 diploma consistent with the requirements for the College and Career Ready Virginia Program set forth in  
811 Article 5.1 (§ 22.1-237.1 et seq.) of Chapter 13 of Title 22.1. Such agreements shall specify the credit  
812 available for dual enrollment courses and Advanced Placement courses with qualifying exam scores of  
813 three or higher.

814 H. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any public institution of higher education  
815 established pursuant to Chapter 25 (§ 23.1-2500 et seq.).

816 **§ 23.1-908. State Transfer Tool.**

817 A. The Council shall develop, in cooperation with the System and each public institution of higher  
818 education, a State Transfer Tool that designates each general education course, in addition to the courses  
819 that comprise the ~~Uniform Certificate of General Studies~~ Passport Plus Program and the Passport Program,  
820 that is offered in an associate degree program at an associate-degree-granting public institution of higher  
821 education and transferable for course credit to a baccalaureate public institution of higher education. In  
822 developing the State Transfer Tool, the Council shall also seek the participation of private institutions of  
823 higher education.

824 B. The Council shall develop guidelines to govern the development and implementation of  
825 articulation, dual admissions, and guaranteed admissions agreements between associate-degree-granting  
826 public institutions of higher education and baccalaureate public institutions of higher education. Dual  
827 admissions agreements shall set forth (i) the obligations of each student accepted to such a program,  
828 including grade point average requirements, acceptable associate degree majors, and completion

829 timetables, and (ii) the extent to which each student accepted to such a program may access the privileges  
830 of enrollment at both institutions while he is enrolled at either institution. Such agreements are subject to  
831 the admissions requirements of the baccalaureate public institutions of higher education.

832 C. Each baccalaureate public institution of higher education shall update its transfer agreements  
833 immediately following any program modifications and shall send a copy of its updated agreement and any  
834 other transfer-related documents and resources to the System. The Council shall also send to the System  
835 a copy of any transfer-related guidelines and resources that it possesses. The System shall maintain an  
836 online portal that allows access to all such agreements, documents, and resources. The online portal shall  
837 also include (i) documents and resources related to course equivalency, (ii) pathway maps established  
838 pursuant to subsection E of § 23.1-907, (iii) the transfer tool established pursuant to subsection A, (iv)  
839 information regarding dual enrollment courses as described in § 23.1-905.1, and (v) any other information  
840 required to be included by law or deemed relevant by the System. The online portal shall be available to  
841 the public on the websites of the Council, the System, each public institution of higher education, and each  
842 school division offering a dual enrollment course.

843 **§ 23.1-2904. State Board; duties.**

844 In addition to the duties of governing boards of public institutions of higher education set forth in  
845 Chapter 13 (§ 23.1-1300 et seq.), the State Board shall:

846 1. Be the state agency with primary responsibility for coordinating workforce training at the  
847 postsecondary through the associate degree level, exclusive of the career and technical education programs  
848 provided through and administered by the public school system. This responsibility shall not preclude  
849 other agencies from also providing such services as appropriate, but these activities shall be coordinated  
850 with the comprehensive community colleges;

851 2. Report on actions that comprehensive community colleges have taken to meet the requirements  
852 of § 23.1-2906 in its annual report to the General Assembly on workforce development activities required  
853 by the general appropriation act;

854 3. Prepare and administer a plan providing standards and policies for the establishment,  
855 development, and administration of comprehensive community colleges under its authority. It shall

856 determine the need for comprehensive community colleges and develop a statewide plan for their location  
857 and a time schedule for their establishment. In the development of such plan, a principal objective is to  
858 provide and maintain a system of comprehensive community colleges, as that term is defined in § 23.1-  
859 100 to make appropriate educational opportunities and programs available throughout the  
860 Commonwealth. In providing these offerings, the State Board shall recognize the need for excellence in  
861 all curricula and shall establish and maintain standards appropriate to the various purposes the respective  
862 programs are designed to serve;

863 4. Establish policies providing for the creation of a local community college board for each  
864 comprehensive community college established under this chapter and the procedures and regulations  
865 under which such local boards shall operate. These boards shall assist in ascertaining educational needs  
866 and enlisting community involvement and support and shall perform such other duties as may be  
867 prescribed by the State Board;

868 5. Adhere to the policies of the Council for the coordination of higher education as required by  
869 law;

870 6. Develop a mental health referral policy directing comprehensive community colleges to  
871 designate at least one individual at each college to serve as a point of contact with an emergency services  
872 system clinician at a local community services board, or another qualified mental health services provider,  
873 for the purposes of facilitating screening and referral of students who may have emergency or urgent  
874 mental health needs and of assisting the college in carrying out the duties specified by §§ 23.1-802 and  
875 23.1-805. Each comprehensive community college may establish relationships with community services  
876 boards or other mental health providers for referral and treatment of persons with less serious mental  
877 health needs;

878 7. Develop and implement, in coordination with the Council, the Department of Education, and  
879 the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, (i) a plan to achieve and maintain the same standards  
880 regarding quality, consistency, and level of evaluation and review for dual enrollment courses offered by  
881 local school divisions pursuant to § 23.1-907 as are required for all courses taught in the System and (ii)  
882 a process and criteria for determining whether any dual enrollment course offered in the Commonwealth

883 that meets or exceeds such standards is transferable to a public institution of higher education as (a) a  
884 ~~uniform certificate of general studies program~~ Passport Plus Program or ~~passport program~~ Passport  
885 Program course credit, (b) a general elective course credit, or (c) a course credit meeting other academic  
886 requirements of a public institution of higher education;

887 8. Prepare and administer a plan to standardize across all comprehensive community colleges the  
888 courses offered and the quality and content of such courses, as well as to standardize the application and  
889 registration process at all comprehensive community colleges. Such plan shall allow for a comprehensive  
890 community college to provide additional courses, beyond the standard class content offered across the  
891 System, that meet specific regional interests and needs. Regional courses shall be subject to the standards  
892 of quality applied to all courses offered in the System;

893 9. Develop and implement a plan to standardize across all comprehensive community colleges the  
894 courses offered for health care-related degree, credential, or licensure programs, excluding any registered  
895 nursing programs. Such plan shall include procedures and criteria for (i) standardizing such courses by  
896 name, curriculum, coursework, quality, academic rigor, and standard of evaluation; (ii) awarding credit  
897 toward the completion of any such health care-related program for any student enrolled in a  
898 comprehensive community college; and (iii) standardizing the manner in which academic and clinical  
899 hour credits are awarded for such courses to ensure that they are stackable and transferrable across the  
900 System; and

901 10. Develop and implement accountability measures to periodically, but in no case less than every  
902 three years, review the performance of each comprehensive community college to ensure that all standards  
903 established by the Board are being met, with a goal of ensuring a consistent quality of education and  
904 opportunity across the System. If it is found that such standards are not being met at a particular institution,  
905 the Board shall develop a plan for corrective action specific to the issues presented at that institution.

906 **§ 23.1-3137. Duties of the Authority.**

907 The Authority shall:

908 1. Expand access to affordable higher education in the Commonwealth by establishing the Online  
909 Virginia Network (the Network) for the purpose of coordinating the online delivery of courses that

910 facilitate the completion of degrees at George Mason University, Old Dominion University, James  
911 Madison University, and comprehensive community colleges;

912 2. Encourage each public institution of higher education and each consortium of public institutions  
913 of higher education that offers online courses, online degree programs, or online credential programs to  
914 offer any such course, degree program, or credential program through the Network;

915 3. Oversee a process of approval for public institutions of higher education and consortia of such  
916 institutions to participate in the Network, with such funds as are appropriated for such purpose and made  
917 available to it;

918 4. Serve as a resource for residents of the Commonwealth and disseminate information regarding  
919 the opportunities for online learning offered by institutions and consortia that participate in the Network;

920 5. Coordinate the maintenance of an online portal through which potential students may examine  
921 and enroll seamlessly in Network offerings;

922 6. Collaborate with institutions and consortia that participate in the Network to ensure that the  
923 needs of enrolled students are met before, during, and after enrollment through online student support  
924 systems;

925 7. To the extent practicable, ensure that courses and degree programs offered through the Network  
926 (i) are accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or authorized  
927 by the Council, as applicable; (ii) expand access to underserved populations based on income, race,  
928 geography, and age; (iii) are responsive to the employment demands of the Commonwealth; (iv) employ  
929 learning and delivery technologies, which may include competency-based and experiential learning, in an  
930 efficient and cost-effective manner to promote flexibility for each student to pursue online courses and  
931 programs at his own pace and in his own location throughout the year; (v) minimize student expenses and  
932 reduce time-to-degree or time-to-credential; and (vi) are offered in collaboration with existing public and  
933 private providers of online courses;

934 8. Promote the refinement and implementation of articulation agreements to ensure that credits  
935 earned through the Network are transferable to each other public institution of higher education and  
936 contribute to on-time degree completion at each such institution;

937 9. Assist in developing processes to help institutions and consortia that participate in the Network  
938 to expand their online offerings;

939 10. Ensure that the Passport Program and the ~~Uniform Certificate of General Studies~~ Passport Plus  
940 Program, established pursuant to § 23.1-907, be made available through the Network;

941 11. Develop specific goals for meeting the demand in the Commonwealth for affordable and  
942 accessible higher education through online learning;

943 12. Review and report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on the cost structure  
944 of funds allocated to the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of the Network. In addition, the  
945 Authority shall examine ways to reduce the cost of online education and develop a budget that incorporates  
946 estimated expected tuition revenue from online students and its use in supporting the Network and assumes  
947 that any financial aid will come from existing financial aid programs; and

948 13. Accept, administer, and account for any state, federal, or private moneys that it may receive.  
949 Any moneys, including interest thereon, that have not been expended by the Authority by the end of each  
950 fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the accounts of the Authority.

951 **2. That the provisions of subsections B, C, and D of § 22.1-237.3 of the Code of Virginia, as created**  
952 **by this act, shall become effective beginning with course registrations for the fall term of the 2025**  
953 **academic year.**

954 **3. That the College and Career Ready Virginia Program career and technical education work group**  
955 **established by the Department of Education (the Department) and the Virginia Community College**  
956 **System (the System) pursuant to § 22.1-237.5 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, shall**  
957 **submit its recommendations to the Department and the System as required pursuant to subdivision**  
958 **C 3 of § 22.1-237.5 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, no later than November 1, 2024.**

959 **4. That each comprehensive community college and school board shall make such amendments to**  
960 **its agreements for postsecondary credit and degree attainment as required by subdivision D 10 of §**  
961 **22.1-253.13:1 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, and subsection G of § 23.1-907 of the**  
962 **Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, as it deems necessary to comply with the provisions of this**  
963 **act.**

964 5. That the Secretary of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Chancellor of  
965 the Virginia Community College System shall make such amendments to their Governing Principles  
966 for Dual Enrollment between Virginia Public Schools and the Virginia Community College System  
967 as they deem necessary to comply with the provisions of this act.

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