

**REPORT OF THE
BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON SCHOOL HEALTH ON**

**DEVELOPING, IMPLEMENTING AND
EVALUATING SCHOOL HEALTH
PROGRAMS**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



SENATE DOCUMENT NO. 48

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
1995**



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

George Allen
Governor

Kay Coles James
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

February 9, 1995

To: The Honorable George Allen

and

The General Assembly of Virginia

This report contained herein is pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 155, agreed to by the 1994 General Assembly.

The report constitutes the response of the Blue Ribbon Commission on School Health to the request to collaborate in developing, implementing and evaluating school health programs.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kay Coles James", written over a horizontal line.

Kay Coles James
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

During the 1994 session, The General Assembly of Virginia proposed legislation to establish a Blue Ribbon Commission on School Health. This Commission was established to collaborate in developing, implementing, and evaluating school health programs in the Commonwealth. The Commission was appointed in July and had their summit meeting in December 1994. It was at this summit meeting that the recommendations to the General Assembly were completed and ratified.

The Blue Ribbon Commission on School Health recommends that school health programs in Virginia be studied in depth during 1995. The Commission has prepared the following workplan that outlines the course of action for this study. In accordance with this workplan, the following objectives will be studied and reviewed by the Blue Ribbon Commission on School Health:

Objective #1: Identify existing state school health programs

In accordance with Senate Joint Resolution 155, for the purposes of this study a comprehensive school health program is composed of the following nine components: 1) health education, 2) health services, 3) healthful school environment, 4) parent/community involvement, 5) counseling, 6) psychological and social services, 7) nutrition services, 8) physical education and 9) health promotion for staff.

It is the intention of the Commission to review objectives of current school health programs and identify the cost of each school health program. Further study will identify the content of typical regional school health programs. As in any comprehensive study, the Commission will identify the perceived benefits received from each school health program and identify any concerns associated with school health programs. This objective is scheduled for completion by March 27, 1995.

Objective #2: Analyze existing state school health programs

The Blue Ribbon Commission on School Health will also devote much time to the analysis of all comprehensive school health programs. The quality and efficacy of each program will be studied. Also, the benefits and the concerns of each program will be addressed. Finally, the Commission will analyze the need for and cost of each program and determine additional issues concerning each program.

It is the intention of the Commission to develop a quality standard for evaluating each program's effectiveness. A cost/benefit analysis for each school health program will be compiled with a complete analysis of the amount of effort needed to implement each program. The Commission will assess parental views of existing school health programs and analyze any pertinent statutory characteristics associated with school health programs. This objective is scheduled for completion by April 24, 1995.

Objective #3: Evaluate the performance of school health programs

The Commission will evaluate the findings of internal and existing studies of school health programs, to measure the performance of school health programs and analyze the factors underlying school health program performance. The evaluation will also assist in the development of strategies for addressing poorly performing programs. This objective is scheduled for completion by May 27, 1995.

Objective #4: Identify and address issues of specific groups of stakeholders

An important aspect of this study is the identification of issues and concerns held by citizens. Therefore, public hearings and community forums will be held during 1995 to determine issues and concerns of students, parents of students, educators working with students, and recent graduates statewide. This objective is scheduled for completion by June 26, 1995.

Objective #5: Formulate the needs of stakeholders

Upon completion of the above objectives, the Commission will determine and compile the needs of students, parents of students, educators who work with students, and recent graduates. This objective is scheduled for completion by July 17, 1995.

The results of this intensive study of Virginia's school health programs will be compiled into a report to the Governor and General Assembly. The Commission will then present its findings and recommendations concerning Virginia's school health programs to the Governor and Members of the General Assembly at the beginning of the 1996 session.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 155

Blue Ribbon Commission on School Health

COMMISSION WORKPLAN

Objective #1: to be completed by March 27, 1995

Objective #1: Identify existing state school health programs

1. Health education
2. Health services
3. Healthful school environment
4. Parent/community involvement
5. Counseling
6. Psychological and social services
7. Nutrition services
8. Physical education
9. Health promotion for staff

- Task:**
- A. Review objectives of current school health programs
 - B. Identify the cost of each school health program
 - C. Identify the content of typical regional school health programs
 - D. Identify the perceived benefits received from each school health program
 - E. Identify any concerns associated with school health programs

Objective #2: to be completed by April 24, 1995

Objective #2: Analyze existing state school health programs

1. The quality of each program
2. The efficacy of each program
3. The benefits of each program
4. The concerns over each program
5. The need for each program
6. The cost of each program
7. Additional issues surrounding each program

- Task: A. Develop a quality standard for evaluating each program's effectiveness
- B. Compile a cost/benefit analysis for each school health program
- C. Analyze the amount of effort needed to implement each program
- D. Assess parental views of existing school health programs
- E. Statutory characteristics

Objective #3: to be completed by May 27, 1995

Objective #3: Evaluate the performance of school health programs

- Task: A. Measure the performance of school health programs
- B. Analyze the factors underlining school health program performance
- C. Develop strategies for addressing poorly performing programs

Objective #4: to be completed by June 26, 1995

Objective #4: Identify and address issues of specific groups of stakeholders

- Task: A. Conduct public hearings/community forums**
- a. Determine issues and concerns of students**
 - b. Determine issues and concerns of parents of students**
 - c. Determine issues and concerns of educators working with students**
 - d. Determine issues and concerns of adults and recent graduates**

Objective #5: to be completed by July 17, 1995

Objective #5: Formulate the needs of stakeholders

- Task: A. Determine and compile needs of students**
- B. Determine and compile needs of parents of students**
 - C. Determine and compile needs of educators who work with students**
 - D. Determine and compile needs of adults and recent graduates**

Objective #6: to be completed during August - November 1995

Objective #6: Develop final report

- 1. Present the findings and recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on School Health**

- Task: A. Use information gathered during all phases of study for report**
- B. Evaluate all data and findings to be included in the report**
 - C. Develop draft of report**
 - D. Develop final draft of report**
 - E. Final report to Governor and 1996 General Assembly**

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 155

Requesting the Governor to establish a Blue Ribbon Commission on School Health to collaborate in developing, implementing, and evaluating school health programs.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 8, 1994

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 4, 1994

WHEREAS, children are Virginia's most precious resource, representing the hopes for the future of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to protect the children, contribute to their well-being, and ensure that each has the opportunity to grow and develop to his or her potential; and

WHEREAS, Virginia and the rest of the nation are facing an unprecedented crisis in health care; and

WHEREAS, nowhere is that crisis more apparent than in the health and well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, the major goal of a comprehensive school health program is to lead students and school staff toward a healthy, productive lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, the School Health Subcommittee of the Maternal and Child Health Council recognizes the need for involving citizens throughout the Commonwealth in comprehensive school health programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Governor be requested to establish a Blue Ribbon Commission on School Health to collaborate in developing, implementing, and evaluating statewide comprehensive school health programs. The Commission shall be composed of 15 members as follows: two members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; two members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker; one member each from the Departments of Education, Health; Youth and Family Services, and Medical Assistance Services, all to be appointed by the Governor; and two members representing the business sector, two members representing health care associations, two members representing local education associations and one member representing Parent-Teacher Associations, all to be appointed by the Governor. The Commission shall study and make recommendations on all components of a comprehensive school health program, including health education; health services; healthful school environment; parent/community involvement; counseling, psychological and social services; nutrition services; physical education; and health promotion for staff; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Governor be requested to conduct a summit meeting, involving citizens from across the Commonwealth, on comprehensive school health programs by December 1994, so that the issues before the commission can be addressed by all interested persons.

The Governor's Office and the Secretaries of Education and Health and Human Resources shall ensure that the commission is appropriately staffed.

The direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$3,000.

The Commission shall complete its work in time to submit its recommendations to the Governor and the 1995 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

Implementation of this resolution shall be subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may withhold expenditures or delay the period for the conduct of the study.