

REPORT OF THE

**JOINT COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE
FUTURE OF PUBLIC ELEMENTARY
AND SECONDARY EDUCATION IN
THE COMMONWEALTH
(HJR 112, 2016)**

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



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**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
2018**

Report of the Joint Committee to Study the Future of Public Elementary and Secondary Education in the Commonwealth 2017

Members

The Honorable R. Steven Landes, Chairman.
The Honorable Stephen D. Newman, Vice Chairman.
The Honorable Lamont Bagby.
The Honorable Richard P. Bell.
The Honorable Richard H. Black.
The Honorable John A. Cosgrove Jr.
The Honorable L. Mark Dudenhefer.
The Honorable Thomas A. Greason.
The Honorable Barbara A. Favola.
The Honorable Daun S. Hester.
The Honorable Mamie E. Locke.
The Honorable Roxann L. Robinson.
The Honorable David R. Suetterlein.

Staff:

Ryan Brimmer, Staff Attorney, Division of Legislative Services.
Thomas Stevens, Staff Attorney, Division of Legislative Services.
Scott Maddrea, House Committee Operations.

OVERVIEW

The Joint Committee to Study the Future of Public Elementary and Secondary Education in the Commonwealth (the Committee) and each of its three subcommittees met three times during the 2017 interim to study (i) the need for revisions to or reorganization of the standards of quality with a particular emphasis on the effective use of educational technology, (ii) emerging education issues in the Commonwealth, and (iii) the future of public elementary and secondary education in the Commonwealth and make legislative recommendations, as necessary.

MEETINGS

May 8, 2017:

The Committee held its first meeting of the 2017 interim on Monday May 8, 2017 in House Room 3 of the Capitol. A quorum was present.

Presentation: Overview and review of the committee:

Committee staff delivered a brief overview of the committee's history, membership, subcommittee structure, and work plan, including bills referred during the 2017 session.

Presentation: Student growth measure pilot program (Budget item 137 G 1):

Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent for Student Assessment & School Improvement at the Department of Education (Department), delivered an update on this pilot program to measure student growth. After a request for proposals, the Department selected two vendors to use a predictive model to measure student growth on Standards of Learning assessments in 8 selected school divisions. Each vendor uses a different statistical model, resulting in different speeds at which the student growth can be measured and reported. After receiving the results from each vendor, the Department will determine whether the growth measure pilot can be expanded and which vendor to use, both of which are dependent upon cost and funding. Committee members expressed interest in receiving information on the results of the pilot when they are available and discussing the growth measure further to ensure that it sets a high standard.

September 20, 2017:

The Committee held its second meeting of the 2017 interim on Wednesday September 20, 2017 in House Room 1 at the Capitol. A quorum was present.

Presentation: AdvancED:

Dr. Mark Elgart, President and CEO of AdvancED, gave a brief overview of AdvancED and explained how its mission and focus could shape the work of the Committee. AdvancED is a global, nonprofit organization that provides improvement and accreditation services to over 36,000 institutions in over 70 countries serving over 20 million students with such tools and

resources as a diagnostic improvement platform, a student engagement observation tool, quality factors, accreditation standards, and an index of education quality. Mr. Elgart noted that Virginia is known to have one of the top two systems of public education in the country but that the enduring challenge is that there are pockets of chronically underperforming schools. He proposed that an effective future education system in the Commonwealth will (i) assess learning with real-time, periodic, curriculum-embedded assessments with real-time results to inform instruction and measures of student growth and achievement, (ii) measure school quality with multiple assessments of the knowledge, skills, and aptitudes of students and other school quality factors such as culture and climate, and (iii) encourage internal capacity-building in struggling school divisions rather than external intervention.

December 4, 2017:

The Committee held its third and final meeting of the 2017 interim on Wednesday September 20, 2017 in House Room 3 at the Capitol. A quorum was present.

The Committee discussed and adopted the 10 recommendations that follow.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Direct the Department of Education to create and promote best practice community school models. These models must have evaluation data associated with them that links to improved academic performance. Make funds available to underperforming schools to implement such models.
2. Establish the School Health Advisory Board in the executive branch to advise the General Assembly and the Governor on pending or proposed legislation concerning the role of employees in public elementary or secondary schools in providing health care services at such schools and provide guidance on any associated training requirements.
3. Provide an appropriation that enables schools to enter into partnerships with universities, associations, or other training organizations sanctioned by the Department of Education for the delivery of tailored leadership training and long-term coaching services. The allocation formula for such funds would be determined by the Department of Education.
4. Specify that for the purpose of Board of Education regulations for the approval of teacher education programs, education preparation programs include four-year bachelor's degree programs in teacher education.
5. Request that the Department of Education study the teacher licensure process and the assessment requirements therein for any inherent biases that may prevent minority teacher candidates from entering the profession.
6. Require the Department of Education to evaluate scholarships granted pursuant to the

Virginia Teaching Student Loan Program established pursuant to § 22.1-290.01 of the Code of Virginia to ensure that the statutory goals of that program are being met.

7. Require the Department of Education to evaluate grants made for teacher mentor programs to determine the validity and effectiveness of those programs and, in conducting such evaluation, requiring the Department of Education to give particular attention to the validity and effectiveness of such programs at Title I schools.

8. Request that the General Assembly create a path towards reaching the teacher salary goal of "at or above the national average teacher salary," as set forth in § 22.1-289.1 of the Code of Virginia.

9. Support the expansion of virtual education options for elementary and secondary school students in the Commonwealth and encourages the further study of ways in which this goal can be achieved, with a particular focus on the cost effectiveness, enrollment stability, and provider flexibility of existing and proposed statewide models for full time virtual education.

10. Continue the Committee for one additional year.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Access to additional Committee resources is available on the Committee's website:

http://dls.virginia.gov/interim_studies_PublicEdu.html

