



INTERNET SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chapter 776 Enactment Clause 3. (Regular Session, 2022)

Executive Summary 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2120

RICHMOND 23218-2120

November 2023

The Honorable John G. Avoli, Vice Chair
House Education Committee
P.O. Box 1942
Staunton, VA 24402

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas, Chair
Senate Education and Health Committee
P.O. Box 700
Portsmouth, VA 23705

Dear Delegate Avoli and Senator Lucas:

I am pleased to submit an executive summary of the Internet Safety Advisory Council's status which is supporting [§ 22.1-24.1. \(Effective until July 1, 2024\) Internet Safety Advisory Council.](#)

If you have questions or require additional information relating to this transmittal, please to not hesitate to contact Calypso Gilstrap, Associate Director of Educational Technology and Classroom Innovation, at 804-750-8708, or by email at Calypso.Gilstrap@doe.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Coons".

Dr. Lisa Coons

LC/cg

Enclosure

- c. The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
The Honorable Aimee Guidera
Virginia Board of Education

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section [22.1-24.1](#) of the Code of Virginia provides that the Superintendent of Public Instruction “shall establish and appoint members of the Internet Safety Advisory Council (the Council) for the purpose of advancing the goal of safe use of media and technology by students and teachers in public elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth.” The statute sets out the membership of the Council. This section of Code was added by [Chapter 776](#) during the 2022 General Assembly. [Chapter 111](#) (2023 Acts of Assembly) amended this section to add that the Council may collaborate with law-enforcement agencies, criminal justice agencies, and other nongovernmental organizations with expertise in child online safety issues and human trafficking prevention. The statute is in effect until July 1, 2024.

The duties of the Council include:

- Developing recommendations to the Board of Education for adoption, a model policy for local school boards that would enable them to better support the Internet safety of all students and teachers;
- Developing recommendations to the Board of Education for adoption, model instructional practices for and instructional content on the safe use of media and technology by students and teachers; and
- Designing and posting on the Department's website a page with links to successful instructional practices, curricula, and other teacher resources.

The Council members are:

Robbi Moose, Hungry Creek Middle School, Parent

Spencer Phillips, Douglas S Freeman High School leadership student (Mr. Robert Peck, Director)
Mychael Willon, Williamsburg, Parent, President-Elect of the Virginia Middle School Association,
Chair of Virginia's Special Education Advisory Committee

Emily Heller, ITRT, Fredricksburg Schools, VSTE, Parent

Mary R. Martin-Bodrick, Math teacher, Woodbridge Middle School, Prince William County,
Retired Sheriff Michael J Brown, Bedford County

Kelly Passek, VAASL President Elect, Blacksburg Middle School librarian, parent

Tom Landon, Education Director, Blue Ridge PBS

Carrie Rogers-Whitehead, Digital Respons-Ability, Founder & CEO

Makayla Burnett, State Trafficking Services Grant Program Specialist at DCJS

Calypso Gilstrap, Instructional Technology Specialist, Parent

Julia Fallon, Executive Director, SETDA

The Council met on September 18th, 2023, October 16th, 2023, and November 20th 2023.

During the September meeting of the Council, advisors shared their backgrounds and expertise on internet safety in relationship to the K-12 education system. The chair of the council, Calypso

Gilstrap, reviewed Section [22.1-24.1](#) of the Code of Virginia. Next the chair led the group through a presentation on the background, initiatives, regulations, and existing laws related to Internet Safety which are in place in Virginia. The meeting ended with the expectation that advisors would be prepared to share resources related to the directive of the legislation at the October meeting.

The October meeting was designated as time for advisors to share curated resources with the council. Each member was given time to present any resource they felt addressed the needs established in Section 22.1-24.1. The group also reviewed the resources which were curated by the Digital Citizenship, Internet Safety, and Media Literacy Council which meet with the Office of Educational Technology from 2019-2022. In total, more than 200 resources were shared, discussed, and added to a bibliography.

The most recent meeting in November was an opportunity for advisors to share curated resources. These resources were added to the bibliography created in October. The group segued into a discussion on the creation of a selection criteria. The group determined utilizing Dig Cit Commit Competencies created by ISTE is the standard in which the Virginia Department of Education shall use to evaluate, align, and organize internet safety resources for educators and students. Lastly, the group began a discussion on the guidelines which they would like to see in the model policy.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 8th, 2024. Once the Council concludes its meetings in the spring, recommendations will be taken to the Board of Education for consideration.