

The background features a complex, abstract geometric pattern. It consists of various shades of teal and light blue hexagons, some solid and some outlined, interconnected by thin, dark grey lines that form a network-like structure. The pattern is dense and occupies the entire page, with some elements appearing to recede into the background while others are more prominent in the foreground.

2023

**STEM EDUCATION  
ADVISORY  
BOARD  
LEGISLATIVE  
REPORT**

# 2023 Virginia STEM Education Advisory Board Legislative Report



The Virginia STEM Education Advisory Board (2021 HB#2058) completed its second year of work, teeing up its next year of efforts. The STEM board's work continues to focus on ensuring all youth in Virginia have access to high-quality STEM education. The Governor's STEM Education Advisory Board met quarterly in 2023. This 16-member board consists of representatives from the Secretary of Education; Secretary of Labor; Secretary of Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion; as well as SCHEV, The Science Museum of Virginia, VDOE, and 10 citizen members.

## Workgroups:

The STEM board appointed three workgroups during 2023 to focus on the following initiatives: a STEM metric, STEM hub creation, and a federal congressionally directed funding request.

## STEM Metric:

The STEM Metric workgroup began work in 2022 and anticipates releasing a final version of this guidance tool in 2024 with VDOE. This metric's creation aims to provide various STEM stakeholders with guidance and structure to ensure high quality STEM education and pedagogy. This STEM metric will be shared through VDOE in 2024 to support formal and informal STEM educators with how to use the tool to self assess their STEM programming. See *addendum for STEM metric*.



## STEM hubs:

This work group started meeting in February of 2023 and consisted of a large number of STEM stakeholders across Virginia. This group has been working to create measurable goals and structures for regional state STEM hubs. Through the creation of these organizational structures and systems these efforts will be transformed into tangible and accessible resources for the Commonwealth.

*Regional STEM Hubs are envisioned as an interconnected web of centrally located physical resources, responsive to regional needs and serving as the connector and facilitator of resources for each region. Although hubs may look different based on their regional workforce and community needs, each hub will share across the network professional development offerings and resources serving a variety of community stakeholders - including educators, industry partners, families and students,. The hubs would collect and share data and convene semi-annually with the state STEM Board.*

## **Federal Legislative Funding:**

In March, the board voted to submit a proposal to Senator Warner and Senator Kaine for congressionally directed funding to support the board's legislative charge to create state STEM hubs around the Commonwealth. The board submitted the application in late March. The \$1 million dollar request made it through the appropriations process and has passed the Senate and is awaiting the House to vote on appropriations bills.

## **BOARD MEMBERS :**

### **10 CITIZEN MEMBERS:**

- GARY ARTYBRIDGE JR.M NII-NHS
- CHRIS DOVI, CODE VA
- CASEY ROBERTS (VICE-CHAIR), NEW HORIZONS REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTERS
- AMY SABARRE (CHAIR), HARRISONBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- PADMANABHAN SESHAIYER, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
- SUSHEELA SHANTA, NEW COLLEGE INSTITUTE
- ZAINA TARAFDAR, STUDENT AT UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
- AMY WHITE, VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- EDWARD MONROE, FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- VICTORIA CHUAH, APEX

### **6 STATE MEMBERS:**

- VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: ANNE PETERSEN
- SCIENCE MUSEUM OF VIRGINIA: RICH CONTI
- STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA: EMILY SALMON
- SECRETARY OF LABOR OFFICE
- SECRETARY OF EDUCATION OFFICE
- CHIEF DIVERSITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND INCLUSION OFFICER

## **STEM Stakeholders:**

During 2023, the STEM board engaged with National programs such as STEMX and STEM Ecosystems. The board chair attended monthly virtual STEMX meetings with other state STEM leaders. The board engaged with three newly-forming regional STEM ecosystems as part of an effort to learn more about their efforts and create synergy between those efforts and the board's vision and mission.

Two board members also attended STEM on the Hill in March of 2023 to talk with Virginia representatives of both the Senate and the House about the importance of STEM education.

## **Future Goals:**

Over the next two years, the STEM board plans to continue its work, focusing on the following key strategic goals:

1. Define the parameters for state STEM hubs and create a process for applying and selecting regional hubs.
2. Create a website and STEM asset map that will allow students, parents, and educators to have access and information about STEM Education throughout Virginia.
3. Seek additional state funding for sustaining state STEM infrastructures.