



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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October 1, 2025

The Honorable Ghazala F. Hashmi, Chair
Senate Education and Health Committee
General Assembly Building
PO Box 396 Richmond, VA 23218

The Honorable Sam Rasoul, Chair
House Education Committee
General Assembly Building
201 North 9th Street Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Chairs Hashmi and Rasoul:

[Chapters 343 and 344](#) (2022 Acts of Assembly), codified at Va. Code § [22.1-206.2](#) directs the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) to distribute to school divisions, and post on its website, information that assists high school students in making more informed decisions about their futures and ensures that such students are aware of the costs and benefits of different educational and certificate programs.

This Administration has prioritized the readiness of all Virginia students to enter a pathway on the 3E Readiness Framework to prepare for post-secondary enrollment, careers, or military service. Ensuring the readiness of all students is contingent on a continuum of knowledge and opportunity, bolstered by robust parent communication, strong school counseling services, and consistent conversations about academic and career planning with students beginning in elementary school.

Enclosed is a report of recent updates and actions by the VDOE and SCHEV to ensure compliance with the Code of Virginia and promote postsecondary opportunities to students in the Commonwealth.

For questions, please contact Brittany Everett, Postsecondary Access and Success Specialist, at (804) 750-8128 or Brittany.Everett@doe.virginia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Anne Gullickson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Emily Anne Gullickson, M.Ed. J.D.
Superintendent of Public Instruction

EAG/AN

c: The Honorable Aimee Guidera
Secretary of Education

Executive Director Scott Fleming
State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Deputy Superintendent Dewayne McClary
VDOE Division of Innovation, Student Pathways & Opportunities

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING POST-GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Va. Code § 22.1-206.2
October 1, 2025



ANNUAL REPORT ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING POST-GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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LEGISLATIVE DIRECTIVE

The 2022 General Assembly passed [House Bill 1299](#) and [Senate Bill 738](#), ([Chapters 343 and 344](#), 2022 Acts of Assembly), which require the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to collect and distribute to school boards, and publicly post on its website, information that assists high school students in making more informed decisions about their futures after graduating from high school, and in doing so, ensure that such students are aware of the costs and benefits of different educational and certificate programs.

The legislation codified at Va. Code § [22.1-206.2](#), directs the VDOE to consult with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) to collect and compile such information annually and update its distribution materials accordingly. The legislation further requires the VDOE to post and distribute the information to school boards, with any relevant updates, no later than October 1 each year, and provide an annual update to the General Assembly on how such information was distributed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The benefits and positive outcomes for earning a postsecondary degree or credential have been well researched. Graduates with postsecondary education (degree or credential) have higher average earnings for each level of college degree, are more likely to have health insurance, pay taxes, vote, and volunteer, and are less likely to receive unemployment benefits or need public assistance benefits. Out of the 11.6 million jobs created in the post-recession economy, 11.5 million went to workers with at least some college education, according to research from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. Of these jobs, 8.4 million went to workers with a bachelor's degree or higher.

While Virginia offers a robust suite of college-going information and financial resources, the disparity in the average college-going rate between metropolitan areas (85 percent) and rural regions (34 percent) highlight the need to improve accessibility and postsecondary educational opportunities and increase the availability of financial resources and overall support for students and families to confront rising college costs. Regardless of locale and socioeconomic status, the process of exploring, preparing, applying, and executing a postsecondary plan is complicated and time-consuming. Through the legislation, students and families will have additional context on the postsecondary options available to students, including costs and benefits, allowing them to make informed decisions on investing in higher education. Additionally, parents and students will have access to information on the several different career options and opportunities available after graduation from high school.

This Administration has prioritized the readiness of all Virginia students to enter a pathway on the 3E Readiness Framework to prepare for post-secondary enrollment, careers, or military service. The 3E Readiness Framework was designed collaboratively with employers, higher education, parents, and educators. Ensuring the readiness of all students is contingent on a continuum of knowledge and opportunity, bolstered by robust parent communication, strong school counseling services, and consistent conversations about academic and career planning with students.

STATE AGENCY COLLABORATION

VDOE has partnered with SCHEV to gather data pertaining to Va. Code § 22.1-206.2 to provide students and families with college-going options and support. Using the Virginia Longitudinal Data System and reports released by SCHEV, including the Virginia Student Loan Help resource, stakeholders are provided information and data on the average cost of institutions, student success indicators, financial aid debt information, postgraduate wages, and federal and state programs for financing higher education. Students and families have the option to view much of this information for individual institutions in addition to across types of institutions. The Virginia Student Loan Help resource offers the additional benefit of learning modules to educate students on financing higher education.

In addition to the collaboration to meet the requirements of the legislation, VDOE and SCHEV have also partnered to jointly support a cross-agency position, the Postsecondary Access and Success Specialist (PASS), that facilitates postsecondary access between Pre-Kindergarten – Grade 12 and postsecondary, and create school environments, education policies, staff expectations, resources, and technical assistance that support all students' pursuit of a postsecondary education, including supporting students who have been traditionally underrepresented in higher education. The position, which is currently funded by the 2022 General Assembly budget and the Guidance to Postsecondary Success (GPS) program, is funded and shared jointly by VDOE and SCHEV beginning in Fiscal Year 2024. This role is located in the Office of Advanced Learning at the Department which leads all advanced coursework, college credit opportunities in high school, dual enrollment, and gifted learning. The Office of Advanced Learning is part of a new Division of Innovation, Student Pathways, and Opportunity that is focused on student readiness and student-centered learning models. The PASS position will continue to lead the efforts around the legislation in the future.

State agency collaboration has also occurred between VDOE and VCCS in order to fully implement College and Career Ready Virginia. This ongoing partnership centers around providing support and resources to school divisions and community colleges to ensure all eligible students have access to these dual enrollment credits and parents are aware of these free course opportunities for their child to earn college credit in high school.

DISTRIBUTION OF POST-GRADUATE INFORMATION

The VDOE has distributed the information on post-graduate opportunities detailed pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-206.2 in two ways for the 2025-2026 school year: 1) Virginia's Education Update, and 2) [Postsecondary Opportunities for High Schools Students](#) webpage. Appendix A contains the resource links contained on the new webpage separated by the required items listed in Va. Code § 22.1-206.2.

VDOE and SCHEV have also distributed the information in a variety of additional methods, including agency newsletters, presentations to school personnel, school counseling state organizations, Virginia college access programs, and the state Career and Technical Education (CTE) Association. The information will be shared with other stakeholders as often as possible.

VDOE and SCHEV also executed a data sharing agreement that will facilitate a parent and prospective student-facing application enhancing awareness of postsecondary opportunities. Version 1.0 should be available late 2025, with additional enhancements coming throughout calendar year 2026. Future releases will create direct admissions opportunities for Virginia students, financial aid and recruiting options for institutions and students, and career pathway information.

CONCLUSION

The process of preparing, applying, and paying for postsecondary education can be confusing for students, including students who are under-represented in postsecondary programs in the Commonwealth. With information constantly changing, it is important to have a resource available that students can access with relevant information that has been analyzed and updated annually. The legislation provided that vehicle for students.

Annual updates to the required items will be coordinated between VDOE and SCHEV with new and additional information added as needed. Coordination efforts will continue to align Va. Code § 22.1-206.2 information on the VDOE website with Level-Up Virginia, the new statewide college access campaign. The VDOE and SCHEV will continue to coordinate efforts to provide information on postsecondary pathways that provide relevant, updated information, serving to guide students to best-fit postsecondary opportunities, careers, and meaningful lives.

APPENDIX A

The following resources have been shared with school boards and publicly posted on VDOE's website. Applicable resource links are under each of the required items listed in Va. Code § 22.1-206.2.

1. To the extent available from the Council or other entities or sources, the most in-demand occupations in the Commonwealth, including entry wages and common degree levels required or encouraged for entering such occupations, and lists of offerings at institutions of higher education that offer such programs.

- [Virginia Career Works](#)

(<https://virginiacareerworks.com/workforce-credential-grant/>)

- [Virginia Job Outlook](#)

(https://virginiaworks.com/_docs/Publications/LMI-Publications/VA-Jobs-Outlook/PDF/2028-Jobs-Outlook.pdf)

- [Virginia Student Loan Help](#)

(<https://www.virginiastudentloanhelp.org/home/exercises/career-sort.cfm?calcs&ucode=SCHEVHS&&firstlogin=1>)

2. The average cost of institutions of higher education, set out by type of institution.

- [Key Facts About Higher Education](#)

(<https://www.schev.edu/about/key-facts-about-higher-education/key-facts-accessible-version>)

- [Virginia Education Wizard](#)

(<https://www.vawizard.org/wizard/home>)

- [Virginia Student Loan Help's College Explorer](#)

(<https://www.virginiastudentloanhelp.org/home/exercises/colleges.cfm?calcs&ucode=SCHEV&firstlogin=1>)

3. The federal and state scholarship, merit, and need-based aid programs available to students for attending institutions of higher education.

- [SCHEV: Paying for College](#)

(<https://schev.prod.govaccess.org/students/paying-for-college>)

- [Virginia Student Loan Help](https://www.virginiastudentloanhelp.org/home/index.cfm?firstlogin=1)

(<https://www.virginiastudentloanhelp.org/home/index.cfm?firstlogin=1>)

- [Level Up Virginia: Finance](https://www.levelupvirginia.org/finance)

(<https://www.levelupvirginia.org/finance>)

4. To the extent available from the Council or other entities or sources, the average monthly student loan payment and the average total amount of student loans for individuals who attend institutions of higher education, with such information distinguished by type of institution, to the extent that the Department and the Council can determine such information.

- [SCHEV Institution Profiles](https://research.schev.edu/Institutions)

(<https://research.schev.edu/Institutions>)

- [Virginia Student Loan Help](https://www.virginiastudentloanhelp.org/home/index.cfm?firstlogin=1)

(<https://www.virginiastudentloanhelp.org/home/index.cfm?firstlogin=1>)

5. To the extent available from the Council or other entities or sources, the average student loan default rate for students who attend institutions of higher education, to the extent that the Department and the Council can determine such information.

- [SCHEV's Institution Profiles](https://research.schev.edu/Institutions)

(<https://research.schev.edu/Institutions>)

- [Virginia Student Loan Help](https://www.virginiastudentloanhelp.org/home/index.cfm?firstlogin=1)

(<https://www.virginiastudentloanhelp.org/home/index.cfm?firstlogin=1>)

6. To the extent available from the Council or other entities or sources, information relating to the availability of paid internship and externship opportunities for students attending institutions of higher education with such information distinguished by major or area of study.

- [State Corporation Commission](https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/College-Recruitment-and-Internship-Program)

(<https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/College-Recruitment-and-Internship-Program>)

- [Virginia Talent and Opportunity Partnership \(Virginia TOP\)](#)

(<https://virginiatop.org/>)

7. The average time that it takes to complete degrees offered by institutions of higher education.

- [Commonwealth Degree & Certificate Completion Scorecard](#)

(https://research.schev.edu/completions/completion_scorecard.asp)

- [SCHEV's Institution Profiles](#)

(<https://research.schev.edu/Institutions>)

- [Virginia Student Loan Help](#)

(<https://www.viriniastudentloanhelp.org/home/index.cfm?firstlogin=1>)

8. Median annual wages for individuals who graduate from institutions of higher education, distinguished by degree level.

- America's Divided Recovery: College Haves and Have-nots. CEW Georgetown. (2016).

<https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/americas-divided-recovery/>

- [Guide to the Post-Completion Wages of Graduates](#)

(<https://research.schev.edu/info/Reports.Guide-to-the-Post-Completion-Wages-of-Graduates>)

- [SCHEV's Institution Profiles](#)

(<https://research.schev.edu/Institutions>)

- [Virginia Student Loan Help](#)

(<https://www.viriniastudentloanhelp.org/home/index.cfm?firstlogin=1>)

9. To the extent available from the Council or other entities or sources, the average starting salary for individuals who complete career and technical education programs in the Commonwealth.

- [VDOE: Career and Technical Education Student Profiles](#)

(<https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/instruction/career-and-technical-education-cte>)

10. The contact information for each institution of higher education.

- [SCHEV's Institution Profiles](#)

(<https://research.schev.edu/Institutions>)

11. To the extent available from the Council or other entities or sources, information regarding the degree to which any institutions of higher education that accept public funding align their curricula or programs with the state job market, including the degree to which they contribute to filling the most in-demand jobs in the Commonwealth. The information in this subdivision shall also be included in the annual report sent to the General Assembly described in this subsection.

- [Academic Programs at Public Institutions: Policies and Procedures for Program Approvals and Change](#)

(<https://www.schev.edu/institutions/policies-guidelines/academic-affairs-policy/approval-of-program-actions-at-public-institutions>)

12. Any other information that the Department or the Council deems appropriate to assist high school students in weighing the costs and benefits of post-high-school training and education.

- [College Match and Fit Toolkit](#)

(https://drive.google.com/open?id=1bC4vAzT76D11YPK8yE2XiqA7_K6DVJum)

- [Key Facts About Higher Education](#)

(<https://www.schev.edu/about/key-facts-about-higher-education/key-facts-accessible-version>)

- [Virginia Education Wizard](#)

(<https://www.vawizard.org/wizard/home>)

- [Level Up Virginia: Decide](#)

(<https://www.levelupvirginia.org/decide>)