



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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October 1, 2026

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas, Chair
Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee
General Assembly Building, Room 1404
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

The Honorable Luke E. Torian, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
General Assembly Building, Room 1223
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

The Honorable Barbara A. Favola, Chair
Senate Education and Health Committee
General Assembly Building, Room 509
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

The Honorable Sam Rasoul, Chair
House Education Committee
General Assembly Building, Room 910
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

[Section 22.1-206.2 of the Code of Virginia](#) directs the Virginia Department of Education (the Department) 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.

Enclosed is a report of recent updates and actions by the Department 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 "Jenna Conway".

Jenna Conway
Superintendent of Public Instruction

JC/ASN/be

CC: Scott Fleming, Executive Director, State Council for Higher Education

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

October 1, 2026



PREFACE

In 2022, the General Assembly enacted [House Bill 1299](#) and [Senate Bill 738](#), requiring the Virginia Department of Education to collect, maintain, publicly post, and annually distribute information that assists high school students in making informed decisions regarding postsecondary education and career opportunities.

The legislation directs VDOE, in consultation with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), to annually compile and update information regarding postsecondary opportunities, educational costs and benefits, financial aid, student outcomes, and workforce information. Updated materials must be distributed to school boards and published on the Department's website no later than October 1 each year. The Department must also submit an annual report to the General Assembly describing implementation activities.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the 2026–2027 reporting period, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), in collaboration with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), continued implementation of [§ 22.1-206.2](#) of the Code of Virginia by maintaining and updating statewide postsecondary planning resources for students, families, educators, and school divisions.

Information required by the legislation was reviewed and updated using current federal and state data and distributed through multiple statewide communication channels, including the [Postsecondary Opportunities for High School Students webpage](#), [Virginia Education Update](#), [Level Up Virginia](#), professional learning opportunities, and presentations to education and college access organizations. These efforts continue to provide students and families with objective, annually updated information on postsecondary education, workforce training, financial aid, military service, and career opportunities to support informed postsecondary decision-making.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Preparing for life after high school requires students and families to navigate an increasingly complex landscape of postsecondary education, workforce training, military service, and career opportunities. While Virginia offers a wide range of resources to support postsecondary planning, access to timely, objective, and comprehensive information remains essential to helping students make informed decisions that align with their interests, goals, and financial circumstances.

The intent of Section 22.1-206.2 is to strengthen statewide access to postsecondary planning information by ensuring students and families receive annually updated resources on educational and workforce pathways, costs, financial aid, projected outcomes, and career opportunities. These efforts support informed decision-making and complement Virginia's broader commitment to preparing every student for success beyond high school.

Implementation aligns with the Commonwealth's Three E Framework—Enrollment, Enlistment, or Employment—and supports Level Up Virginia, the statewide postsecondary access initiative that provides centralized resources for students, families, educators, and school divisions. Through collaboration between the Virginia Department of Education and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, these resources continue to be reviewed and updated annually to reflect current data, emerging opportunities, and evolving student needs.

STATE AGENCY COLLABORATION

VDOE and SCHEV continue to collaborate to collect and update the information required by statute using state and federal data sources, including the Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS). Students and families may access institution-specific information, as well as statewide resources that support informed decision-making regarding postsecondary education and career planning.

In addition to meeting the statutory requirements, VDOE and SCHEV continue to jointly support the Postsecondary Access and Success Specialist (PASS) position. The PASS position coordinates awareness of postsecondary opportunities, develops statewide postsecondary access resources, provides technical assistance to school divisions, and strengthens collaboration between K-12 and higher education partners. The position also supports broader statewide initiatives, including Level Up Virginia, and academic and career planning resources that promote informed postsecondary decision-making for all students.

DISTRIBUTION OF POSTSECONDARY INFORMATION

For the 2026–2027 school year, the Department distributed the information required by Section 22.1-206.2 through multiple statewide communication channels, including the Postsecondary Opportunities for High School Students webpage, Level Up Virginia, Virginia Education Update, professional learning opportunities, agency newsletters, and partner communications.

The [Postsecondary Opportunities for High School Students webpage](#) serves as the primary repository for the information required by the legislation. Resources are reviewed annually in

collaboration with SCHEV and organized by the statutory categories outlined in the Code. This includes:

- High-demand occupations, including entry wages, education requirements, and related academic programs;
- Average costs of attendance by institution type;
- Federal and state financial aid, scholarship, and grant programs;
- Student loan information, including average borrowing, monthly payments, and default rates;
- Paid internship and externship opportunities;
- Average time to degree completion;
- Post-completion wages by degree level;
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) outcomes, including average starting salaries where available;
- Institutional contact information;
- Information on the alignment of academic programs with Virginia's workforce needs; and
- Additional postsecondary planning resources to assist students and families in weighing the costs and benefits of education and training beyond high school.

Appendix A provides a crosswalk of each statutory requirement to the corresponding resources available through the Department's website.

During the 2026 reporting period, the webpage experienced significant increases in public use, including 638 visits in August 2026 and 719 visits in September 2026, reflecting the highest monthly engagement across all available datasets. Page views followed similar trends, rising to 716 views in August and 821 views in September 2026, reinforcing sustained public demand for postsecondary information during the start of the school year. Although early-year traffic was lower than in 2025—for example, January 2026 received 322 visits compared with 404 in January 2025—the late-summer surge demonstrates effective statewide reach when families and students most actively seek guidance. Bounce rates remained high across all periods, consistent with the webpage's role as a concise, single-stop resource; for instance, July 2026 recorded a 92.42% bounce rate, reflecting users accessing targeted information efficiently without extensive navigation. Collectively, this usage data affirms that the Department's multi-channel communication strategy—including cross-agency newsletters, Level Up Virginia platforms, partner communications, and professional learning networks—successfully directed users to the required information in accordance with HB1299.

CONCLUSION

The process of preparing, applying, and paying for postsecondary education can be confusing for students and families, including those 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 Department and SCHEV will continue to coordinate annual updates to the required information and expand resources as appropriate. As part of this work, both agencies remain committed to identifying and addressing areas where students and families need additional support, including clearer information on state scholarship opportunities, and improved guidance on navigating the cost of education across different institution types. Implementation efforts will remain aligned with Level Up Virginia and other statewide postsecondary initiatives to ensure students, families, and educators have access to comprehensive information on postsecondary pathways, financial aid, workforce opportunities, and career planning.

APPENDIX A

The following resources have been shared with school boards and publicly posted on the Department's website. Applicable resource links are under each of the required items.

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.

- [2026 High Demand Occupations Dashboard](#)

(<https://voee.org/virginia-high-demand-dashboard/>)

- [Virginia Student Loan Help](#)

(<https://www.virginiastudentloanhelp.org/home/exercises/careersort.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.

- [Virginia Student Loan Help](#)

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

- [Level Up Virginia: 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>)

- [Virginia Student Loan Help](#)

(<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>)

- [Virginia Student Loan Help](#)

(<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>)

- [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.virginiastudentloanhelp.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//completions/completion_scorecard.asp)
 - [SCHEV's Institution Profiles](#)
(<https://research.schev.edu/Institutions>)
 - [Virginia Student Loan Help](#)
(<https://www.virginiastudentloanhelp.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/k-12-standards-instruction/career-and-technical-education-cte/student-profiles>)
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.

- [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>)