# Superintendent’s Memo #258-20

[](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/index.shtml)  
**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: October 2, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: 2020 General Assembly Revisions to the Standards of Quality (SOQ)

The 2020 General Assembly revised Standards 1, 2, 4, and 9 of the Standards of Quality(SOQ), §§ [22.1-253.13:1 through 22.1-253.13:10](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13.2/), of the *Code of Virginia.* A summary of these changes follows. Unless otherwise noted, these changes became law effective on July 1, 2020.

### **Revisions to Standard One** (§ [22.1-253.13:1](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13.2/section22.1-253.13:1/))

[**HB 1276**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+HB1276) (O’Quinn) **School boards; career and technical education; academic and career plans; contents.**Requires each school board to include, as part of each student's academic and career plan in the career and technical education curricula, a list of (i) the top 100 professions in the Commonwealth by median pay and the education, training, and skills required for each such profession and (ii) the top 10 degree programs at institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth by median pay of program graduates. The bill requires the Department of Education to annually compile such lists and provide them to each local school board.

### **Revisions to Standard Two** (§ [22.1-253.13:2](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13.2/section22.1-253.13:2/))

[**HB 975**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+HB975) (Guzman) and [**SB 910**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+SB910)(Hashmi) **Instructional positions; students identified as having limited English proficiency.**Requires, effective with the 2020-2021 school year, state funding to be provided pursuant to the general appropriation act to support 18.5 full-time equivalent instructional positions for each 1,000 students identified as having limited English proficiency and, effective with the 2021-2022 school year, 20 full-time equivalent instructional positions for each 1,000 students identified as having limited English proficiency. Current law requires state funding to support 17 such positions for each 1,000 such students.

[**HB 1143**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+HB1143)(Tran) **Local school boards; support services positions; licensed behavior analysts and licensed assistant behavior analysts.** Includes licensed behavior analysts and licensed assistant behavior analysts as support services positions in a local school division for the purposes of Title 22.1 (Education).

[**HB 1508**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+HB1508)(McQuinn)and[**SB 880**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+SB880) (Locke) **Minimum staffing ratio for school counselors.** Requires local school boards to employ school counselors in accordance with the following ratios, effective with the 2020-2021 school year: in elementary schools, one hour per day per 75 students, one full-time equivalent at 375 students, one hour per day additional time per 75 students or major fraction thereof; in middle schools, one period per 65 students, one full-time equivalent at 325 students, one additional period per 65 students or major fraction thereof; and in high schools, one period per 60 students, one full-time equivalent at 300 students, one additional period per 60 students or major fraction thereof. The bill also requires local school boards to employ one full-time equivalent school counselor position per 325 students in grades kindergarten through 12, effective with the 2021-2022 school year. \*Note this legislation is impacted by unallotments in the Appropriation Act.

[**SB 238**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+SB238)(Barker) **Public schools; kindergarten instructional time.** Increases from 540 hours to 990 hours the minimum instructional hours in a school year for students in kindergarten, beginning July 1, 2022. The bill directs the Board of Education to adopt regulations by July 1, 2022, establishing standards for accreditation that include a requirement that the standard school day for students in kindergarten average at least 5.5 instructional hours in order to qualify for full accreditation.

### **Revisions to Standard Four** (§ [22.1-253.13:4](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13.2/section22.1-253.13:4/))

[**HB 516**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+HB516)(Bulova)and[**SB 112**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+SB112) (Suetterlein) **Public schools; diploma requirements; dual enrollment and work-based learning options.** Requires the Board of Education to include in its graduation requirements the options for students to complete a dual enrollment course or high-quality work-based learning experience.

[**SB 323**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+SB323) (Barker) **Board of Education; high school graduation requirements; certain substitutions.**Requires the Board of Education, in establishing high school graduation requirements, to permit a student who is pursuing an advanced diploma and whose individualized education program specifies a credit accommodation for world language to substitute two standard units of credit in computer science for two standard units of credit in a world language. The bill provides that for any student electing to substitute a credit in computer science for credit in world language, his school counselor shall provide notice to the student and parent or guardian of possible impacts related to college entrance requirements.

### **Revisions to Standard Nine** (§ [22.1-253.13:9](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13.2/section22.1-253.13:9/))

[**HB 1388**](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+HB1388)(Adams) **Public school accreditation; triennial review.** Eliminates the ability of a school that only maintains a passing rate on Virginia assessment program tests or additional tests approved by the Board of Education of 95 percent or above in each of the four core academic areas for two consecutive years to apply for and receive a waiver of accreditation from the Department of Education, which waiver confers full accreditation for a three-year period. Current law provides high-performing schools a separate pathway to obtain three-year accreditation.

### Questions

Please direct questions about this information to the Policy Office at (804) 225-2092 or [policy@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:policy@doe.virginia.gov).

JFL/EMM

### Attachment

1. [2020 Standards of Quality](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2020/258-20a.docx) (full text)

### Additional Resources

* The [Standards of Quality](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacodefull/title22.1/chapter13.2/) in the *Code of Virginia*
* [Superintendent’s Memo #154-20](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2020/154-20.docx), which summarizes the 2020 legislation impacting public education in Virginia
* The [SOQ webpage](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/quality/index.shtml)