



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education**

**DATE:** June 9, 2017  
**TO:** Division Superintendents  
**FROM:** Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
**SUBJECT:** **New Requirements for Initial Licensure and License Renewal**

The purpose of this memorandum is to summarize legislation passed by the 2016 and 2017 Virginia General Assemblies that directly impacts individuals applying for an initial license or seeking renewal of a license. To clarify questions received from school divisions and licensees, effective July 1, 2017, please provide verification that all statutory renewal requirements, including those passed in 2016 and 2017, are completed every five years during each renewal period.

You may wish to review Section [22.1-298.1](#) of the *Code of Virginia* which sets forth specific statutory requirements for initial licensure and licensure renewal. This *Code* section references numerous requirements, including the technology standards for instruction; child abuse recognition and intervention training; and emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators. In addition, please note that: (1) any individual licensed and endorsed to teach middle school civics or economics or high school government or history seeking renewal must complete a module or professional development course specifically related to Virginia history or state and local government; and (2) every teacher seeking *an initial license* with an endorsement in the area of career and technical education shall have an industry certification credential in the area in which the teacher seeks endorsement. *If a teacher seeking an initial license has not attained an industry certification credential in the area in which the teacher seeks endorsement, the Board may, upon request of the employing school division or educational agency, issue the teacher a provisional license to allow time for the teacher to attain such credential.*

Below are details of new requirements effective July 1 and September 1 of this year. Please share this information with your staff.

**From the 2016 General Assembly**


**AWARENESS TRAINING ON THE INDICATORS OF DYSLEXIA**

- **Legislation:** [HB 842](#)
- **Implementation Date:** July 1, 2017
- **Requirement:** Initial Licensure and License Renewal
  - Board of Education regulations governing teacher licensure to require every person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license to complete awareness training, provided by the Department of Education, on the indicators of dyslexia and the evidence-based interventions and accommodations for dyslexia. (*Board of Education Licensure Regulations for School Personnel were amended January 25, 2017, to comport with this law.*)
- **Training Module:**
  - A [Dyslexia Awareness Training Module](http://doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/dyslexia-module/story.html) (web address: <http://doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/dyslexia-module/story.html>) is available to meet the requirement of awareness training on the indicators of dyslexia and the evidence-based interventions. This module is accessible from PCs and Mac computers. Viewing on an iPad or

smartphone requires the download of the free “mobile player.” Users should complete the module in one session and have access to a printer.

### From the 2017 General Assembly

#### TRAINING IN EMERGENCY FIRST AID, CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION, AND THE USE OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS; HANDS-ON PRACTICE

- **Legislation:** [HB 1829](#) 
- **Implementation Date:** September 1, 2017
- **Requirement:** Initial Licensure and License Renewal
  - Every person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license shall provide evidence of completion of certification or training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators. The certification or training program shall (i) be based on the current national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator, such as a program developed by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross, *and (ii) include hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation.* [The addition of the hands-on practice was passed by the 2017 General Assembly.] The Board shall provide a waiver for this requirement for any person with a disability whose disability prohibits such person from completing the certification or training.
- **Training:**
  - This training is not provided by the Department of Education. The certification or training program shall: (i) be based on the current national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator, such as a program developed by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross; and (ii) include hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The Board provides a waiver for this requirement for any person with a disability whose disability prohibits such person from completing the certification or training; the request form is available on the following website:  
[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/emergency\\_first\\_aid\\_cpr\\_aed/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/emergency_first_aid_cpr_aed/index.shtml).

#### ENDORSEMENT IN SCHOOL COUNSELING: TRAINING IN THE RECOGNITION OF MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER AND BEHAVIORAL DISTRESS

- **Legislation:** [SB 1117](#)
- **Implementation Date:** July 1, 2017
- **Requirement:** Initial Licensure and License Renewal (School Counselor Endorsements)
  - Every person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license with an endorsement as a school counselor shall complete training in the recognition of mental health disorder and behavioral distress, including depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide, and substance abuse.
- **Training:** Refer to the “Attachment” for training options.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Kendra A. Crump, Director of Licensure and School Leadership, by email at [Kendra.Crump@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Kendra.Crump@doe.virginia.gov) or by phone at (804) 371-2471.

SRS/psp

Attachment:

- A. [Training Options for Individuals Seeking Initial Licensure or Renewal of a License with an Endorsement as a School Counselor](#) (PDF)

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