

**RECOMMENDATION TO ESTABLISH
AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ADVANCED LEARNING
(FORMERLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION OF THE GIFTED)**

Office of Advanced Learning

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HISTORY OF BOARD'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- The Board of Education established the Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted (VACEG) in 1982.
- VACEG was established to provide guidance to the Board and Superintendent of Public Instruction about the educational needs of students identified as gifted in school divisions.
- The Board has appointed the members of VACEG, as it has with its other advisory committees.

VACEG MISSION & COMPOSITION

- There are currently 20 members on VACEG, with limited parent representation, and a disproportionate representation by Superintendent Region.
 - The Board does not have a defined number of VACEG members.
 - There is no defined distribution of members across groups, geography, or VDOE Superintendent Regions.
 - The committee has represented only Gifted Education matters to date and has not had a specific charge from the Board.

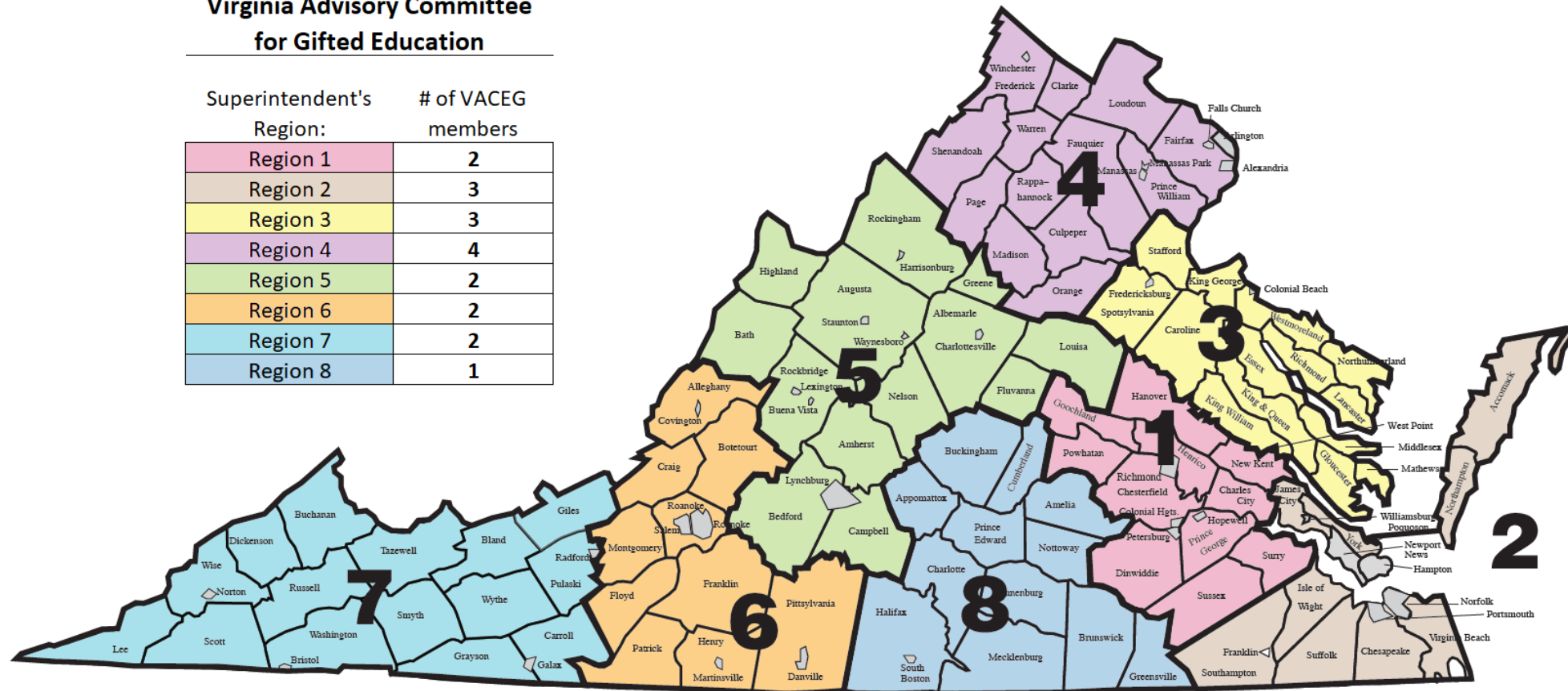
VACEG: Current Composition

Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Education

Superintendent's Regions

Virginia Advisory Committee for Gifted Education

Superintendent's Region:	# of VACEG members
Region 1	2
Region 2	3
Region 3	3
Region 4	4
Region 5	2
Region 6	2
Region 7	2
Region 8	1



STATUTORY AUTHORITY

- The Board has the authority under Virginia Code
 - Section [22.1-16](#) of the Code of Virginia permits the Board of Education to promulgate regulations as necessary to carry out its powers and duties.
- Article Nine, Section 2 of the [Board's Bylaws](#) addresses, among other matters, that:
 - Advisory committees may be created by the Board for special purposes;
 - Unless otherwise prescribed by state or federal law or regulations, all appointments to an advisory committee shall be made by the Board upon the recommendations of the Superintendent of Public Instruction; and
 - The Board shall have sole power to dissolve any of its advisory committees and shall reserve the right to exercise this power at any time.

REFLECTING CURRENT NEEDS

Virginia Advisory Committee for Advanced Learning (VACAL)

- It is proposed that the Board reconstitute VACEG into the Virginia Advisory Committee for Advanced Learning (VACAL) to address the needs of current learners across the Commonwealth.
- Expanding the scope of the Board's advisory body will provide for the input and guidance on the needs in **Advanced Learning**, **Governor's Schools**, and in **Gifted Education** and more broadly inform the work of the Board.

VACAL's PROPOSED COMPOSITION

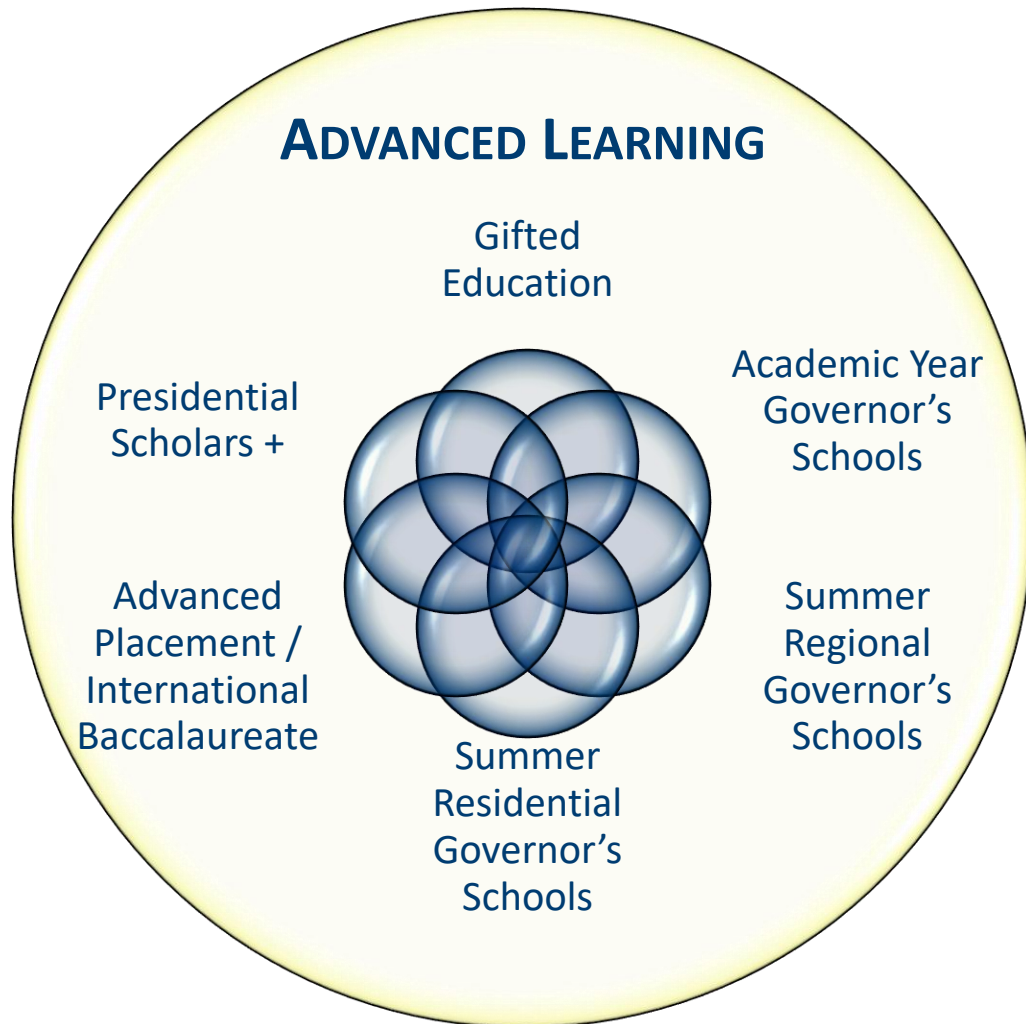
- To ensure representation of educators, administrators, and parents in the Advanced Learning, Governor's Schools, and Gifted Education communities across the Commonwealth, VACAL's proposed 21 representatives would be as follows:
 - Regions 1 through 8, 16 representatives:
 - Each Region: one (1) division employee or administrator affiliated with gifted education and/or advanced academic programming and
 - Each Region: one (1) parent
 - Academic Year Governor's School (AYGS) Director: one (1)
 - Higher Education representative: one (1)
 - Private school employee affiliated with Gifted Education and/or advanced academic programming: one (1)
 - Division Superintendent: one (1)
 - DOE representative: one (1, ex-officio, non-voting)

VACAL's PROPOSED MISSION

Virginia Advisory Committee for Advanced Learning (VACAL)

- VACAL will provide support and advocacy for access of advanced students across the Commonwealth of Virginia to rigorous learning, opportunities, and pathways which meet their needs and strengthen their outcomes.

A Bigger Scope...



It is proposed that VACAL be charged to support and advise the Board on expanding and strengthening opportunities and programming for all **academically and/or intellectually gifted**, and **advanced students** to maximize their potential for success.

- Gifted Education
- 19 Academic-Year Governor's Schools (AYGS)
- 22 Summer Regional Governor's School
- 7 Summer Residential Governor's Schools
- Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate
- Presidential Scholars

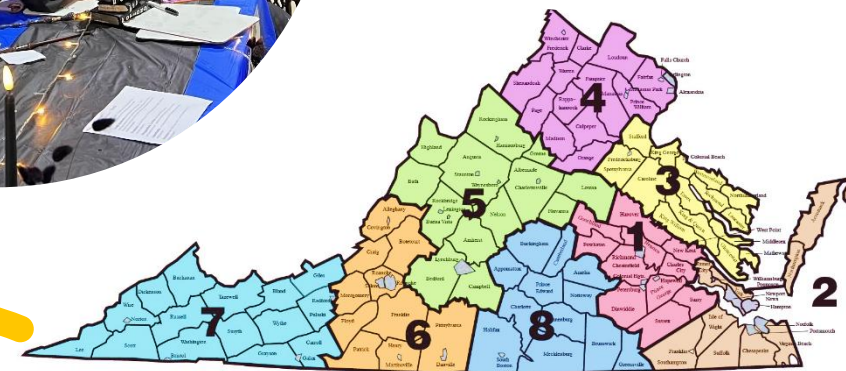
With A Wider Lens...

Under the proposed new composition and mission, VACAL can examine the needs of a wider array of students, review educational best practices and research (e.g., [Building a Wider, More Diverse Pipeline of Advanced Learners](#), Fordham Report), and advise the Board with recommendations on opportunities for students and professional learning for teachers.



...For A Bigger Impact

by ensuring the Board's advisory committee has the representation of educators, administrators, and parents in the Advanced Learning, Governor's Schools, and Gifted Education communities across the Commonwealth



RECOMMENDATION

The Board should establish the Virginia Advisory Committee for Advanced Learning (VACAL)

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive for First Review, with action requested at the next meeting, the recommendation to:

- (a) Reconstitute its Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted (VACEG) to the Virginia Advisory Committee for Advanced Learning (VACAL); and
- (b) Ensure a representation across the Commonwealth on its new advisory committee by adopting a composition of two representatives per Region, with one Division employee or administrator affiliated with gifted education and/or advanced academic programming and one parent, plus one Academic Year Governor's School Director, one Higher Ed representative, one private school Gifted Ed and/or advanced academic programming representative, one Division Superintendent, and the ex-officio VDOE representative.

Questions?

Recommendation for Final Review and Approval at the next Board meeting.