



# VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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# AGENDA ITEM

**Agenda Item:** C

**Date:** January 25, 2024

**Title:** Final Review of Recommendation for Board of Education to Establish an Advisory Committee for Advanced Learning (formerly Advisory Committee for Education of the Gifted)

**Presenter:** Elizabeth L. Schultz, Assistant State Superintendent of Public Instruction

### **Purpose of Presentation**

Review/action required by Board of Education bylaws (i.e., advisory committee appointments).

### **Executive Summary**

The Board of Education established the Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted ("VACEG") in 1982 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.

The Board does not have a defined number of VACEG members nor distribution of members across groups, geography, or VDOE Superintendent Regions. VACEG has represented Gifted Education matters to date and has not had a specific charge from the Board. There are currently 20 members on VACEG, with limited parent representation, and a disproportionate representation by Superintendent Region.

- Region 1: Two
- Region 2: Three
- Region 3: Three
- Region 4: Four
- Region 5: Two
- Region 6: Two
- Region 7: Two
- Region 8: One

To address the needs of current learners across the Commonwealth, it is proposed that the Board dissolve VACEG and establish the Virginia Advisory Committee for Advanced Learning (“VACAL”). 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.

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

Nominations will be solicited through application by the Office of Board Relations and recommendations from the Department of Education to the Board for three-year appointments. A transition plan which includes four VACEG members ensures continuity and some staggering of terms while providing the Board the opportunity to establish VACAL with the needed expertise with the balance of the membership.

To ensure representation of educators, administrators, and parents in the Advanced Learning, Governor’s Schools, and Gifted Education communities across the Commonwealth, the proposed makeup for VACAL would attribute two representatives per Region, with one Division employee or administrator affiliated with Gifted Education or advanced academic programming and one parent, plus one Academic Year Governor’s School Director, one Higher Education representative, one private school Gifted Education or advanced academic programming representative, one Division Superintendent, one nationally recognized expert in Gifted Education and/or advanced academic programming and the ex-officio VDOE representative.

Thus, VACAL’s proposed 22 representatives would be as follows:

- Regions 1 through 8: one (1) division employee or administrator affiliated with Gifted Education or advanced academic programming and one (1) parent for each Region, for 16 representatives.
- Academic Year Governor’s School (AYGS) Director: one (1)
- Higher Education representative: one (1)
- Private school employee affiliated with Gifted Education or advanced academic programming: one (1)
- Division Superintendent: one (1)
- Nationally recognized expert in Gifted Education and/or advanced academic programming
- DOE Representative: one (1, ex-officio, non-voting)

**Action Requested**

Final review. Action requested at this meeting.

**Superintendent's Recommendation**

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

- (a) Dissolve its Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted (VACEG) and establish the Virginia Advisory Committee for Advanced Learning (VACAL); and
- (b) Ensure 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, one nationally recognized expert in Gifted Education and/or advanced academic programming, and the ex-officio VDOE representative.

**Previous Review or Action**

First review on December 12, 2023.

**Background Information and Statutory Authority**

Section [22.1-16](#) of the Code of Virginia permits the Board of Education to adopt bylaws for its own government.

Article Nine, Section 2 of the [Board's Bylaws](#) addresses, among other matters, the following:

- 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.

**Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources**

No fiscal or staff impact are anticipated.