



COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP LABORATORY SCHOOLS
STANDING COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

College Partnership Laboratory School Application For:

Old Dominion University – Eastern Shore

June 2024

VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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INTRODUCTION

College Partnership Laboratory Schools (Lab Schools) have fueled innovation and excellence in preK-12 education across the nation. Some of the nation’s most prestigious schools were started as Lab Schools. Virginia has identified Lab Schools as a critical part of ensuring a high-quality, innovative, and diverse educational ecosystem in the Commonwealth.

BACKGROUND OF THE COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP LABORATORY SCHOOL FUND

The College Partnership Laboratory Schools Fund (Fund), set out in § [22.1-349.2](#) of the *Code of Virginia*, was first established in 2010 for the purpose of establishing and supporting College Partnership Laboratory Schools. During its 2022 Session, the General Assembly appropriated \$100,000,000 to the Fund.

The Virginia Board of Education (Board) is authorized to award up to \$5,000,000 from the Fund for planning grants to entities pursuing the creation of new Lab Schools. Additionally, the Board is authorized to award up to \$20,000,000 from the Fund for initial start-up cost funding grants (Start-Up Grants) for entities approved by the Board and awarded a contract to create a new Lab School and to distribute the remaining balance (\$75,000,000 or more) in per-pupil operating funding grants (Per-Pupil Funding Operating Grants) from the Fund for entities with approved Lab Schools.

Section [22.1-349.2](#) of the *Code of Virginia* and [Item 137.C.44](#) of the 2022 Appropriation Act direct the Board to establish criteria and guidelines for the distribution and award of moneys from the Fund prior to disbursement.

PURPOSE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Board’s College Partnership Laboratory Schools Standing Committee (Standing Committee) is appointed by the Board. The purpose of the Standing Committee is to assist the Board in its approval process of College Partnership Laboratory School Applications (Application) submitted by Eligible Entities (Applicant).

Once received from the Applicant, the Application is reviewed for completeness and compliance by the Virginia Department of Education (Department), who may also secure technical assistance and/or coaching as needed for the Applicant. The Standing Committee receives the complete and compliant Application from the Department, meets with the Applicant(s), provides opportunity for public comment on the Application, and delivers a report on its recommendation to the Board for their decision.

The recommendation report to the Board provides an objective review and assessment of the Applicant’s ability to achieve quality student performance through evidence of organizational effectiveness that supports a visionary educational process which promotes a culture of continuous, sustainable learning.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION ELEMENTS TO BE REVIEWED

The Standing Committee’s review and consideration of Applications includes evaluation of the information found in eight elements of the Application, summarized as follows:

1. **Executive Summary:** Does the Applicant provide the summary and address the need for the Lab School, its goals, and objectives?
2. **Mission and Vision:** Does the Applicant clearly communicate a mission and vision, including identification of the targeted student population, for the proposed Lab School to succeed?
3. **Educational Program:** Does the curriculum, instructional design, and assessment practices guide ensure teacher effectiveness and student learning?
4. **Governance:** Do the organizational structure and the roles and responsibilities enumerated for the governing board demonstrate clear leadership for the successful management and support of the proposed Lab School?
5. **Management Structure:** Does the Applicant address recruiting, staffing, leadership, licensure, employment policies, and performance evaluations sufficiently to demonstrate success for proposed Lab School? In addition, how does the Applicant address parent and community involvement; student recruitment plan, open enrollment and waiting list; student conduct; start-up plan with tasks, timelines, and responsible individuals; co-curricular and extracurricular programs, and partnerships with school divisions?
6. **Financial Operations Information:** Has the Applicant provided and addressed financial assumptions, start-up and five-year budgets, anticipated fundraising contributions, insurance coverage, a sound facilities plan, transportation services, including for students with disabilities, and food service operations to successfully start and maintain operations?
7. **Placement Plan:** Does the Applicant provide a plan for effective communication and placement of school students, teachers, and employees in the event of termination or revocation of the contract, including a plan for student records, student transfers, assistance to employees, and a close-out plan related to financial obligations and audits?
8. **Other Assurances and Requirement:** Does the Applicant demonstrate processes in place to implement and monitor federal and state compliance with regulations and waivers, including compliance with the federal *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*, records retention schedules, and the *Virginia Freedom of Information Act*? Does the Applicant document collaborative partnerships with public school divisions and address conflicts of interest?

Public Comment: In addition to the elements found in the Application, the Standing Committee reviews and considers any public comments received when developing its recommendation and report for the Board.

STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The Standing Committee’s recommendation report to the Board includes the Report Elements criteria outlined below for the Board’s consideration and decision whether to approve a Lab School Application.

- I. **Overall Element Assessment:** The overall recommendation of the Standing Committee for this Element of the Application.
- II. **Element Rubric Rating:** The Standing Committee’s recommendation of the degree the Element defines areas of strength and/or opportunities for improvement.

	Not Evident	Little or no indication exists for implementation activities
	Emerging/Partial detail	Indicates preliminary stages of implementation for some practices and procedures
	Operational/ Ready to implement	Indicates practices and procedures fully described and ready to implement

- III. **Public Comment Assessment:** The Standing Committee assessment of public comments received on the Application.
- IV. **Areas Requiring VDOE Reinforcement:** The Standing Committee’s recommendation for VDOE operational expertise that may be required by the Applicant in various areas of the Lab School’s operations.

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

ELEMENT 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERALL ELEMENT ASSESSMENT:

Old Dominion University (“ODU”) is partnering with Eastern Shore Community College (“ESCC”), Accomack County (“ACPS”) and Northampton County (“NCPS”) Public Schools (“Applicants”) to design and open an aerospace industry focused laboratory school called The Aerospace Academy of the Eastern Shore (“AAES”) to create a pipeline to prepare workers for the aerospace and adjacent industries identified as priorities by the GoVA Region 5 Economic Development Authority (“EDA”). Old Dominion University will serve as the fiscal agent.

AAES will offer opportunities in STEM fields related to EDA priorities. In each area, students can earn college credits to complete a Virginia Community College System Passport or Passport Plus, career studies certificates or certificates, and industry credentials and certifications. After high school graduation, students could go directly to work, the military, complete their associate degree at Eastern Shore Community College, or choose to enroll at a local four-year institution such as Old Dominion University. AAES will equip the students with the skills and knowledge necessary for a successful career in the aerospace and adjacent industries.

Aviation and Aerospace education are natural fits for Virginia’s Eastern Shore students. The presence of NASA Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) and Wallops Island provides many opportunities for AAES. These include providing information and guidance related to internship opportunities at WFF; providing NASA educational Science, Technology, Engineering and Math resources and “real world” application examples; providing NASA educational Science, Technology, Engineering and Math; providing support for teacher training with awareness of knowledge and skills needed in the workplace; and providing experiential learning and project-based learning opportunities that are connected to NASA WFF missions and work. Course sequences would be offered in engineering, remotely operated vehicles, and geographic information systems (GIS).

Information Technology, Computer Science, and Cybersecurity provide students with a strong foundation in problem-solving and critical thinking. Course sequences will be offered in cyber security and computer networking.

With solid academic curriculum theory proposed and aligned with education, research, and innovation efforts, the Standing Committee highly recommends the AAES College Laboratory School to the Board.

ELEMENT RUBRIC RATING:

	Not Evident	Little or no indication exists for implementation activities
	Emerging/Partial detail	Indicates preliminary stages of implementation for some practices and procedures

Lab School Application for Old Dominion University – Eastern Shore

X	Operational/ Ready to implement	Indicates practices and procedures fully described and ready to implement
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PUBLIC COMMENT ASSESSMENT:

The application received numerous institutional endorsements that supported the application.

AREAS REQUIRING VDOE REINFORCEMENT:

VDOE will support the applicant through the development of the contract with the Board and will provide technical assistance as needed as the school begins operations.

ELEMENT 2: MISSION AND VISION

OVERALL ELEMENT ASSESSMENT:

AAES is guided by a mission and philosophy that emphasizes (1) a commitment to excellence in education, (2) the critical nature of student active agency and student voice in learning, (3) experimentation with pedagogical approaches and experiential learning, (4) innovative approaches to professional learning and educator preparation, and (5) the integration of research and teaching.

The mission of the AAES is to provide at-risk and/or under-represented populations access to the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to be successful in aerospace and adjacent industries identified as priorities by the GoVA Region 5 Economic Development Authority. We seek to inspire students as future leaders in the aerospace industry; provide a dynamic laboratory for innovation in education; and collaborate around research to build and share knowledge of transformative practices. It is the vision that AAES will be an innovative, interdisciplinary school and the regional standard of excellence in preparation for the high-tech jobs in these high growth fields.

The Applicant’s mission and vision clearly outlines the level of innovation anticipated and the targeted student. With completed planning and proposed programs and processes in place, the Standing Committee highly recommends The AAES College Laboratory School to the Board.

ELEMENT RUBRIC RATING:

	Not Evident	Little or no indication exists for implementation activities
	Emerging/Partial detail	Indicates preliminary stages of implementation for some practices and procedures
X	Operational/ Ready to implement	Indicates practices and procedures fully described and ready to implement

PUBLIC COMMENT ASSESSMENT:

The application received numerous institutional endorsements that supported the application.

AREAS REQUIRING VDOE REINFORCEMENT:

VDOE will support the applicant through the development of the contract with the Board and will provide technical assistance as needed as the school begins operations.

**ELEMENT 3: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
OVERALL ELEMENT ASSESSMENT:**

The AAES academic program has been designed so that all students complete four math and science credits, a CTE sequence, a high-quality work-based experience, and earn at least one relevant industry credential. Students can complete dual enrollment courses leading to a career studies certificate, or an Associate of Applied Science in Technical Studies and meet the requirements of the VCCS Passport and Passport Plus programs. AAES will offer two pathways initially in preparation for employment or further studies in aerospace and adjacent fields.

AAES’ foundation will be rooted in constructivist educational theory, emphasizing learning through active participation, collaboration, and real-world experiences. The Lab School will integrate sustainability education and hands-on learning, reinforcing academic knowledge with practical applications. The program will align with best practices in 21st-century education, focusing on the critical skills students need to succeed in an ever-evolving world.

The Aerospace Academy of the Eastern Shore seeks to develop well-rounded students by providing both the fundamentals of aerospace technology coupled with emphasis on critical thinking, ethical considerations, and developing strong communication skills.

With the required credentials for curriculum development and assessment in place, the Standing Committee highly recommends The AAES College Laboratory School to the Board.

ELEMENT RUBRIC RATING:

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	Emerging/Partial detail	Indicates preliminary stages of implementation for some practices and procedures
X	Operational/ Ready to implement	Indicates practices and procedures fully described and ready to implement

PUBLIC COMMENT ASSESSMENT:

The application received numerous institutional endorsements that supported the application.

AREAS REQUIRING VDOE REINFORCEMENT:

The Applicant has proposed a solid, theoretical curriculum/instructional approach. VDOE can provide guidance on any statutory requirements related to expeditionary learning, internships, etc.

ELEMENT 4: GOVERNANCE

OVERALL ELEMENT ASSESSMENT:

The Applicant has identified a shared governance model. The Governing Board will be composed of leaders from Old Dominion University, Eastern Shore Community College, Accomack County Public Schools, and Northampton County Public Schools. A shared governance model will be in place, establishing policies that deviate from established university and school division policies. The Board will seek recommendations from the ODU Lab School Network Coordinator, the Academy Director, and the Advisory committee when considering decisions regarding the Lab School functioning. The Board will meet quarterly, following the procedures in the Code of Virginia.

The Advisory Council will provide guidance to the Governing Board. The council will be composed by the chairs of the following committees. Committees may be dissolved and created as the Lab School process evolves. Depending on the committee, members of these committees may include parents, teachers, students, school and central office administrators, industry and community members, and university faculty and administrators.

- Business Advisory Council
- Community Advisory Council
- Parent, Teacher & Student Advisory Committee
- Curriculum
- Research
- Educator Preparation.
- Sustainability
- Marketing & Branding

Overall, each entity with a vested interest in the school will be actively involved in the governance of this proposed Lab School.

The Applicant’s proposed organizational structure and the roles and responsibilities enumerated for the governing board demonstrate clear leadership for the successful management and support of the Lab School. The Standing Committee highly recommends The AAES College Laboratory School to the Board.

ELEMENT RUBRIC RATING:

	Not Evident	Little or no indication exists for implementation activities
	Emerging/Partial detail	Indicates preliminary stages of implementation for some practices and procedures
X	Operational/ Ready to implement	Indicates practices and procedures fully described and ready to implement

PUBLIC COMMENT ASSESSMENT:

The application received numerous institutional endorsements that supported the application.

AREAS REQUIRING VDOE REINFORCEMENT:

The Applicant has provided organizational charts as well as a draft document for governance. VDOE can provide guidance on any requirements related to the confines of the state statute that may be required.

ELEMENT 5: MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

OVERALL ELEMENT ASSESSMENT:

The Applicant has addressed all requested areas of management structure. The Director of the Institute for Design Thinking and Leadership Development is an existing ODU position, which will oversee The AAES Lab School. ODU human resources staff will work collaboratively with the Governing Board to identify the AAES Director. Recruitment will begin in July 2024, with the goal of identifying and employing a director not later than 6 months prior to the opening of the Lab School in September 2025, and ideally by January 1, 2025, so that the AAES Director will be on board to manage the recruitment and application process for the first cohort of AAES students and participate in hiring of the remaining AAES staff and faculty.

The AAES Director, in collaboration with ODU human resources, shall be responsible for hiring faculty to teach in the AAES. The AAES Director will identify faculty needs for AAES in Year 1 and initiate the recruitment and selection process to fill these positions. The AAES Director, in collaboration with ODU, ODU human resources, ESCC and with support from NCPS and ACPS principals, shall be responsible for onboarding and orientation of new AAES faculty and staff.

The Applicant will use the Lab School Standing Committee’s Best Practices on Administration of Lotteries for College Partnership Laboratory Schools to develop a fully operational lottery process.

The Applicant provided detailed information on overall school management including personnel management that sufficiently demonstrates success for the proposed Lab School. The Standing Committee highly recommends The AAES College Laboratory School to the Board.

ELEMENT RUBRIC RATING:

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	Emerging/Partial detail	Indicates preliminary stages of implementation for some practices and procedures
X	Operational/ Ready to implement	Indicates practices and procedures fully described and ready to implement

PUBLIC COMMENT ASSESSMENT:

The application received numerous institutional endorsements that supported the application.

AREAS REQUIRING VDOE REINFORCEMENT:

VDOE may need to provide guidance memorandums between the community college, school districts and the Lab School as well as guidance on the proposed school lottery process.

ELEMENT 6: FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONS INFORMATION

OVERALL ELEMENT ASSESSMENT:

The Applicant has provided and addressed financial assumptions, start-up, and five-year budgets. The Applicant is requesting a total of \$4,852,000 in operational per-pupil funding support over a four-year period. The budget indicates the annual funding amount requested decreases each year as other funding sources are secured and the Lab School becomes self-sustaining, thereby maximizing the return on investment of public funds.

The Applicant’s current operations complies with all fiscal policies and procedures through their fiscal agent, ODU. ODU will align plans and policies with the requirements of ESCC, ACPS and NCPS in order to align with their MOU requirements.

The Applicant’s goal is to work with those philanthropic and corporate partners on the specific ways they can support fundraising/revenue generating options and work to provide federal, state, and private funding to replace the Lab School grant funding over the next five (5) years.

The Applicant provided detailed budget and financial assumption information as well as its processes to provide successful operational requirements. The Standing Committee highly recommends The AAES College Laboratory School to the Board.

ELEMENT RUBRIC RATING:

	Not Evident	Little or no indication exists for implementation activities
	Emerging/Partial detail	Indicates preliminary stages of implementation for some practices and procedures
X	Operational/ Ready to implement	Indicates practices and procedures fully described and ready to implement

PUBLIC COMMENT ASSESSMENT:

The application numerous institutional endorsements that supported the application.

AREAS REQUIRING VDOE REINFORCEMENT:

VDOE may need to assist with ideas and support for longer term financial sustainability planning.

ELEMENT 7: PLACEMENT PLAN

OVERALL ELEMENT ASSESSMENT:

The Applicant’s Lab School placement plan includes the current process for students to return to their home school division and/or move to another division out of state, etc. would have their records transferred electronically using the secure VDOE Dropbox process or other secure Student Information Systems procedures.

The Applicant’s proposed governing Board’s Constitution and Bylaws address the details of the close out plan related to financial obligations and audits by the partnering school boards. The Standing Committee highly recommends The AAES College Laboratory School to the Board.

ELEMENT RUBRIC RATING:

	Not Evident	Little or no indication exists for implementation activities
	Emerging/Partial detail	Indicates preliminary stages of implementation for some practices and procedures
X	Operational/ Ready to implement	Indicates practices and procedures fully described and ready to implement

PUBLIC COMMENT ASSESSMENT:

The application numerous institutional endorsements that supported the application.

AREAS REQUIRING VDOE REINFORCEMENT:

In the unlikely event the Lab School is terminated, VDOE may need to audit/identify unused funds requiring return to the State.

ELEMENT 8: OTHER ASSURANCES AND REQUIREMENTS

OVERALL ELEMENT ASSESSMENT:

The Applicant demonstrates and currently operates in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The Standing Committee highly recommends The AAES College Laboratory School to the Board.

ELEMENT RUBRIC RATING:

	Not Evident	Little or no indication exists for implementation activities
	Emerging/Partial detail	Indicates preliminary stages of implementation for some practices and procedures
X	Operational/ Ready to implement	Indicates practices and procedures fully described and ready to implement

PUBLIC COMMENT ASSESSMENT:

The application received one public comment and numerous institutional endorsements that supported the application.

AREAS REQUIRING VDOE REINFORCEMENT:

VDOE may need to assist with approving additional waivers or assisting with review of Memorandums of Understanding to guard against conflicts of interest if future participation of school divisions is expanded.

CONCLUDING REPORT COMMENTS

Accomack County Public Schools (ACPS) and Northampton County Public Schools (NCPS) are partnering with Old Dominion University (ODU) as the Aerospace Academy of the Eastern Shore (AAES) to assist teaching high school and dual enrollment classes for the eastern shore lab school. The classes will be taught asynchronously and synchronously virtually from ODU to the student’s home school. ODU will serve as the fiscal agent. All lab school employees will be employees of ODU in their capacity as lab school personnel. ODU will lead the educator preparation and research components of the grant, with ACPS and NCPS leading the curriculum design and academic components of the school. AAES and ODU will partner to design and implement recruitment and community outreach initiatives, coordinated by the AAES Director.

Accomack County Public Schools (ACPS) and Northampton County Public Schools (NCPS) are partnering with Old Dominion University (ODU) as the Aerospace Academy of the Eastern Shore (AAES) to assist teaching high school and dual enrollment classes for the eastern shore lab school. The classes will be taught asynchronously and synchronous virtually to the student’s home school. ODU will serve as the fiscal agent. ODU will lead the educator preparation and research components of the grant, provide stipends to the Academy teachers and consultants, and AAES will lead the curriculum design and academic components of the school/classes. AAES and ODU will partner to design and implement recruitment and community outreach initiatives.

Lab School Application for Old Dominion University – Eastern Shore

As this College Laboratory School Application is in the operational development stages, the Standing Committee has noted the areas where the VDOE may be required to provide operational assistance as the Applicant's Lab School begins to fully develop and grow.

After completing an objective review and thorough assessment of the Applicant's ability to achieve quality student performance through evidence of organizational effectiveness that supports a visionary educational process which promotes a culture of continuous, sustainable learning, the Standing Committee highly recommends The AAES College Laboratory School to the Board.