

HB168

Requires the Department of Education to Create a Resource Document on Supports and Services for Homeless Students



Bill Patron: Delegate Karen Keys-Gamarra

■ WHAT THE BILL DOES:

Requires the Virginia Department of Education to develop and make available to each school board a resource document containing guidance and best practices for providing the necessary supports and services to homeless students, including guidance and best practices relating to:

- decisions regarding whether and when such a student should remain enrolled in a school in a previous school division of residence;
- wraparound supports and services for such students that include the parents when they are available and specific wraparound supports and services for such students who may have experienced additional trauma prior to becoming homeless; and
- any other means by which such students can be best served and protected, particularly those homeless children and youths who are at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking.

■ HOW DOES THIS IMPACT SCHOOL DIVISIONS?

- This bill provides the [*Resource Document for Best Practices for Supports and Services to Students Who Experience Homelessness*](#) to school divisions that provides information and tools for staff to support students experiencing homelessness.
- With the information in the resource document, school divisions have easy access to state and national best practice resources, especially as it relates to homeless children and youth at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking.

■ WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

- William and Mary [*Project HOPE website*](#), which includes Information about trainings and webinars related to homeless education in Virginia.
- The National Network for Youth provides information, resources, and training on its [*Human Trafficking webpage*](#). It includes a [*Learning Center*](#) where training is available, along with a tool kit and resource guide for schools.
- The Virginia Department of Education [*Human Trafficking webpage*](#) will assist school divisions with state and national service providers, resources for victims, and training opportunities.

■ WHAT ADDITIONAL ITEMS WILL BE RELEASED?

- The [*Resource Document for Best Practices for Supports and Services to Students Who Experience Homelessness*](#) is available for school divisions. It is also available on the VDOE Supporting Students and Families Experiencing Homelessness [*webpage*](#).

SCHOOL DIVISION NEXT STEPS:

- School divisions should ensure their school boards are aware of the new resource when released.
- It is suggested that divisions make the resource available on division's applicable webpages.
- School divisions should share the resource with school staff and provide training as necessary.
- School divisions can utilize their division [Homeless Liaison](#) or state training opportunities for staff as needed.

WHO IS THE VDOE CONTACT:

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