

Bill Patron: Delegate Delores L. McQuinn

WHAT THE BILL DOES:

Requires the Virginia Board of Education to update its regulations and provide path for career switchers seeking provisional licensure in special education. This update allows applicants to pursue a Provisional (Career Switcher) License through the career switcher alternate route program.

This legislation requires Board regulatory action, which is expected to occur at the July Virginia Board of Education meeting for implementation in August.

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT SCHOOL DIVISIONS?

House Bill 269 allows for divisions to hire special education teachers who have completed 60% of the special education endorsement requirements as part of Level 1 Career Switcher program preparation. Such career switchers must meet remaining requirements as part of Level II and III preparation.

A Provisional (Career Switcher) License in special education shall meet the following specific prerequisite requirements: a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university, complete 60% of the requirements for an endorsement in the special education teaching area, have at least three years of successful full-time work experience or its equivalent, and qualifying scores on the professional teacher's assessments as prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education.

To complete the 60% requirement, all core requirements (12 semester hours) must be completed plus the Individualized education program (IEP) development writing course (3 semester hours). The core coursework will be distributed among the following areas: Foundations (3), Assessment and Evaluation (3), Collaboration (3), and Management of Classroom Instruction and Behaviors (3).

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

- [VDOE Career Switcher resources](#): This VDOE website contains the Career Switcher program overview, prerequisites, and detailed information on program providers.
- [Application for Virginia Career Switcher Program](#): This application for program providers outlines the expectations of the providers as well as the endorsement competencies.

WHAT ADDITIONAL ITEMS WILL BE RELEASED?

- VDOE will add language to the [Career Switcher website](#) to clarify the conditions for the Career Switcher special education license by July 8, 2024.

SCHOOL DIVISION NEXT STEPS:

1. School divisions must communicate with all current Career Switcher programs they work with to review teacher candidates and determine where they are in the process of meeting the prerequisites for the Career Switcher Programs. Career Switcher programs include:
 - [Regent University](#)
 - [Shenandoah University](#)
 - [Virginia Community College System](#)
 - [Virginia Commonwealth University](#)
2. School divisions must work with Career Switcher programs to communicate with current Career Switcher teachers that, if they are pursuing special education endorsements, they must only meet 60% of the endorsement requirements.
3. School division must be familiar with the [Application for Career Switcher Programs](#) and the requirements detailed within the document.
4. School divisions should communicate more broadly to their community this opportunity for interested applicants to encourage participation in the Career Switcher program for special education.
5. School divisions should target their recruitment efforts towards potential special education Career Switcher candidates in the workforce.
6. [School divisions and Career Switcher Programs must request a one-year nonrenewable Provisional \(Career Switcher\) license at the end of Level 1 using this form.](#)
7. School divisions upon the completion of Level 2 must make a recommendation to the VDOE Office of Licensure to issue full renewable license using the [Career Switcher Alternative Route To Licensure Recommendation Form](#).

WHO IS THE VDOE CONTACT:

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