



# VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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# AGENDA ITEM

**Agenda Item:** K

**Date:** September 26, 2024

**Title:** Severe Allergic Reaction Awareness Training Video

**Presenter:** Em Cooper, Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

## **Purpose of Presentation**

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

## **Executive Summary**

[Chapter 171](#) of the 2024 Acts of Assembly added § [22.1-274.2:1](#), directing the Board to include in the Standards of Learning for health education for grades nine and ten an in-person or online severe allergic reaction awareness training that includes the following content:

1. The definition of and distinction between normal allergic reaction and anaphylaxis;
2. Types of allergens, including common and less common allergens;
3. The signs and symptoms of normal allergic reaction and anaphylaxis;
4. Treatments for anaphylaxis; and
5. The proper response to suspected anaphylaxis, including notifying the nearest staff member trained to respond to anaphylaxis and administer epinephrine.

[Chapter 171](#) also requires the Board to [review the video training produced by students at McLean High School in Fairfax County](#) and consider whether to approve such training or develop a similar training for use as the severe allergic reaction awareness training. In addition, pursuant to § [22.1-274.2:1](#), the Act requires the Virginia Department of Education (“VDOE”) to develop and post on its website guidance for the purpose of making such severe allergic reaction awareness training available to school boards prior to the adoption of the revised 2027 *Health Education Standards of Learning*.

The Health Education *Standards of Learning* have historically included standards addressing anaphylactic shock that may be the result of severe allergic reactions (below).

### **Advocacy and Health Promotion**

9.3 The student will demonstrate skills to advocate for personal and community health.

#### Safety/Injury Prevention

k. Demonstrate adult and child cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), use of automated external defibrillator (AED), and first aid skills for choking, bleeding, contusions, fractures, and **anaphylactic shock**.

Pursuant to § [22.1-253.13:1\(B\)](#), the Board conducts reviews of the Standards of Learning at least once every seven years. The periodic review of the 2020 *Health Education Standards of Learning* is scheduled to begin in 2026 and will include adding all Va Code requirements and ensuring the standards remain current and relevant to the educational needs of students in Virginia. The *Instructional Guide* that accompanies the 2027 *Health Education Standards of Learning* will therefore reflect specific content, skills, and severe allergic reaction awareness training curriculum content that all students need to know and be able to do as prescribed by [Chapter 171](#).

### **Action Requested**

First and Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

### **Superintendent's Recommendation**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education evaluate the video as specified in [Chapter 171](#) and authorize its inclusion as an available resource in the Severe Allergy Awareness Guidance Document to be generated by VDOE. This guidance will ensure adherence to severe allergic reaction requirements in the Virginia Code and provide school boards with resources for instruction on severe allergic reactions that may be integrated into a division's curriculum to support health education standards.

### **Rationale for Action**

Per [Chapter 171](#), the Board is required to review the video training produced by students at McLean High School in Fairfax County and consider whether to approve such training or develop a similar training for severe allergic reaction awareness training for health education instruction in grades nine and 10 in accordance with the provisions of this act.

### **Previous Review or Action**

The Board viewed the video required by Chapter 171 during lunch at its meeting on June 20, 2024.

## Background Information and Statutory Authority

[Chapter 171](#), an Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding § [22.1-274.2:1](#), relating to grade nine and grade 10 health education Standards of Learning instruction; severe allergic reaction awareness training, resulted from HB 121 and was approved on March 28, 2024.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered [22.1-274.2:1](#) as follows:

*§ 22.1-274.2:1. Grade nine and grade 10 health education Standards of Learning; severe allergic reaction awareness training.*

*The Board shall include in the Standards of Learning for health education for grade nine and grade 10 an in-person or online severe allergic reaction awareness training that includes the following content:*

- 1. The definition of and distinction between normal allergic reaction and anaphylaxis;*
- 2. Types of allergens, including common and less common allergens;*
- 3. The signs and symptoms of normal allergic reaction and anaphylaxis;*
- 4. Treatments for anaphylaxis; and*
- 5. The proper response to suspected anaphylaxis, including notifying the nearest staff member trained to respond to anaphylaxis and administer epinephrine.*

2. That the Board of Education shall review the video training produced by students at McLean High School in Fairfax County and shall consider whether to approve such training or develop a similar training for use as the severe allergic reaction awareness training to be included in the Standards of Learning for health education for grade nine and grade 10 as required in § [22.1-274.2:1](#) of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act.

3. That beginning with the school year following the Board of Education's adoption of revised Standards of Learning for health education for grades nine and 10 incorporating severe allergic reaction awareness training pursuant to § [22.1-274.2:1](#) of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, each school board shall incorporate such severe allergic reaction awareness training into any health education instruction provided at grades nine and 10 in accordance with the provisions of this act. The Department of Education shall, in the interim, develop and post on its official website guidance for the purpose of making such severe allergic reaction awareness training available to school boards prior to the adoption of such revised Standards of Learning.

[Section 22.1-274.2:1](#). Grade nine and grade 10 health education Standards of Learning; severe allergic reaction awareness training.

The Board shall include in the Standards of Learning for health education for grade nine and grade 10 an in-person or online severe allergic reaction awareness training that includes the following content:

1. The definition of and distinction between normal allergic reaction and anaphylaxis;
2. Types of allergens, including common and less common allergens;
3. The signs and symptoms of normal allergic reaction and anaphylaxis;
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5. The proper response to suspected anaphylaxis, including notifying the nearest staff member trained to respond to anaphylaxis and administer epinephrine.

2024, c. 171.

Section [22.1-253.13:1\(B\)](#) of the Code of Virginia requires a review of the Board's Standards of Learning every seven years: The Board of Education shall establish a regular schedule, in a manner it deems appropriate, for the review, and revision as may be necessary of the Standards of Learning in all subject areas. Such review of each subject area shall occur at least once every seven years. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Board from conducting such review and revision on a more frequent basis.

### **Timetable for Further Review/Action**

If the Board approves the video, the VDOE webpage will be updated to include this resource. In addition, a one-page guidance will also be developed by the Department that offers a comprehensive collection of resources that further enhance high-quality instruction for severe allergic reaction awareness training.

### **Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources**

The Board action will have no fiscal and limited human resource impact on the Department of Education. Given the historical inclusion of severe allergic reaction awareness training in the *Health Education Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools*, adding supports for high quality instruction to the Department's website will positively impact school division resources.