

2011 Capitol Issues Update

Number 6, April 7, 2011

Key Education Legislation PASSED 2011 General Assembly

SCHOOL BOARD

School calendar. Allows school division totally surrounded by those with existing waivers to open before Labor Day (Roanoke City, Salem). [HB 1483](#)

Accreditation of schools. Provides for the delayed implementation, until July 1, 2012, of statutes and regulations re: accreditation, with the exceptions of the graduation and completion rate index and the new economics and financial literacy graduation requirement. [HB 1554](#) (SB 810)

School buses. Allows school divisions to install video-monitoring systems on school buses to identify drivers passing stopped school buses. [HB 1911](#) (SB 946)

School board policies. Allows school divisions to accept electronic records and electronic signatures from parent. [HB 2243](#)

Standards of Accreditation. For purposes of alternative plans for accreditation, school boards may seek same waivers as are currently allowed for public charter schools. [HB 2494](#)

Public Procurement Act. State agencies, including school boards, to include in contract that contractor use E-Verify program. [SB 1049](#)

HEALTH/SAFETY

Synthetic marijuana (i.e., “spice”; “bath salts”); penalties for possession, distribution. [HB 1434](#) (SB 745)

Stopped school bus. Failure to stop for school bus considered reckless driving. [HB 2043](#) (SB 769)

Sex offenders. Expands prohibition to include any school bus and any property during hours when property is being used solely by a public or private elementary or secondary school for a school-related or school-sponsored activity. Class 6 felony. [HB 2066](#) (SB 1185; 1318)

Immunizations. Allows licensed nurse practitioners, in addition to physicians, registered nurses or local health department employees, to immunize public school students and to provide proof of such immunizations. [HB 2291](#)

Physical Education. Requires at least 150 minutes of physical education per week on average during the regular school year for grades K – 8, with a similar goal for high school students. [SB 966](#) VETOED BY GOVERNOR. VETO SUSTAINED AND BILL WILL NOT GO FORWARD.

Youth health risk survey. Department of Health to conduct random survey of students in middle and high schools re: substance abuse prevention (alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use). Opt-out provision; school boards to notify parents of students selected for survey. [SB 1094](#)

INSTRUCTION

CTE automotive technology. Provides that where there is national certification for both programs and teachers in automotive technology, the Board of Education must make certification a mandated part of all such CTE programs; delayed effective date to July 1, 2012. [HB 1493](#)

VIP incentive program; STEM course offerings. Program to take into account a school division's increase in enrollments and elective course offerings in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. [HB 2172](#) (SB 953)

Family life education. Standards of Learning objectives related to dating violence and the characteristics of abusive relationships to be taught at least once during middle school and at least twice during high school. [SB 906](#)

STUDENTS

Cambridge Advanced Exams. Course credit. Provides that credit for Cambridge Advanced (A/AS) courses are to be comparable to course credit granted for Advanced Placement courses. [HB 1910](#) (SB 1448)

Foster care. Allows child placed in care to remain at his original school. [SB 1038](#)

PERSONNEL

Standards of Quality. Codifies in SOQ the flexibility to use funds provided in the appropriations act for certain staffing standards in mathematics, LEP, reading, technology, and regarding assistant principals. Additionally, amends the definition of "support services." [HB 1792](#) (SB 1270)

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