

# 2009 General Assembly "In Review"

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## WHAT'S HOT in JULY Key Education Bills Effective July 1

Accreditation standards delayed for year.  
Responsibilities of marriage added to list of topics covered in FLE.  
Industry certification and state licensure to stand in lieu of certain testing.  
Virtual Virginia credits to transfer.  
Child abuse investigation of new personnel required if other state will share information.  
Same grievance procedure to apply to all full-time employees except re: dismissal, suspension or other disciplinary action.  
Board of Education to include guidelines on bullying by electronic means (cyberbullying) in model policy.  
Truancy alone may not be used as sufficient cause for suspension of student.  
Schools required to document pesticide application.  
Principal may impose short-term suspension prior to alternative placement decision.  
Mob violence added to list of reportable offenses.  
Emergency response plans to address and ensure victims' rights.  
Principal authorized to notify court if student has 10 or more consecutive unexcused absences; court may suspend student's driver's license.  
180 days allowed for appeal of special education due process decision.  
Authenticated copies of all school records admissible in custody/termination of rights case.  
Definition of parent expanded to include foster parent for purposes of identification, evaluation and placement of special education student (parental notification required).

## SUCCESS in '09

**VASSP** was instrumental in the passage of amendments to key education bills and was successful in working to defeat bills opposed by VASSP members.

Amended Cyberbullying. Board of Education to issue guidelines to include use of electronic means to bully, harass, and intimidate. *Original bill established detailed discipline policy in Code.*

Amended Suspension. Truancy alone may not be considered sufficient cause to suspend student. *Original bill included both truancy and tardiness as insufficient for suspension.*

Amended Driver's license. Principal authorized to notify court if student has 10 or more unexcused absences; court may suspend student's driver's license. *Original bill required principal to initiate notification of the Department of Motor Vehicles.*

Amended Special education. 180 days allowed to appeal due process hearing. *Original bill*

*sought to codify a one-year time period.*

Defeated Statewide uniform end-of-course grading system.

Defeated Concealed weapons on school property with valid permit.

Defeated Publication of school accreditation status by August 1.

Defeated Required course on development of local and state government for all secondary teachers seeking initial licensure in history, civics, economics, social studies and government.

Defeated State grants to private schools for public school students with autism.

Defeated Expanded regulations and training for management of students with food allergies.

## 2009 EDUCATION LEGISLATION ENACTED

### SCHOOL BOARD/FINANCE

HB 1727 Military Compact; provides certain dispensations to transfer students of active duty/wounded military personnel.

HB 1844 Charter schools; amends process to facilitate applications.

HB 1923 Textbooks, clarification; allows school boards to assess reasonable fee for loss or damage.

HB 2166 School accreditation; provides for delayed implementation of recent accreditation regulations.

HB 2269 Annual school board report; provides that expenditures be made available to public.

HB 2474 Planning time for elementary teachers; ensures average of 30 minutes a day of planning time during the students' school week.

SB 1285 School budgets; requires local school divisions to include local match on website.

### INSTRUCTION

HB 1746 Family life education; adds responsibilities of marriage to list of topics covered.

HB 1942 Single-sex education; allows school board to establish single sex school.

HB 1980 Family life education; requires that parents receive FLE summary and rights regarding participation.

HB 2112 Financial literacy; requires that school board policies emphasize financial literacy in grades k-12.

HB 2409 Holocaust education; provides for grade-appropriate instruction manuals to teachers.

HB 2517 Industry certification and state licensure; allowed as alternatives to certain testing.

HB 2589 LEP testing; allows locally developed or selected tests if approved by Board of Education.

HB 2619 Transfer students; provides that Virtual Virginia credits shall transfer.

## PERSONNEL/RETIREMENT

HB 1679 Child abuse data on out-of-state personnel; requires investigation only if requested information is voluntarily shared from state in question.

HB 2089 Grievance procedure; provides that same procedure shall apply to all full-time employees except in cases of dismissal, suspension or other disciplinary action.

SB 919 Retirement; extends current policy of re-hiring retired teachers without interruption of benefits.

HB 2132 Housing assistance; provides that localities may pursue housing assistance for employees.

## DISCIPLINE/SAFETY

HB 1624 Electronic harassment (cyberbullying); provides that Board of Education model policy shall include guidelines for such; allows discipline therefor.

HB 1794 Suspension; requires that sufficient cause necessary to suspend student cannot rest solely on instance of truancy.

HB 1836 Pesticides; requires that schools document pesticide application.

HB 2341 Suspension; authorizes principal to impose short-term suspension while awaiting school board decision on alternative placement of student.

HB 2513 Mob violence; requires that such be added to list of reportable offenses.

HB 2612 Emergency response plans; requires victims' rights to be ensured.

SB 1218 Juvenile petitions; allows superintendent to disclose to principal.

## STUDENTS/SPECIAL EDUCATION

HB 1826 Suspension of driver's license; authorizes principal to notify court if student has 10 or more consecutive unexcused absences.

HB 1945 Regional alternative education programs; provides that assignment may be made administratively or at request of parent.

HB 2070 Elementary classroom placement of twins/multiples; allows parent to request placement; provides for appeal by principal.

HB 2224 Certification of Braille instructors; requires review and recommendations by Board of Education.

HB 2304 Special education; allows 180 days for appeal of due process decision.

HB 2406 School records; expands types of school records that may be admissible in cases involving custody or termination of parental rights if certified as "true" copies.

HB 2537 Special education; provides that definition of a parent shall include foster parent for purposes of identification, evaluation and placement; requires parental notification.

HB 2517 Industry certification and state licensure; allowed as alternatives to certain testing

HB 2589 LEP testing; allows locally developed or selected tests if approved by Board of Education.

HB 2619 Transfer students; provides that Virtual Virginia credits shall transfer.