

## PRIORITY EDUCATION BILLS PASS 2009 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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**\*\*HB 1624 Bullying, harassment, etc.; provides specific information for Bd. of Education in its model policy.**

**Notes:** To require that the Board of Education provide in its model policy guidelines for the use of electronic means for purposes of bullying, harassment, and intimidation.

**HB 1679 Child abuse and neglect data; school board applicants.**

**Notes:** To clarify that a school must attempt to determine if out of state applicants subject of founded child abuse case but only if the state in question has such information and will share it.

**\*\*HB 1727 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children; created, report.**

**Notes:** To provide for special dispensations to students of military personnel to assure that they are not disadvantaged regarding transfer. Applies to students of active military and wounded in action.

*Note: VSBA amendments including clarification of school board policy on transfer students who have been expelled.*  
Bill will become effective only if funded.

**HB 1746 Family life education; adds benefits, etc., of marriage to list of topics covered.**

**Notes:** Adds the value, benefits, challenges, and responsibilities of marriage to the list of topics to be covered in family life education curricula.

**\*\*HB 1782 Driver's license; minors in planning district 8 to show completion of 90 min. driver safety course.**

**Notes:** Safety course required for parents. Applies to Planning District 8 only.

*Note: Original bill would have required safety course for parents and students in all districts.*

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

**Notes:** Provides that the sufficient cause necessary to suspend a student cannot rest solely on instances of truancy.

*Note: Original bill included reference to tardiness as well as truancy.*

**\*\*HB 1826 Driver's licenses; suspension thereof for minor who has 10 or more unexcused absences from school.**

**Notes:** Provides for the suspension of the driver's license of any minor who has 10 or more unexcused absences from public school on consecutive school days.

*Note: Authorizes principal to notify juvenile and domestic relations court if student has 10 or more consecutive unexcused absences. Original bill would have required principal to report absences to DMV.*

**HB 1836 Pesticides; eradication of pest infestations.**

**Notes:** Directs the Department of Education to make information on pesticides available to schools; schools to document pesticide application.

**HB 1844 Charter school, public.**

**Notes:** Facilitates application process for charter school applicants.

**HB 1923 Textbooks; local school boards may assess reasonable fee or charge.**

**Notes:** Clarifies that schools may assess a reasonable fee or charge for the loss of or damage to a textbook, so long as such textbook has been provided to the student free of charge.

**HB 1942 Single-sex education; manner school boards may establish program in school division.**

**Notes:** Clarifies how school boards may establish a single-sex class or school. Participation must be voluntary and substantially equal coeducational school or class provided.

**HB 1945 Regional alternative education programs; certain students may be administratively assigned thereto.**

**Notes:** Provides that a school division may assign a student to a regional alternative education program and that parent may request such assignment.

**HB 1980 Family life education; right of parents to review certain materials.**

**Notes:** Requires school divisions to distribute a summary (currently required) to parents and advise them of their rights concerning participation of student.

**HB 2070 Classroom placement of twins or multiples; school board to develop policies to allow parental input.**

**Notes:** Requires school division policy that provides for parent of twins or higher order multiples in elementary school to request classroom placement. Principal may appeal to superintendent if deemed disruptive or harmful to educational progress.

**\*\*HB 2089 School boards, local; grievance procedure.**

**Notes:** Provides that except in the case of dismissal, suspension, or other disciplinary action the grievance procedure shall apply to all full-time employees (includes classified employees), except supervisory employees.

**\*\*HB 2112 Financial literacy education; school board to implement objectives in grades K through 12.**

**Notes:** School board to establish educational objectives in grades K through 12 that emphasize economic education and financial literacy.

*Note: Original bill required implementation of 12 hours of classroom instruction for graduation.*

**\*\*HB 2166 Schools; delayed implementation of certain statutes, etc. upon which accreditation is based.**

**Notes:** Provides for the delayed implementation of statutes and regulations, for accreditation purposes, that are not already in effect on June 30, 2008, until July 1, 2010 (unless required by federal law or court action).

*Note: Board of Education approved similar policy at February meeting.*

**\*\*HB 2224 Braille; certification of instructors.**

**Notes:** ABTEL (Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure) to make recommendations to the Board of Education and the General Assembly regarding the certification of Braille instructors.

*Note: Original bill required new teachers to pass national literacy Braille competency examination.*

**HB 2269 Expenditures; annual report thereof provided by school board to be made available to public.**

**Notes:** Requires the annual school board report of expenditures be made available to the public on a template prescribed by the Board of Education.

**\*\*HB 2304 Special education; 180 days to appeal due process hearing decisions.**

**Notes:** Provides that any party aggrieved by a decision made in a due process hearing may appeal to a circuit court for a period of 180 days.

*Note: Original bill allowed appeal up to one year.*

**\*\*HB 2341 Suspension of a student, short-term; pending principal, etc., decision on alternative education.**

**Notes:** School board may adopt regulations authorizing the principal or his designee to impose a short-term suspension on student charged with an offense involving intentional injury to another student in the same school pending a decision re: alternative education program.

*Note: Original bill provided school board to request suspension.*

**\*\*HB 2406 School records; may be received as evidence in cases involving custody of students, etc.**

**Notes:** Allows certain school records in custody case to be authenticated in writing to the court by the custodian of such records (relieving staff representation in court in some cases).

**HB 2409 Holocaust education; Board of Education to establish objectives therefor.**

**Notes:** School divisions to provide grade-appropriate portions of manual re: Holocaust provided by State Superintendent to certain history and literature classes.

**HB 2474 Planning time for teachers; Superintendent to ensure elementary school teachers are provided.**

**Notes:** Provides that all elementary school teachers must be provided an average of 30 minutes a day of planning time.

**\*\*HB 2513 Mob violence; adds act of violence to listing of offenses reported by juvenile intake officer.**

**Notes:** Adds mob violence to list of reportable offenses.

**\*\*HB 2517 Standards of Learning; directs Board of Education provide option of industry certification, etc.**

**Notes:** Board of Education to provide the option of industry certification and state licensure examinations in lieu of tests to assess the progress of students.

**\*\*HB 2537 Special education; definition of a parent to make decisions relating thereto.**

**Notes:** Defines "parent" to include foster parent for the purposes of special education identification, evaluation, and placement of a child. Requires parental notification.

**HB 2589 Students; assessment of those English proficient.**

**Notes:** Schools shall administer locally developed or selected tests to LEP students so long as assessment is approved by Board of Education.

**\*\*HB 2612 Emergency response plans; ensuring victims' rights.**

**Notes:** Requires all emergency plans to include that the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund be contacted immediately when there are victims during a school emergency.

**HB 2619 Transfer students; credits earned for online courses taken in Virtual Virginia program to transfer.**

**Notes:** Provides that course credits earned for online courses taken in the Department of Education's Virtual Virginia program will transfer to Virginia public schools.

**SB 827 Family life education; adds benefits, etc., of marriage for men, etc., to list of topics covered.**

**Note:** HB 1746

**\*\*SB 919 Retirement System; retirees may be hired as teachers without interrupting retirement benefits.**

**Notes:** Extends the July 1, 2010, sunset date to July 1, 2015, allowing retirees to be hired as teachers or administrative personnel without interruption of retirement benefits.

**SB 1150 Emergency response plans; ensuring victims' rights.**

**Notes:** HB 2612

**\*\*SB 1218 Juveniles; transmission of probation and parole reports to school superintendent.**

**Notes:** Allows superintendent to disclose information to principal regarding juvenile petition if necessary to protect student or others.

**SB 1285 School budgets; local school divisions to publish on website.**

**Notes:** Requires school divisions to publish the estimated required local match in the publication of the annual school budget.

**SB 1453 Civics Education, Commission on; established.**

School board to establish educational objectives in grades K through 12 that emphasize economic education and financial literacy.

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**NOTABLE FAILURES**

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**HB 1603 Schools, middle and secondary; uniform grading policy.**

*Notes: To mandate a statewide uniform end-of-course grading system*

**HB 1800 School divisions, local; requires 65% of each education dollar to be spent in classroom.**

**HB 1822 Handguns; exempts permit holders from prohibition against carrying onto school property.**

*Notes: To allow person with valid permit to bring a concealed weapon onto school property.*

**HB 1825 Accreditation status; requires Board to publish annually for each school by August 1.**

*Notes: To require the Board to publish annually the accreditation status of each school by August 1.*

Note: Concern that mandated deadline could result in summer graduates not being counted in the same year they graduate and could trigger changes in elementary and middle school testing and scoring windows for SPED and LEP VGLA testing.

**HB 1965 Public/Private Education Investment Tax Credit; created for business entities making contributions.**

**HB 2063 Triennial census of school population; sales and use tax distribution.**

*Notes: To allow annual ADM calculation to replace requirement for triennial census.*

Note: Winners and losers in applying ADM figures; gives more accurate count and is an annual calculation rather than @3-yr triennial census numbers.

**HB 2530 Secondary school teachers; required to complete course on current structure & historic development.**

*Notes: To require all secondary teachers seeking initial licensure in history, civics, economics, social studies, and government to complete course on history of development of local and state government.*

**HB 2552 Diploma requirements; Board of Education to include standard credit in economics & personal**

**finance.**

*Notes: To require a standard credit in economics and personal finance for graduation.*

**HB 2632 Health insurance; development of optional proposed program for school board, etc.**

*Notes: To provide for a statewide optional health insurance plan for all teachers, and an alternative plan covering all employees and retirees of local school boards.*

**SB 952 Dextromethorphan; sale of over-the-counter medicines containing thereof on school property.**

*Notes: To make sale of medicines containing dextromethorphan a Class 1 misdemeanor if sold on school property.*

**SB 956 Autism Tuition Assistance Grant Program; established.**

*Notes: To provide \$20,000 private school grants (annually) for public school students with autism at the request of parent.*

**SB 1266 School calendar; local school boards responsible for setting and eliminates post-Labor Day opening.**

*Notes: To allow local school boards to set the school calendar.*

**SB 1367 Food allergies; school board develop, etc. policy for management of students with life-threatening.**

*Notes: To require policy and training for the management of public school students with life-threatening food allergies.*