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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 873**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 13, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-253.13:1, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of*
5 *the Code of Virginia, relating to public elementary school students; physical activity.*

6 Patron—Kent

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That § 22.1-253.13:1, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of**
10 **Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**11 **§ 22.1-253.13:1. (Effective until July 1, 2026) Standard 1. Instructional programs supporting the**
12 **Standards of Learning and other educational objectives.**13 A. The General Assembly and the Board believe that the fundamental goal of the public schools of the
14 Commonwealth must be to enable each student to develop the skills that are necessary for success in school,
15 preparation for life, and reaching their full potential. The General Assembly and the Board find that the
16 quality of education is dependent upon the provision of (i) the appropriate working environment, benefits,
17 and salaries necessary to ensure the availability of high-quality instructional personnel; (ii) the appropriate
18 learning environment designed to promote student achievement; (iii) quality instruction that enables each
19 student to become a productive and educated citizen of Virginia and the United States of America; and (iv)
20 the adequate commitment of other resources. In keeping with this goal, the General Assembly shall provide
21 for the support of public education as set forth in Article VIII, § 1 of the Constitution of Virginia.22 B. The Board shall establish educational objectives known as the Standards of Learning, which shall form
23 the core of Virginia's educational program, and other educational objectives, which together are designed to
24 ensure the development of the skills that are necessary for success in school and for preparation for life in the
25 years beyond. At a minimum, the Board shall establish Standards of Learning for English, mathematics,
26 science, and history and social science. The Standards of Learning shall not be construed to be regulations as
27 defined in § 2.2-4001.28 The Board shall seek to ensure that the Standards of Learning are consistent with a high-quality
29 foundation educational program. The Standards of Learning shall include, but not be limited to, the basic
30 skills of communication (listening, speaking, reading, and writing); computation and critical reasoning,
31 including problem solving and decision making; proficiency in the use of computers and related technology;
32 computer science and computational thinking, including computer coding; and the skills to manage personal
33 finances and to make sound financial decisions.34 The English Standards of Learning for reading in kindergarten through grade eight shall align with
35 evidence-based literacy instruction and science-based reading research.36 The Standards of Learning in all subject areas shall be subject to regular review and revision to maintain
37 rigor and to reflect a balance between content knowledge and the application of knowledge in preparation for
38 eventual employment and lifelong learning. The Board shall establish a regular schedule, in a manner it
39 deems appropriate, for the review, and revision as may be necessary, of the Standards of Learning in all
40 subject areas. Such review of each subject area shall occur at least once every seven years. Nothing in this
41 section shall be construed to prohibit the Board from conducting such review and revision on a more frequent
42 basis.43 To provide appropriate opportunity for input from the general public, teachers, and local school boards,
44 the Board shall conduct public hearings prior to establishing revised Standards of Learning. Thirty days prior
45 to conducting such hearings, the Board shall give notice of the date, time, and place of the hearings to all
46 local school boards and any other persons requesting to be notified of the hearings and publish notice of its
47 intention to revise the Standards of Learning in the Virginia Register of Regulations. Interested parties shall
48 be given reasonable opportunity to be heard and present information prior to final adoption of any revisions
49 of the Standards of Learning.50 In addition, the Department shall make available and maintain a website, either separately or through an
51 existing website utilized by the Department, enabling public elementary, middle, and high school educators to
52 submit recommendations for improvements relating to the Standards of Learning, when under review by the
53 Board according to its established schedule, and related assessments required by the Standards of Quality
54 pursuant to this chapter. Such website shall facilitate the submission of recommendations by educators.55 School boards shall implement the Standards of Learning or objectives specifically designed for their
56 school divisions that are equivalent to or exceed the Board's requirements. Students shall be expected to

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59 achieve the educational objectives established by the school division at appropriate age or grade levels. The
60 curriculum adopted by the local school division shall be aligned to the Standards of Learning.

61 The Board shall include in the Standards of Learning for history and social science the study of
62 contributions to society of diverse people. For the purposes of this subsection, "diverse" includes
63 consideration of disability, ethnicity, race, and gender.

64 The Board shall include in the Standards of Learning for health instruction in emergency first aid,
65 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator, including hands-on practice
66 of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Such instruction shall be based on the
67 current national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation
68 and the use of an automated external defibrillator, such as a program developed by the American Heart
69 Association or the American Red Cross. No teacher who is in compliance with subdivision D 3 of
70 § 22.1-298.1 shall be required to be certified as a trainer of cardiopulmonary resuscitation to provide
71 instruction for non-certification.

72 The Board shall include in the Standards of Learning for physical and health education for grade nine or
73 10 research-based hazing prevention instruction, in accordance with the Standards of Learning and
74 curriculum guidelines for research-based hazing prevention instruction developed by the Board pursuant to
75 subsection B of § 22.1-207.

76 With such funds as are made available for this purpose, the Board shall regularly review and revise the
77 competencies for career and technical education programs to require the full integration of English,
78 mathematics, science, and history and social science Standards of Learning. Career and technical education
79 programs shall be aligned with industry and professional standard certifications, where they exist.

80 The Board shall establish content standards and curriculum guidelines for courses in career investigation
81 in elementary school, middle school, and high school. Each school board shall (i) require each middle school
82 student to take at least one course in career investigation or (ii) select an alternate means of delivering the
83 career investigation course to each middle school student, provided that such alternative is equivalent in
84 content and rigor and provides the foundation for such students to develop their academic and career plans.
85 Any school board may require (a) such courses in career investigation at the high school level as it deems
86 appropriate, subject to Board approval as required in subsection A of § 22.1-253.13:4, and (b) such courses in
87 career investigation at the elementary school level as it deems appropriate. The Board shall develop and
88 disseminate to each school board career investigation resource materials that are designed to ensure that
89 students have the ability to further explore interest in career and technical education opportunities in middle
90 and high school. In developing such resource materials, the Board shall consult with representatives of career
91 and technical education, industry, skilled trade associations, chambers of commerce or similar organizations,
92 and contractor organizations.

93 C. Local school boards shall develop and implement a program of instruction for grades K through 12 that
94 is aligned to the Standards of Learning and meets or exceeds the requirements of the Board. The program of
95 instruction shall emphasize reading, writing, speaking, mathematical concepts and computations, proficiency
96 in the use of computers and related technology, computer science and computational thinking, including
97 computer coding, and scientific concepts and processes; essential skills and concepts of citizenship, including
98 knowledge of Virginia history and world and United States history, economics, government, foreign
99 languages, international cultures, health and physical education, environmental issues, and geography
100 necessary for responsible participation in American society and in the international community; fine arts,
101 which may include, but need not be limited to, music and art, and practical arts; knowledge and skills needed
102 to qualify for further education, gainful employment, or training in a career or technical field; and
103 development of the ability to apply such skills and knowledge in preparation for eventual employment and
104 lifelong learning and to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

105 Local school boards shall also develop and implement programs of prevention, intervention, or
106 remediation for students who are educationally at risk including, but not limited to, those who fail to achieve
107 a passing score on any Standards of Learning assessment in grades three through eight or who fail an end-of-
108 course test required for the award of a verified unit of credit. Such programs shall include components that
109 are research-based.

110 Any student who achieves a passing score on one or more, but not all, of the Standards of Learning
111 assessments for the relevant grade level in grades three through eight may be required to attend a remediation
112 program.

113 Any student who fails to achieve a passing score on all of the Standards of Learning assessments for the
114 relevant grade level in grades three through eight or who fails an end-of-course test required for the award of
115 a verified unit of credit shall be required to attend a remediation program or to participate in another form of
116 remediation. Division superintendents shall require such students to take special programs of prevention,
117 intervention, or remediation, which may include attendance in public summer school programs, in accordance
118 with clause (ii) of subsection A of § 22.1-254 and § 22.1-254.01.

119 Remediation programs shall include, when applicable, a procedure for early identification of students who
120 are at risk of failing the Standards of Learning assessments in grades three through eight or who fail an end-

121 of-course test required for the award of a verified unit of credit. Such programs may also include summer
 122 school for all elementary and middle school grades and for all high school academic courses, as defined by
 123 regulations promulgated by the Board, or other forms of remediation. Summer school remediation programs
 124 or other forms of remediation shall be chosen by the division superintendent to be appropriate to the
 125 academic needs of the student. Students who are required to attend such summer school programs or to
 126 participate in another form of remediation shall not be charged tuition by the school division.

127 The requirement for remediation may, however, be satisfied by the student's attendance in a program of
 128 prevention, intervention or remediation that has been selected by his parent, in consultation with the division
 129 superintendent or his designee, and is either (i) conducted by an accredited private school or (ii) a special
 130 program that has been determined to be comparable to the required public school remediation program by the
 131 division superintendent. The costs of such private school remediation program or other special remediation
 132 program shall be borne by the student's parent.

133 The Board shall establish standards for full funding of summer remedial programs that shall include, but
 134 not be limited to, the minimum number of instructional hours or the equivalent thereof required for full
 135 funding and an assessment system designed to evaluate program effectiveness. Based on the number of
 136 students attending and the Commonwealth's share of the per pupil instructional costs, state funds shall be
 137 provided for the full cost of summer and other remediation programs as set forth in the appropriation act,
 138 provided such programs comply with such standards as shall be established by the Board, pursuant to
 139 § 22.1-199.2.

140 D. Local school boards shall also implement the following:

141 1. Programs in grades K through three that emphasize developmentally appropriate learning to enhance
 142 success.

143 2. Programs based on prevention, intervention, or remediation designed to increase the number of students
 144 who earn a high school diploma and to prevent students from dropping out of school. Such programs shall
 145 include components that are research-based.

146 3. Career and technical education programs incorporated into the K through 12 curricula that include:

147 a. Knowledge of careers and all types of employment opportunities, including, but not limited to,
 148 apprenticeships, entrepreneurship and small business ownership, the military, and the teaching profession,
 149 and emphasize the advantages of completing school with marketable skills;

150 b. Career exploration opportunities in the middle school grades;

151 c. Competency-based career and technical education programs that integrate academic outcomes, career
 152 guidance, and job-seeking skills for all secondary students. Programs shall be based upon labor market needs
 153 and student interest. Career guidance shall include counseling about available employment opportunities and
 154 placement services for students exiting school. Each school board shall develop and implement a plan to
 155 ensure compliance with the provisions of this subdivision. Such plan shall be developed with the input of area
 156 business and industry representatives and local comprehensive community colleges and shall be submitted to
 157 the Superintendent in accordance with the timelines established by federal law;

158 d. Annual notice on its website to enrolled high school students and their parents of (i) the availability of
 159 the postsecondary education and employment data published by the State Council of Higher Education on its
 160 website pursuant to § 23.1-204.1 and (ii) the opportunity for such students to obtain a nationally recognized
 161 career readiness certificate at a local public high school, comprehensive community college, or workforce
 162 center; and

163 e. As part of each student's academic and career plan, a list of (i) the top 100 professions in the
 164 Commonwealth by median pay and the education, training, and skills required for each such profession and
 165 (ii) the top 10 degree programs at institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth by median pay of
 166 program graduates. The Department shall annually compile such lists and provide them to each local school
 167 board.

168 4. Educational objectives in middle and high school that emphasize economic education and financial
 169 literacy pursuant to § 22.1-200.03.

170 5. Early identification of students with disabilities and enrollment of such students in appropriate
 171 instructional programs consistent with state and federal law.

172 6. Early identification of gifted students and enrollment of such students in appropriately differentiated
 173 instructional programs.

174 7. Educational alternatives for students whose needs are not met in programs prescribed elsewhere in
 175 these standards. Such students shall be counted in average daily membership (ADM) in accordance with the
 176 regulations of the Board.

177 8. Adult education programs for individuals functioning below the high school completion level. Such
 178 programs may be conducted by the school board as the primary agency or through a collaborative
 179 arrangement between the school board and other agencies.

180 9. A plan to make achievements for students who are educationally at risk a divisionwide priority that
 181 shall include procedures for measuring the progress of such students.

182 10. An agreement for postsecondary credit and degree attainment with any comprehensive community

183 college in the Commonwealth specifying the options for students to complete an associate degree, a one-year
184 Uniform Certificate of General Studies, or the Passport Program from a comprehensive community college
185 concurrent with a high school diploma, consistent with the requirements for the College and Career Ready
186 Virginia Program set forth in Article 5.1 (§ 22.1-237.1 et seq.) of Chapter 13. Such agreement shall specify
187 the credit available for dual enrollment courses and Advanced Placement courses with qualifying exam
188 scores of three or higher.

189 11. A plan to notify students and their parents of the availability of dual enrollment and advanced
190 placement classes; career and technical education programs, including internships, externships,
191 apprenticeships, credentialing programs, certification programs, licensure programs, and other work-based
192 learning experiences; the International Baccalaureate Program and Academic Year Governor's School
193 Programs; the qualifications for enrolling in such classes, programs, and experiences; and the availability of
194 financial assistance to low-income and needy students to take the advanced placement and International
195 Baccalaureate examinations. This plan shall include notification to students and parents of the College and
196 Career Ready Virginia Program established pursuant to Article 5.1. (§ 22.1-237.1 et seq.) of Chapter 13 and
197 its agreement with a comprehensive community college in the Commonwealth pursuant to subdivision 10 to
198 enable students to complete an associate degree, a one-year Uniform Certificate of General Studies, or the
199 Passport Program concurrent with a high school diploma.

200 12. Identification of students with limited English proficiency and enrollment of such students in
201 appropriate instructional programs, which programs may include dual language programs whereby such
202 students receive instruction in English and in a second language.

203 13. Early identification, diagnosis, and assistance for students with mathematics problems and provision
204 of instructional strategies and mathematics practices that benefit the development of mathematics skills for all
205 students.

206 Local school divisions shall provide algebra readiness intervention services to students in grades six
207 through nine who are at risk of failing the Algebra I end-of-course test, as demonstrated by their individual
208 performance on any diagnostic test that has been approved by the Department. Local school divisions shall
209 report the results of the diagnostic tests to the Department on an annual basis, at a time to be determined by
210 the Superintendent. Each student who receives algebra readiness intervention services will be assessed again
211 at the end of that school year. Funds appropriated for prevention, intervention, and remediation; summer
212 school remediation; at-risk; or algebra readiness intervention services may be used to meet the requirements
213 of this subdivision.

214 14. Incorporation of art, music, and physical education as a part of the instructional program at the
215 elementary school level.

216 15. A program of physical activity available to all students in grades kindergarten through five consisting
217 of at least 30 minutes per day or an average of 150 minutes per week during the regular school year
218 and. *No student shall be prohibited from participating in a program of physical activity as a form of
219 disciplinary action, except that a student may be prohibited from participating in such program if it is
220 determined that the program would constitute a health or safety risk to such student. A program of physical
221 activity shall be available to all students in grades six through 12 with a goal of at least 150 minutes per week
222 on average during the regular school year.* Such program may include any combination of (i) physical
223 education classes, (ii) extracurricular athletics, (iii) recess, or (iv) other programs and physical activities
224 deemed appropriate by the local school board. Each local school board shall implement such program during
225 the regular school year. Any physical education class offered to students in grades seven and eight shall
226 include at least one hour of personal safety training per school year in each such grade level that is developed
227 and delivered in partnership with the local law-enforcement agency and consists of situational safety
228 awareness training and social media education. Each local school board shall offer to all students in grade
229 nine or 10 a physical education class that includes research-based hazing prevention instruction pursuant to
230 subsection C of § 22.1-207, unless such hazing prevention instruction is provided as part of a separate health
231 education class offered to students in grade nine or 10. Each local school board may accept participation in
232 the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps as fulfillment of any physical education requirements applicable
233 to students in grades nine through 12.

234 16. A program of student services for kindergarten through grade 12 that shall be designed to aid students
235 in their educational, social, and career development.

236 17. The collection and analysis of data and the use of the results to evaluate and make decisions about the
237 instructional program.

238 18. A program of instruction in the high school Virginia and U.S. Government course on all information
239 and concepts contained in the civics portion of the U.S. Naturalization Test.

240 E. From such funds as may be appropriated or otherwise received for such purpose, there shall be
241 established within the Department a unit to (i) conduct evaluative studies; (ii) provide the resources and
242 technical assistance to increase the capacity for school divisions to deliver quality instruction; and (iii) assist
243 school divisions in implementing those programs and practices that will enhance pupil academic performance
244 and improve family and community involvement in the public schools. Such unit shall identify and analyze

245 effective instructional programs and practices and professional development initiatives; evaluate the success
 246 of programs encouraging parental and family involvement; assess changes in student outcomes prompted by
 247 family involvement; and collect and disseminate among school divisions information regarding effective
 248 instructional programs and practices, initiatives promoting family and community involvement, and potential
 249 funding and support sources. Such unit may also provide resources supporting professional development for
 250 administrators and teachers. In providing such information, resources, and other services to school divisions,
 251 the unit shall give priority to those divisions demonstrating a less than 70 percent passing rate on the
 252 Standards of Learning assessments.

253 F. The Board shall, in collaboration with the Virginia Community College System, Career and Technical
 254 Education directors, and industry partners, develop and maintain a current, comprehensive, and uniform list
 255 of industry-recognized workforce credentials that students may take as a substitute for certain credits required
 256 for graduation pursuant to 8VAC20-131-51 of the Virginia Administrative Code, including
 257 industry-recognized workforce credentials that students may take as a substitute for elective credits and
 258 industry-recognized workforce credentials completed outside of regular school hours. The Board shall
 259 include on such list its diploma seal of biliteracy established pursuant to subdivision E 4 of § 22.1-253.13:4
 260 and shall consider such seal to be a high-demand industry workforce credential for the purpose of satisfying
 261 graduation requirements. The Board, in collaboration with the Virginia Community College System, shall
 262 ensure that such list reflects the current credit requirements for graduation and the current credentials
 263 accepted as substitutes. The Board shall post such list in a publicly accessible location on its website. Each
 264 school board shall accept as a substitute for a required credit any credential listed as an accepted substitute for
 265 such required credit.

266 G. Each local school board may enter into agreements for postsecondary course credit, credential,
 267 certification, or license attainment, hereinafter referred to as College and Career Access Pathways
 268 Partnerships (Partnerships), with comprehensive community colleges or other public institutions of higher
 269 education or educational institutions established pursuant to Title 23.1 that offer a career and technical
 270 education curriculum. Such Partnerships shall (i) specify the options for students to take courses as part of the
 271 career and technical education curriculum that lead to course credit or an industry-recognized credential,
 272 certification, or license concurrent with a high school diploma; (ii) specify the credit, credentials,
 273 certifications, or licenses available for such courses; (iii) specify the industry-recognized credentials that are
 274 accepted as substitutes for certain credits required for high school graduation, consistent with the list
 275 developed and maintained by the Board pursuant to subsection F; and (iv) specify available options for
 276 students to participate in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs at comprehensive community
 277 colleges concurrent with the pursuit of a high school diploma and receive college credit and high school
 278 credit for successful completion of any such program.

279 H. Each local school board shall provide a program of literacy instruction that is aligned with
 280 science-based reading research and provides evidenced-based literacy instruction to students in kindergarten
 281 through grade eight and is consistent with the school board's literacy plan as required by subsection B of
 282 § 22.1-253.13:6. Pursuant to such program:

283 1. Each local school board shall provide reading intervention services to students in kindergarten through
 284 grade eight who demonstrate substantial deficiencies based on their individual performance on the Standards
 285 of Learning reading assessment or a literacy screener provided by the Department. Such reading intervention
 286 services shall consist of evidence-based literacy instruction, align with science-based reading research, and be
 287 documented for each student in a written student reading plan, consistent with the requirements in
 288 subdivision 2 and the list developed by the Department pursuant to subdivision I 2.

289 2. A reading specialist, in collaboration with the teacher of any student who receives reading intervention
 290 services pursuant to subdivision 1, shall develop, oversee implementation of, and monitor student progress on
 291 a student reading plan. The parent of each student who receives reading intervention services pursuant to
 292 subdivision 1 shall receive notice of and have the opportunity to participate in the development of the student
 293 reading plan. Each student reading plan (i) shall follow the Department template created pursuant to
 294 subdivision I 3; (ii) shall document such reading intervention services; (iii) shall include, at a minimum, (a)
 295 the student's specific, diagnosed reading skill deficiencies as determined or identified by diagnostic
 296 assessment data or the literacy screener provided by the Department; (b) the goals and benchmarks for
 297 student growth in reading; (c) a description of the specific measures that will be used to evaluate and monitor
 298 the student's reading progress; (d) the specific evidence-based literacy instruction that the student will
 299 receive; (e) the strategies, resources, and materials that will be provided to the student's parent to support the
 300 student to make reading progress; and (f) any additional services the teacher deems available and appropriate
 301 to accelerate the student's reading skill development; and (iv) may include the following services for the
 302 student: instruction from a reading specialist, trained aide, computer-based reading tutorial program, or
 303 classroom teacher with support from an aide, extended instructional time in the school day or school year, or,
 304 for students in grades six through eight, a literacy course, in addition to the course required by the Standards
 305 of Learning in English, that provides the specific evidence-based literacy instruction identified in the student's
 306 reading plan. In accordance with § 22.1-215.2, the parent of each student shall receive notice before services

307 begin and a copy of the student reading plan.

308 3. Each student who receives such reading intervention services shall be assessed utilizing either the
309 literacy screener provided by the Department or the grade-level reading Standards of Learning assessment
310 again at the end of that school year.

311 Funds appropriated for prevention, intervention, and remediation, summer school remediation, the at-risk
312 add-on, or early intervention reading may be used to meet the requirements of this subsection.

313 I. In order to assist local school boards to implement the provisions of subsection H:

314 1. The Board shall provide guidance on the content of student reading plans;

315 2. The Department shall develop a list of core literacy curricula for students in kindergarten through grade
316 five and supplemental instruction practices and programs and intervention programs for students in
317 kindergarten through grade eight that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with science-
318 based reading research. The list shall be approved by the Board;

319 3. The Department shall develop a template for student reading plans that aligns with the requirements of
320 subsection H;

321 4. The Department shall develop and implement a plan for the annual collection and public reporting of
322 division-level and school-level literacy data, at a time to be determined by the Superintendent, to include
323 results on the literacy screeners provided by the Department and the reading Standards of Learning
324 assessments; and

325 5. The Department shall provide free online evidence-based literacy instruction resources that can be
326 accessed by parents and local school boards to support student literacy development at home.

327 J. As used in this subsection:

328 "Digital citizenship" means a diverse set of skills related to current technology and social media, including
329 the norms of appropriate, responsible, and healthy behavior.

330 "Media literacy" means the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and use media and information. "Media
331 literacy" includes the foundational skills that lead to digital citizenship.

332 The Board shall consider, during each regularly scheduled revision to the Standards of Learning and any
333 associated curriculum framework, including the Digital Learning Integration Standards of Learning,
334 incorporating media literacy and digital citizenship standards at each grade level.

335 **§ 22.1-253.13:1. (Effective July 1, 2026) Standard 1. Instructional programs supporting the
336 Standards of Learning and other educational objectives.**

337 A. The General Assembly and the Board believe that the fundamental goal of the public schools of the
338 Commonwealth must be to enable each student to develop the skills that are necessary for success in school,
339 preparation for life, and reaching their full potential. The General Assembly and the Board find that the
340 quality of education is dependent upon the provision of (i) the appropriate working environment, benefits,
341 and salaries necessary to ensure the availability of high-quality instructional personnel; (ii) the appropriate
342 learning environment designed to promote student achievement; (iii) quality instruction that enables each
343 student to become a productive and educated citizen of Virginia and the United States of America; and (iv)
344 the adequate commitment of other resources. In keeping with this goal, the General Assembly shall provide
345 for the support of public education as set forth in Article VIII, § 1 of the Constitution of Virginia.

346 B. The Board shall establish educational objectives known as the Standards of Learning, which shall form
347 the core of Virginia's educational program, and other educational objectives, which together are designed to
348 ensure the development of the skills that are necessary for success in school and for preparation for life in the
349 years beyond. At a minimum, the Board shall establish Standards of Learning for English, mathematics,
350 science, and history and social science. The Standards of Learning shall not be construed to be regulations as
351 defined in § 2.2-4001.

352 The Board shall seek to ensure that the Standards of Learning are consistent with a high-quality
353 foundation educational program. The Standards of Learning shall include, but not be limited to, the basic
354 skills of communication (listening, speaking, reading, and writing); computation and critical reasoning,
355 including problem solving and decision making; proficiency in the use of computers and related technology;
356 computer science and computational thinking, including computer coding; and the skills to manage personal
357 finances and to make sound financial decisions.

358 The English Standards of Learning for reading in kindergarten through grade eight shall align with
359 evidence-based literacy instruction and science-based reading research.

360 The Standards of Learning in all subject areas shall be subject to regular review and revision to maintain
361 rigor and to reflect a balance between content knowledge and the application of knowledge in preparation for
362 eventual employment and lifelong learning. The Board shall establish a regular schedule, in a manner it
363 deems appropriate, for the review, and revision as may be necessary, of the Standards of Learning in all
364 subject areas. Such review of each subject area shall occur at least once every seven years. Nothing in this
365 section shall be construed to prohibit the Board from conducting such review and revision on a more frequent
366 basis.

367 To provide appropriate opportunity for input from the general public, teachers, and local school boards,
368 the Board shall conduct public hearings prior to establishing revised Standards of Learning. Thirty days prior

369 to conducting such hearings, the Board shall give notice of the date, time, and place of the hearings to all
 370 local school boards and any other persons requesting to be notified of the hearings and publish notice of its
 371 intention to revise the Standards of Learning in the Virginia Register of Regulations. Interested parties shall
 372 be given reasonable opportunity to be heard and present information prior to final adoption of any revisions
 373 of the Standards of Learning.

374 In addition, the Department shall make available and maintain a website, either separately or through an
 375 existing website utilized by the Department, enabling public elementary, middle, and high school educators to
 376 submit recommendations for improvements relating to the Standards of Learning, when under review by the
 377 Board according to its established schedule, and related assessments required by the Standards of Quality
 378 pursuant to this chapter. Such website shall facilitate the submission of recommendations by educators.

379 School boards shall implement the Standards of Learning or objectives specifically designed for their
 380 school divisions that are equivalent to or exceed the Board's requirements. Students shall be expected to
 381 achieve the educational objectives established by the school division at appropriate age or grade levels. The
 382 curriculum adopted by the local school division shall be aligned to the Standards of Learning.

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 384 contributions to society of diverse people. For the purposes of this subsection, "diverse" includes
 385 consideration of disability, ethnicity, race, and gender.

386 The Board shall include in the Standards of Learning for health instruction in emergency first aid,
 387 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator, including hands-on practice
 388 of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Such instruction shall be based on the
 389 current national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation
 390 and the use of an automated external defibrillator, such as a program developed by the American Heart
 391 Association or the American Red Cross. No teacher who is in compliance with subdivision D 3 of
 392 § 22.1-298.1 shall be required to be certified as a trainer of cardiopulmonary resuscitation to provide
 393 instruction for non-certification.

394 The Board shall include in the Standards of Learning for physical and health education for grade nine or
 395 10 research-based hazing prevention instruction, in accordance with the Standards of Learning and
 396 curriculum guidelines for research-based hazing prevention instruction developed by the Board pursuant to
 397 subsection B of § 22.1-207.

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 400 mathematics, science, and history and social science Standards of Learning. Career and technical education
 401 programs shall be aligned with industry and professional standard certifications, where they exist.

402 The Board shall establish content standards and curriculum guidelines for courses in career investigation
 403 in elementary school, middle school, and high school. Each school board shall (i) require each middle school
 404 student to take at least one course in career investigation or (ii) select an alternate means of delivering the
 405 career investigation course to each middle school student, provided that such alternative is equivalent in
 406 content and rigor and provides the foundation for such students to develop their academic and career plans.
 407 Any school board may require (a) such courses in career investigation at the high school level as it deems
 408 appropriate, subject to Board approval as required in subsection A of § 22.1-253.13:4, and (b) such courses in
 409 career investigation at the elementary school level as it deems appropriate. The Board shall develop and
 410 disseminate to each school board career investigation resource materials that are designed to ensure that
 411 students have the ability to further explore interest in career and technical education opportunities in middle
 412 and high school. In developing such resource materials, the Board shall consult with representatives of career
 413 and technical education, industry, skilled trade associations, chambers of commerce or similar organizations,
 414 and contractor organizations.

415 C. Local school boards shall develop and implement a program of instruction for grades K through 12 that
 416 is aligned to the Standards of Learning and meets or exceeds the requirements of the Board. The program of
 417 instruction shall emphasize reading, writing, speaking, mathematical concepts and computations, proficiency
 418 in the use of computers and related technology, computer science and computational thinking, including
 419 computer coding, and scientific concepts and processes; essential skills and concepts of citizenship, including
 420 knowledge of Virginia history and world and United States history, economics, government, foreign
 421 languages, international cultures, health and physical education, environmental issues, and geography
 422 necessary for responsible participation in American society and in the international community; fine arts,
 423 which may include, but need not be limited to, music and art, and practical arts; knowledge and skills needed
 424 to qualify for further education, gainful employment, or training in a career or technical field; and
 425 development of the ability to apply such skills and knowledge in preparation for eventual employment and
 426 lifelong learning and to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

427 Local school boards shall also develop and implement programs of prevention, intervention, or
 428 remediation for students who are educationally at risk including, but not limited to, those who fail to achieve
 429 a passing score on any Standards of Learning assessment in grades three through eight or who fail an end-of-
 430 course test required for the award of a verified unit of credit. Such programs shall include components that

431 are research-based.

432 Any student who achieves a passing score on one or more, but not all, of the Standards of Learning
433 assessments for the relevant grade level in grades three through eight may be required to attend a remediation
434 program.

435 Any student who fails to achieve a passing score on all of the Standards of Learning assessments for the
436 relevant grade level in grades three through eight or who fails an end-of-course test required for the award of
437 a verified unit of credit shall be required to attend a remediation program or to participate in another form of
438 remediation. Division superintendents shall require such students to take special programs of prevention,
439 intervention, or remediation, which may include attendance in public summer school programs, in accordance
440 with clause (ii) of subsection A of § 22.1-254 and § 22.1-254.01.

441 Remediation programs shall include, when applicable, a procedure for early identification of students who
442 are at risk of failing the Standards of Learning assessments in grades three through eight or who fail an end-
443 of-course test required for the award of a verified unit of credit. Such programs may also include summer
444 school for all elementary and middle school grades and for all high school academic courses, as defined by
445 regulations promulgated by the Board, or other forms of remediation. Summer school remediation programs
446 or other forms of remediation shall be chosen by the division superintendent to be appropriate to the
447 academic needs of the student. Students who are required to attend such summer school programs or to
448 participate in another form of remediation shall not be charged tuition by the school division.

449 The requirement for remediation may, however, be satisfied by the student's attendance in a program of
450 prevention, intervention or remediation that has been selected by his parent, in consultation with the division
451 superintendent or his designee, and is either (i) conducted by an accredited private school or (ii) a special
452 program that has been determined to be comparable to the required public school remediation program by the
453 division superintendent. The costs of such private school remediation program or other special remediation
454 program shall be borne by the student's parent.

455 The Board shall establish standards for full funding of summer remedial programs that shall include, but
456 not be limited to, the minimum number of instructional hours or the equivalent thereof required for full
457 funding and an assessment system designed to evaluate program effectiveness. Based on the number of
458 students attending and the Commonwealth's share of the per pupil instructional costs, state funds shall be
459 provided for the full cost of summer and other remediation programs as set forth in the appropriation act,
460 provided such programs comply with such standards as shall be established by the Board, pursuant to
461 § 22.1-199.2.

462 D. Local school boards shall also implement the following:

463 1. Programs in grades K through three that emphasize developmentally appropriate learning to enhance
464 success.

465 2. Programs based on prevention, intervention, or remediation designed to increase the number of students
466 who earn a high school diploma and to prevent students from dropping out of school. Such programs shall
467 include components that are research-based.

468 3. Career and technical education programs incorporated into the K through 12 curricula that include:

469 a. Knowledge of careers and all types of employment opportunities, including, but not limited to,
470 apprenticeships, entrepreneurship and small business ownership, the military, and the teaching profession,
471 and emphasize the advantages of completing school with marketable skills;

472 b. Career exploration opportunities in the middle school grades;

473 c. Competency-based career and technical education programs that integrate academic outcomes, career
474 guidance, and job-seeking skills for all secondary students. Programs shall be based upon labor market needs
475 and student interest. Career guidance shall include counseling about available employment opportunities and
476 placement services for students exiting school. Each school board shall develop and implement a plan to
477 ensure compliance with the provisions of this subdivision. Such plan shall be developed with the input of area
478 business and industry representatives and local comprehensive community colleges and shall be submitted to
479 the Superintendent in accordance with the timelines established by federal law;

480 d. Annual notice on its website to enrolled high school students and their parents of (i) the availability of
481 the postsecondary education and employment data published by the State Council of Higher Education on its
482 website pursuant to § 23.1-204.1 and (ii) the opportunity for such students to obtain a nationally recognized
483 career readiness certificate at a local public high school, comprehensive community college, or workforce
484 center; and

485 e. As part of each student's academic and career plan, a list of (i) the top 100 professions in the
486 Commonwealth by median pay and the education, training, and skills required for each such profession and
487 (ii) the top 10 degree programs at institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth by median pay of
488 program graduates. The Department shall annually compile such lists and provide them to each local school
489 board.

490 4. Educational objectives in middle and high school that emphasize economic education and financial
491 literacy pursuant to § 22.1-200.03.

492 5. Early identification of students with disabilities and enrollment of such students in appropriate

493 instructional programs consistent with state and federal law.

494 6. Early identification of gifted students and enrollment of such students in appropriately differentiated

495 instructional programs.

496 7. Educational alternatives for students whose needs are not met in programs prescribed elsewhere in

497 these standards. Such students shall be counted in average daily membership (ADM) in accordance with the

498 regulations of the Board.

499 8. Adult education programs for individuals functioning below the high school completion level. Such

500 programs may be conducted by the school board as the primary agency or through a collaborative

501 arrangement between the school board and other agencies.

502 9. A plan to make achievements for students who are educationally at risk a divisionwide priority that

503 shall include procedures for measuring the progress of such students.

504 10. An agreement for postsecondary credit and degree attainment with any comprehensive community

505 college in the Commonwealth specifying the options for students to complete an associate degree, a one-year

506 Uniform Certificate of General Studies, or the Passport Program from a comprehensive community college

507 concurrent with a high school diploma, consistent with the requirements for the College and Career Ready

508 Virginia Program set forth in Article 5.1 (§ 22.1-237.1 et seq.) of Chapter 13. Such agreement shall specify

509 the credit available for dual enrollment courses and Advanced Placement courses with qualifying exam

510 scores of three or higher.

511 11. A plan to notify students and their parents of the availability of dual enrollment and advanced

512 placement classes; career and technical education programs, including internships, externships,

513 apprenticeships, credentialing programs, certification programs, licensure programs, and other work-based

514 learning experiences; the International Baccalaureate Program and Academic Year Governor's School

515 Programs; the qualifications for enrolling in such classes, programs, and experiences; and the availability of

516 financial assistance to low-income and needy students to take the advanced placement and International

517 Baccalaureate examinations. This plan shall include notification to students and parents of the College and

518 Career Ready Virginia Program established pursuant to Article 5.1. (§ 22.1-237.1 et seq.) of Chapter 13 and

519 its agreement with a comprehensive community college in the Commonwealth pursuant to subdivision 10 to

520 enable students to complete an associate degree, a one-year Uniform Certificate of General Studies, or the

521 Passport Program concurrent with a high school diploma.

522 12. Identification of students with limited English proficiency and enrollment of such students in

523 appropriate instructional programs, which programs may include dual language programs whereby such

524 students receive instruction in English and in a second language.

525 13. Early identification, diagnosis, and assistance for students with mathematics problems and provision

526 of instructional strategies and mathematics practices that benefit the development of mathematics skills for all

527 students.

528 Local school divisions shall provide algebra readiness intervention services to students in grades six

529 through nine who are at risk of failing the Algebra I end-of-course test, as demonstrated by their individual

530 performance on any diagnostic test that has been approved by the Department. Local school divisions shall

531 report the results of the diagnostic tests to the Department on an annual basis, at a time to be determined by

532 the Superintendent. Each student who receives algebra readiness intervention services will be assessed again

533 at the end of that school year. Funds appropriated for prevention, intervention, and remediation; summer

534 school remediation; at-risk; or algebra readiness intervention services may be used to meet the requirements

535 of this subdivision.

536 14. Incorporation of art, music, and physical education as a part of the instructional program at the

537 elementary school level.

538 15. A program of physical activity available to all students in grades kindergarten through five consisting

539 of at least 20 30 minutes per day or an average of 100 150 minutes per week during the regular school year

540 *and. No student shall be prohibited from participating in a program of physical activity as a form of*

541 *disciplinary action, except that a student may be prohibited from participating in such program if it is*

542 *determined that the program would constitute a health or safety risk to such student. A program of physical*

543 *activity shall be available to all students in grades six through 12 with a goal of at least 150 minutes per week*

544 *on average during the regular school year. Such program may include any combination of (i) physical*

545 *education classes, (ii) extracurricular athletics, (iii) recess, or (iv) other programs and physical activities*

546 *deemed appropriate by the local school board. Each local school board shall implement such program during*

547 *the regular school year. Any physical education class offered to students in grades seven and eight shall*

548 *include at least one hour of personal safety training per school year in each such grade level that is developed*

549 *and delivered in partnership with the local law-enforcement agency and consists of situational safety*

550 *awareness training and social media education. Each local school board shall offer to all students in grade*

551 *nine or 10 a physical education class that includes research-based hazing prevention instruction pursuant to*

552 *subsection C of § 22.1-207, unless such hazing prevention instruction is provided as part of a separate health*

553 *education class offered to students in grade nine or 10. Each local school board may accept participation in*

554 *the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps as fulfillment of any physical education requirements applicable*

555 to students in grades nine through 12.

556 16. A program of student services for kindergarten through grade 12 that shall be designed to aid students
557 in their educational, social, and career development.

558 17. The collection and analysis of data and the use of the results to evaluate and make decisions about the
559 instructional program.

560 18. A program of instruction in the high school Virginia and U.S. Government course on all information
561 and concepts contained in the civics portion of the U.S. Naturalization Test.

562 E. From such funds as may be appropriated or otherwise received for such purpose, there shall be
563 established within the Department a unit to (i) conduct evaluative studies; (ii) provide the resources and
564 technical assistance to increase the capacity for school divisions to deliver quality instruction; and (iii) assist
565 school divisions in implementing those programs and practices that will enhance pupil academic performance
566 and improve family and community involvement in the public schools. Such unit shall identify and analyze
567 effective instructional programs and practices and professional development initiatives; evaluate the success
568 of programs encouraging parental and family involvement; assess changes in student outcomes prompted by
569 family involvement; and collect and disseminate among school divisions information regarding effective
570 instructional programs and practices, initiatives promoting family and community involvement, and potential
571 funding and support sources. Such unit may also provide resources supporting professional development for
572 administrators and teachers. In providing such information, resources, and other services to school divisions,
573 the unit shall give priority to those divisions demonstrating a less than 70 percent passing rate on the
574 Standards of Learning assessments.

575 F. The Board shall, in collaboration with the Virginia Community College System, Career and Technical
576 Education directors, and industry partners, develop and maintain a current, comprehensive, and uniform list
577 of industry-recognized workforce credentials that students may take as a substitute for certain credits required
578 for graduation pursuant to 8VAC20-131-51 of the Virginia Administrative Code, including
579 industry-recognized workforce credentials that students may take as a substitute for elective credits and
580 industry-recognized workforce credentials completed outside of regular school hours. The Board shall
581 include on such list its diploma seal of biliteracy established pursuant to subdivision E 4 of § 22.1-253.13:4
582 and shall consider such seal to be a high-demand industry workforce credential for the purpose of satisfying
583 graduation requirements. The Board, in collaboration with the Virginia Community College System, shall
584 ensure that such list reflects the current credit requirements for graduation and the current credentials
585 accepted as substitutes. The Board shall post such list in a publicly accessible location on its website. Each
586 school board shall accept as a substitute for a required credit any credential listed as an accepted substitute for
587 such required credit.

588 G. Each local school board may enter into agreements for postsecondary course credit, credential,
589 certification, or license attainment, hereinafter referred to as College and Career Access Pathways
590 Partnerships (Partnerships), with comprehensive community colleges or other public institutions of higher
591 education or educational institutions established pursuant to Title 23.1 that offer a career and technical
592 education curriculum. Such Partnerships shall (i) specify the options for students to take courses as part of the
593 career and technical education curriculum that lead to course credit or an industry-recognized credential,
594 certification, or license concurrent with a high school diploma; (ii) specify the credit, credentials,
595 certifications, or licenses available for such courses; (iii) specify the industry-recognized credentials that are
596 accepted as substitutes for certain credits required for high school graduation, consistent with the list
597 developed and maintained by the Board pursuant to subsection F; and (iv) specify available options for
598 students to participate in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs at comprehensive community
599 colleges concurrent with the pursuit of a high school diploma and receive college credit and high school
600 credit for successful completion of any such program.

601 H. Each local school board shall provide a program of literacy instruction that is aligned with
602 science-based reading research and provides evidenced-based literacy instruction to students in kindergarten
603 through grade eight and is consistent with the school board's literacy plan as required by subsection B of
604 § 22.1-253.13:6. Pursuant to such program:

605 1. Each local school board shall provide reading intervention services to students in kindergarten through
606 grade eight who demonstrate substantial deficiencies based on their individual performance on the Standards
607 of Learning reading assessment or a literacy screener provided by the Department. Such reading intervention
608 services shall consist of evidence-based literacy instruction, align with science-based reading research, and be
609 documented for each student in a written student reading plan, consistent with the requirements in
610 subdivision 2 and the list developed by the Department pursuant to subdivision I 2.

611 2. A reading specialist, in collaboration with the teacher of any student who receives reading intervention
612 services pursuant to subdivision 1, shall develop, oversee implementation of, and monitor student progress on
613 a student reading plan. The parent of each student who receives reading intervention services pursuant to
614 subdivision 1 shall receive notice of and have the opportunity to participate in the development of the student
615 reading plan. Each student reading plan (i) shall follow the Department template created pursuant to
616 subdivision I 3; (ii) shall document such reading intervention services; (iii) shall include, at a minimum, (a)

the student's specific, diagnosed reading skill deficiencies as determined or identified by diagnostic assessment data or the literacy screener provided by the Department; (b) the goals and benchmarks for student growth in reading; (c) a description of the specific measures that will be used to evaluate and monitor the student's reading progress; (d) the specific evidence-based literacy instruction that the student will receive; (e) the strategies, resources, and materials that will be provided to the student's parent to support the student to make reading progress; and (f) any additional services the teacher deems available and appropriate to accelerate the student's reading skill development; and (iv) may include the following services for the student: instruction from a reading specialist, trained aide, computer-based reading tutorial program, or classroom teacher with support from an aide, extended instructional time in the school day or school year, or, for students in grades six through eight, a literacy course, in addition to the course required by the Standards of Learning in English, that provides the specific evidence-based literacy instruction identified in the student's reading plan. In accordance with § 22.1-215.2, the parent of each student shall receive notice before services begin and a copy of the student reading plan.

3. Each student who receives such reading intervention services shall be assessed utilizing either the literacy screener provided by the Department or the grade-level reading Standards of Learning assessment again at the end of that school year.

Funds appropriated for prevention, intervention, and remediation, summer school remediation, the at-risk add-on, or early intervention reading may be used to meet the requirements of this subsection.

I. In order to assist local school boards to implement the provisions of subsection H:

1. The Board shall provide guidance on the content of student reading plans;

2. The Department shall develop a list of core literacy curricula for students in kindergarten through grade five and supplemental instruction practices and programs and intervention programs for students in kindergarten through grade eight that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with science-based reading research. The list shall be approved by the Board;

3. The Department shall develop a template for student reading plans that aligns with the requirements of subsection H;

4. The Department shall develop and implement a plan for the annual collection and public reporting of division-level and school-level literacy data, at a time to be determined by the Superintendent, to include results on the literacy screeners provided by the Department and the reading Standards of Learning assessments; and

5. The Department shall provide free online evidence-based literacy instruction resources that can be accessed by parents and local school boards to support student literacy development at home.

J. As used in this subsection:

"Digital citizenship" means a diverse set of skills related to current technology and social media, including the norms of appropriate, responsible, and healthy behavior.

"Media literacy" means the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and use media and information. "Media literacy" includes the foundational skills that lead to digital citizenship.

The Board shall consider, during each regularly scheduled revision to the Standards of Learning and any associated curriculum framework, including the Digital Learning Integration Standards of Learning, incorporating media literacy and digital citizenship standards at each grade level.

K. Each local school board shall adopt and implement textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials in English language arts for grades six through 12 and mathematics, science, and history and social science for grades kindergarten through 12. Except as otherwise provided in subdivision I 2 and subsection B of § 22.1-253.13:6, such textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials shall be selected from the list approved by the Board pursuant to § 22.1-238 or through a local adoption process that incorporates requirements for textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board.

L. To support local adoption and implementation of textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials, the Department shall:

1. Review and update its "Virginia's Textbook Review Process" document to identify textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials for Board approval pursuant to § 22.1-238. Such review process shall include guidelines and timelines for the submission of, review of, comment on, and evaluation of textbooks and instructional materials, the development and update at least every seven years of evaluation rubrics to determine the extent to which submitted textbooks and instructional materials meet the definition of textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials, the selection and training of Virginia review teams that represent educators from various geographical regions of the Commonwealth and the diversity of the Commonwealth's schools, opportunity for public comment, and the publication of ratings and reports based on the reviews;

2. Implement the review process developed pursuant to subdivision 1 to develop a list of textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials for English language arts for grades six through 12 and mathematics, science, and history and social science for grades kindergarten through 12;

3. Develop, adopt, and publish a list of approved vendors of professional learning resources that support

679 teachers to implement the textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials approved by the Board
680 pursuant to § 22.1-238;

681 4. For any school that requires improvement, based on federal indicators or a failure to meet Board
682 standards pursuant to § 22.1-253.13:3, (i) complete a review of the curricula in use at such school, (ii) from
683 such funds as may be appropriated, develop a grant program to support the school to adopt textbooks and
684 other high-quality instructional materials from the list approved by the Board pursuant to § 22.1-238 and
685 contract with vendors of professional learning resources from the list approved in accordance with
686 subdivision 3, and (iii) monitor implementation of the adopted textbooks and high-quality instructional
687 materials and professional learning resources; and

688 5. Publish annually a list of the textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials and professional
689 learning resources adopted and procured by each local school board.