

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - 2026 SESSION

CHAPTER 934

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-206.4, relating to school boards; high school students; establishment of goals for completion of certain applications for student financial aid required.

[H 1095]

Approved April 13, 2026

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-206.4 as follows:

§ 22.1-206.4. High school students; completion of certain applications for student financial aid required; opt-out; exemption.

A. As used in this section:

"High school student" means any public high school student in the Commonwealth.

"Student financial aid application" means the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education.

B. Each school board shall annually provide to each high school student and the parents of each high school student in the applicable school division guidance and other informational materials on student financial aid applications for the purpose of promoting awareness of federal and state financial aid programs, resources, eligibility criteria, application deadlines, and other processes and requirements.

C. Each school board shall utilize federally available data to establish a five-year goal for encouraging and increasing the completion of student financial aid applications by high school students during the students' final school year before graduation for the applicable school division as a whole and for each high school in the school division.

D. Each school board shall annually post federally available data relating to student financial aid applications in a publicly accessible location on its website and submit to the Department a report on the progress toward achieving, for the applicable school division as a whole and for each high school in the school division, the five-year goal for encouraging and increasing the completion of student financial aid applications by high school students during the students' final school year before graduation established pursuant to subsection C.

E. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any school board to establish a goal of universal completion of a student financial aid application prior to graduation by each high school student in the school division.

F. No school board or employee thereof shall disclose any personally identifiable information related to the requirements set forth in this section to any individual or entity outside of the local school division, including to any local, state, or federal entity or any constitutional officer, as that term is defined in § 15.2-1605.2.

2. That the Department of Education, in collaboration with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, shall provide to each school board (i) by the beginning of each school year, the website containing federally available data on the rates of completion of student financial aid applications, as that term is defined by § 22.1-206.4 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, by high school students and any other data necessary to assist in implementing and carrying out the provisions of § 22.1-206.4 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act; (ii) guidance or other informational materials on student financial aid applications, including alternatives to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid such as the Virginia Alternative Student Aid application, for the purpose of promoting awareness of federal and state financial aid programs, resources, eligibility criteria, application deadlines, and other processes and requirements; and (iii) guidance and other informational resources designed to support school boards in making progress toward the five-year goals established pursuant to § 22.1-206.4 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act.

3. That the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2031.