

**2024 General Assembly Update**  
**Week ending January 21, 2024**  
**Fairfax County Public Schools, Office of Government Relations**

Additional information regarding the education-related legislation described below, as well as for all other bills related to education can be found in the twelve subject categories located on the web pages of the FCPS Office of Government Relations at <https://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/departments-and-offices/government-relations/virginia-general-assembly>. Bills in these categories are linked to the Virginia Division of Legislative Services web pages, which provide up-to-date summary, fiscal impact, and bill status information.

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A couple of operational notes:

Full and subcommittees are meeting weekly on a large volume of legislation, with only about 3 weeks left prior to “crossover” (the point at which the House can consider only passed Senate legislation and vice versa.) While FCPS has bills of interest in virtually every committee in the General Assembly, the bulk of the policy-focused legislation goes through the House Education Committee and the Senate Education and Health Committee (and their subcommittees). Most bills are heard first in subcommittee and then in committee. In the Senate, subcommittee votes are advisory, with all bills going to the full committee for a final vote. In the House, bills can fail in subcommittee without a full committee vote.

House Education meets every Monday and Wednesday morning. The House K12 subcommittee meets at twice on Tuesdays and the House Early Childhood subcommittee meets after adjournment of the Wednesday House Education committee meeting. Both Senate Education and Health and its public education subcommittee meet on Thursdays, with the full committee meeting in the morning and the subcommittee in the afternoon.

Bills that have passed policy committees with state fiscal implications make their way to either House Appropriations or Senate Finance and Appropriations. House Appropriations meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and its Elementary and Secondary Education Committee meets on Mondays after the full committee. Senate Finance meets Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, with its Education subcommittee meetings on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

## **K-12 Education Related Bills**

### **STUDENT ASSESSMENTS**

**[HB 10](#) (Ware) and [HB 13](#) (Ware) High school graduation requirements; passing score on select questions from the U.S. Naturalization Test.** Requires the Board of Education, in establishing high school graduation requirements, to require, except in the case of a high school student whose individualized education program indicates otherwise, each high school student to take and correctly answer at least 70 percent of the questions on a test composed of at least 50 but not more than 60 of the questions on the civics portion of the U.S. Naturalization Test in order to graduate high school with a standard or advanced studies diploma, provided that such student may take such test at any time during grades nine through 12 and as many times during such period as necessary to achieve the minimum 70 percent passing score.

**[HB 931](#) (Shin) Public high school students; economics education and financial literacy; benchmark assessment.** Requires the Board of Education to develop and make available to each school board an economics education and financial literacy benchmark assessment and requires each school board to require each public high school student enrolled in the local school division, except in the case of a public high school student whose individualized education program indicates otherwise, to take

such assessment at least once during grades nine through 12. The bill requires the Board to annually report to the Governor and the General Assembly the state-level and school division-level student results on such benchmark assessment in order to aid decision-making regarding any policy changes that may be necessary to improve student learning in the relevant subject matter areas.

**[HB 1076 \(Rasoul\)](#) and [SB 435 \(Suetterlein\)](#) **Board of Education; through-year growth assessment system, alternatives during 2024–2025** Requires the Board of Education to permit school boards to administer, during the 2024-2025 school year, locally developed or adopted assessments as alternatives to the through-year growth assessment system established by the Board, provided that any such alternative assessment is aligned to the Standards of Learning.**

**[HB 654 \(Coyner\)](#) **Virginia Parent Data Portal; Board of Education to create and maintain.** Requires the Board of Education, on or before July 1, 2025, to create and maintain the Virginia Parent Data Portal that, among other things, (i) displays individualized student assessment data on all state-supported assessments, defined in the bill, (a) in a format that shows both current and cumulative data over time and (b) within 45 days of a state-supported assessment window closing for each state-supported assessment; (ii) provides (a) a description of the purpose of each state-supported assessment, (b) an explanation of how to interpret student data on each state-supported assessment, (c) a comparison of a student's performance on each state-supported assessment with the performance of the student's school, the student's school division, and the Commonwealth, and (d) guidance to support parents in understanding and addressing the specific academic needs of their students; (iii) is viewable from a mobile device in addition to a desktop computer; (iv) leverages existing school division user management to restrict user access to students and their parents; and (v) is compatible with each local school division's existing student information system to enable direct integration of state-supported assessment data into local school division parent portals. The bill requires the Board and the Department of Education to develop professional development for principals and teachers in encouraging and supporting parents to engage with, interpret, and use student assessment data available through the Portal to support their student's learning and requires each school board to annually provide such professional development to principals and teachers. **[SB 72 \(McPike\)](#) **Virginia Parent Data Portal; creation and maintenance by Board of Education.** Requires the Board of Education, on or before July 1, 2025, to create and maintain the Virginia Parent Data Portal that, among other things, (i) displays individualized student assessment data on all state-supported assessments, as that term is defined in the bill, (a) in a format that shows both current and cumulative data over time and (b) within 45 days of a state-supported assessment window closing for each state-supported assessment; (ii) provides a description of the purpose of each state-supported assessment, an explanation of how to interpret student data on each state-supported assessment, and a comparison of a student's performance on each state-supported assessment with the performance of the student's school, the student's school division, and the Commonwealth; (iii) is viewable from a mobile device in addition to a desktop computer; and (iv) provides functionality to enable school division personnel to manage and restrict user access to students and their parents. The bill requires the Board and the Department of Education to provide certain guidance and technical assistance to local school divisions on professional development for principals and teachers in parent engagement on and interpretation of student assessment data available through the Portal and requires each school board to annually provide high-quality professional development to principals and teachers on such topics. The bill satisfies the reenactment requirement of Chapter 652 of the Acts of Assembly of 2023.****

## **SCHOOL SAFETY**

**[HB 66 \(Campbell\)](#) **Public schools; fire drills, timing and frequency.** Requires the first of the two fire drills required during the first 20 days of each public school session to be conducted during the first 10 days of such school session. The bill also requires every public school to hold additional fire drills during the remainder of such school session as required by the Statewide Fire Prevention Code, which currently requires such additional fire drills to be conducted on a monthly basis. Current law requires at least two**

additional fire drills to be conducted during the remainder of the public school session after the two fire drills required during the first 20 days of each such school session.

**[HB 72 \(Green\)](#) Public schools; threat assessment teams; duties; annual meeting with chief law-enforcement officer of locality or a designee from the local law-enforcement agency.** Requires the threat assessment team established by the division superintendent for each public elementary or secondary school to meet at least annually on school grounds with the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality or a designee from the local law-enforcement agency to determine potential safety hazards or points of vulnerability on such grounds or in the school building and to discuss and promote active shooter prevention and natural disaster preparedness.

**[HB 444 \(Williams\)](#) and [SB 169 \(Reeves\)](#) Virginia Rap Back Service; criminal history record monitoring.** Changes the time frame for which a participating entity in the Virginia Rap Back Service is required to disenroll any individual who is deceased or no longer qualifies as an individual for the purposes of the Virginia Rap Back Service from within 30 days to within five business days. The bill also removes the provision stating that an individual who moves from one participating entity in the Virginia Rap Back Service to another need not be refingerprinted. The bill contains technical amendments.

**[HB 498 \(Cohen\)](#) and [SB 225 \(Pekarsky\)](#) School board policies; parental notification; safe storage of firearms in the household.** Requires each local school board to develop and implement a policy to require the annual notification of the parent of each student enrolled in the local school division, to be sent by email and SMS text message within 30 calendar days succeeding the first day of each school year, of the parent's legal responsibility to safely store any firearm present in the household, risks associated with improperly stored firearms, statistics relating to firearm-related accidents, injuries, and death among youth, and other tips and strategies. The bill requires each school board to make such parental notification available in multiple languages on its website.

**[HB 1283 \(Willett\)](#) Students with individualized education programs or Section 504 Plans; emergency protocol and guide.** Requires a protocol for individualized accommodations and supports during emergency situations at school and a step-by-step guide on how to execute such protocol to be included in each individualized education program implemented for a public school student with a disability in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and in each Section 504 Plan implemented for a public school student in accordance with § 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and provided to all of such student's teachers for implementation.

**[HB 1017 \(Wilt\)](#) and [SB 575 \(Obenshain\)](#) Discharge plans; copies to public elementary and secondary schools.** Provides that prior to the discharge of any minor or individual who has been admitted to inpatient treatment and is a student at a public elementary or secondary school, a copy of such minor's or individual's discharge plan shall be provided to the division superintendent and the division safety official in the local school division in which such minor or individual attends such school.

**[HB 1046 \(Batten\)](#) School boards; parental notification of certain incidents, Alyssa's law-silent panic alarms.** Requires, within four hours of receiving notification of (i) a preliminary determination by the threat assessment team that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to self or others; (ii) threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the school; or (iii) unlawful acts committed on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored activity that involve the unlawful use or possession of a weapon, homicide, criminal sexual assault, or trespassing, each division superintendent to notify the parent of each student enrolled in the relevant school of such threat, threatening or aberrant behavior, or unlawful act. The bill requires each school board to equip each public elementary and secondary school building in the local school division with at least one panic alarm that adheres to nationally recognized industry standards, including the standards of the National Fire Protection Association and Underwriters Laboratories, and is installed by a licensed and qualified professional. The bill defines "panic alarm" as a silent security system by which the user manually activates a device that sends a non-audible signal to the local law-enforcement agency that indicates a

school security emergency, including a non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation, that requires immediate response and assistance from such agency.

**[HB 1048](#) (Batten), [HB 1218](#) (Geary), [HB 1504](#) (Seibold), and [SB 498](#) (Carroll Foy) School-connected overdoses; policies relating to parental notification and response, requirements.** Requires each division superintendent or his designee to notify the parent of each student in the local school division of any school-connected overdose, defined as any verified overdose that occurs on school premises during or after regular school hours or during school-sanctioned activities whether on or off school premises, within 24 hours of learning of the overdose and to include in such notification as much information as is known about the circumstances surrounding the overdose. The bill requires the Board of Education to establish guidelines for school-connected overdose response and parental notification policies, including (a) a model action plan for each school board to follow in responding to the overdose, including communicating and coordinating with the Department of Education and the local law-enforcement liaison or local law-enforcement agency that employs the school resource officers for such school division, and (b) criteria for issuing the parental notification to ensure sensitivity to the privacy interests of any affected individuals.

## VIRGINIA LITERACY ACT

**[HB 211](#) (Martinez) Department of Education; audit of education preparation programs at public institutions of higher education; science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction; frequency.** Changes from once every seven years to biennially the frequency with which the Department of Education is required to audit each education preparation program for compliance with the requirements set forth in relevant law relating to student coursework and mastery in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction.

## SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE

**[HB 253](#) (Cole) School boards; meetings; public comment or citizen participation; enrolled students.** Requires each school board to permit any student enrolled in a public elementary or secondary school in the local school division who provides acceptable proof of identification, including any current student identification card or other school document such as a report card or a personal school email address, and who signs up at least 12 hours in advance of the scheduled start of a school board meeting or is physically present at a school board meeting to submit oral comments during any public comment or citizen participation portion of such meeting.

**[HB 69](#) (Bulova) Vacancies in elected local offices; interim appointments; notice requirement.** Requires the local governing body or elected school board making an interim appointment to fill a vacancy in the membership of such body or board to hold a public meeting at least seven days prior to making such appointment. The bill specifies that at such meeting, the body or board shall announce the names of all persons being proposed for the interim appointment and shall make available for inspection each person's resume and any other materials required by the body or board.

**[HB 958](#) (Lopez) School boards; student member required.** Requires each school board to establish a method for the selection of a student to serve as a member of the school board, subject to the following conditions: (i) the student is enrolled in a public high school in the local school division; (ii) any such student is eligible to be selected as a member of the school board without regard to such student's age or citizenship status, provided, however, that in the event that the method for selection of the student member is election, the student meets the qualifications to hold elective office set forth in Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution of Virginia; (iii) the school board establishes detailed policies, procedures, and timelines relating to such selection method, including policies that establish term length, eligibility to

serve with or without voting privileges, eligibility for a salary, eligibility for selection to subsequent terms, and grounds for removal; and (iv) each student selected to serve as a member of the school board serves in addition to and not as a replacement for any member duly authorized and selected to serve on the school board in accordance with relevant law, and each such student member factors into the calculation of a quorum.

**[HB 979 \(Keys-Gamarra\) School boards; duties, appointment and employment of division superintendents, oversight.](#)** Requires each school board to appoint, employ, and provide oversight for a division superintendent and provides that nothing in the Code of Virginia or the regulations of the Board of Education shall be construed to prohibit the school board from providing such oversight.

**[HJ 24 \(Helmer\) and SJ 18 \(Hashmi\) Study; joint subcommittee; Dillon Rule; report.](#)** Creates a 13-member joint subcommittee for a one-year study of the Dillon Rule and its impact on Virginia's localities.

**[HB 882 \(Earley\) Department of Education; model policy on student cell phone use during instructional time; local adoption.](#)** Requires the Department of Education to develop, adopt, and distribute to each school board a model policy whereby public elementary and secondary school students are prohibited from possessing or using personal cell phones or other personal handheld communication devices during instructional time at school. The bill requires the Department, in developing and adopting such model policy, to seek to balance the interests of students' academic achievement, cognitive development, safety, and general well-being and permits the Department to include appropriate exceptions in extraordinary circumstances such as emergency situations or situations involving the need to contact the student's parents. The bill requires each school board to develop and adopt a policy that is consistent with such model policy adopted by the Department. **[SB 28 \(Stanley\) School boards; powers and duties, policies regarding cell phones and other handheld devices.](#)** Permits each school board to develop and implement a policy to prohibit the possession or use of cell phones and other handheld communication devices during regular school hours. **[HJ 34 \(Maldonado\) Study; Joint Commission on Health Care; impacts of cell phone possession and use on students.](#)** Directs the Joint Commission on Health Care to study the impacts of cell phone possession and use in public schools on student learning outcomes, including the quality of learning and the ability of students to retain and recall information, student attention and focus, and student mental and behavioral health.

## SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION/BUILDINGS

**[HB 117 \(Sullivan\) and SB 346 \(Subramanyam\) Net energy metering; solar interconnection; cost recovery.](#)** Provides that an electric distribution company shall pay 33 cents (\$0.33) per kilowatt-hour per day for the costs of lost electricity production for any and all delays beyond the regulatory notice period required by State Corporation Commission related to net energy metering. The bill requires that, for the purposes of net energy metering, an eligible customer-generator shall bear all reasonable costs of equipment required at the eligible customer-generator's premises for the interconnection to the supplier's electric distribution system, including commercially reasonable costs of additional controls, tests, or liability insurance. Additionally, the bill allows for cost recovery by Phase I and Phase II Utilities for electric distribution grid transformation projects that support the interconnection of generating facilities using energy derived from sunlight that are owned or contracted by eligible customer-generators, subject to the Commission finding those costs to be reasonable and prudent in accordance with existing law.

**[HB 936 \(LeVere Bolling\) Public school buildings; indoor air quality standards.](#)** Establishes several enumerated requirements for school boards to ensure indoor air quality in each public school building in the local school division, including (i) identifying a designated individual to oversee the establishment of and adherence to a preventive maintenance schedule for the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system in each such building and the implementation of the use of general or local exhaust ventilation in areas of each such building where housekeeping and maintenance activities involve the use

of equipment or products that could reasonably be expected to result in hazardous chemical or particulate exposures, among other things; (ii) controlling microbial and fungal contamination in each such building by promptly repairing water intrusion that can promote microbial or fungal growth; (iii) ensuring indoor air quality during renovation and remodeling or new construction in various ways; and (iv) keeping school building system maintenance records. The bill also requires the Department of Education to establish and administer a school board employee complaint and resolution process relating to indoor air quality in public school buildings.

**[HB 1456 \(Carr\)](#) and [SB 79 \(Favola\)](#) Solar-ready roofs for certain government buildings; net-zero energy consumption building design. Requires any executive branch agency or institution and any locality entering the design phase for the construction of a new building greater than 5,000 gross square feet in size, or the renovation of a building where the cost of the renovation exceeds 50 percent of the value of the building, to ensure that such building includes a solar-ready, cool, or energy-efficient roof, defined in the bill. The bill also requires new public school buildings and facilities and improvements and renovations to existing public school buildings and facilities where the cost of the renovation exceeds 50 percent of the value of the building to, after notice is given to the governing body, be designed and constructed to meet net-zero energy consumption standards. The provisions of this bill only apply to projects entering the design phase on or after January 1, 2025.**

## STAFFING RATIOS

**[HB 582 \(Simonds\)](#) and [SB 518 \(Williams Graves\)](#) Public high schools; each school board to employ at least one career coach in each public high school Requires each school board to employ at least one career coach in each public high school in the local school division whose duties are required to include assisting students with securing internships, externships, and credentialing opportunities as required by the Profile of a Virginia Graduate, providing students with information on apprenticeship programs, and connecting students to career opportunities. The bill provides that each such individual shall be employed in addition to and not as a replacement for the required school counselor positions, specialized student support positions, or support services positions.**

**[HB 583 \(Simonds\)](#) Public elementary school teachers; length of daily lunch breaks. Requires each school board to ensure that all elementary school teachers in its employment are provided one lunch break per school day that is at least 30 minutes in length and unencumbered by any teaching or supervisory duties but that may be shortened or eliminated in the case of a bona fide emergency relating to health or safety.**

## TEACHER LICENSURE

**[HB 632 \(Rasoul\)](#) and [SB 352 \(Peake\)](#) Teachers; changes to provisions relating to licensure and certification, reciprocity Makes several changes to provisions of law relating to the licensure and certification of teachers, including (i) establishing universal licensure by reciprocity as a category of teacher licensure in the Commonwealth for certain licensed out-of-state teachers, regardless of the traditional or alternative nature of the education preparation programs that they completed; (ii) establishing and enumerating the criteria for a subject matter expert teaching certificate to provide high-quality teaching candidates who have relevant work experience or expertise in a content or subject matter area an accelerated path toward a renewable license; (iii) permitting the division superintendent rather than the Board of Education, as is current law, to issue a career and technical education teacher a provisional license to allow time for the teacher to attain the industry certification credential required by law; (iv) permitting any high school principal to waive, for any individual whom he seeks to employ as a career and technical education teacher and who is also seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license with an endorsement in the area of career and technical education, certain applicable licensure**

requirements; and (v) permitting any division superintendent to directly waive, rather than apply to the Department of Education for a biennial waiver as is required under current law, the teacher licensure requirements for any individual whom the local school board hires or seeks to hire to teach in a trade and industrial education program who has obtained or is working toward an industry credential relating to the program area and who has at least 4,000 hours of recent and relevant employment experience.

**[HB 731 \(Sewell\) Teachers; renewable licenses; requirements; assessments.](#)** Prohibits the Board of Education from including in its regulations governing the award of a renewable license as a teacher any requirement that an individual take and receive a passing score on any national or state-based communications and literacy assessment as a condition of the initial award or renewal of such a license. The bill also clarifies that the Board is not prohibited from requiring any such individual to take and receive a passing score on any other assessment as a condition of the initial award or renewal of such a license.

**[SB 142 \(Ruff\) Public school teachers; licensure requirements; one-year local eligibility license; alternate routes and flexibility; report.](#)** Requires the Board of Education to include in its teacher licensure regulations provisions authorizing each school board to, upon recommendation of the division superintendent and in accordance with the criteria set forth in the bill, issue a one-year local eligibility license that is only valid within the issuing school division and renewable for no more than one additional year to any individual who (i) received a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education, (ii) has experience or training in a subject or content area as the school board and division superintendent may deem appropriate for the applicable teaching position or endorsement area, and (iii) is not seeking to provide instruction in special education or eligible for collegiate professional or postgraduate professional licensure. The bill establishes several requirements, criteria, and conditions relating to a local eligibility license, including criteria and requirements relating to probationary terms of employment, eligibility for receiving a collegiate professional or postgraduate professional license after the expiration of the one-year eligibility license, and conditions that must be met before attaining continuing contract status. Finally, the bill requires the Board of Education to convene a work group to make recommendations on revising teacher licensure requirements to increase flexibility in licensure requirements and alternate routes to licensure and improve teacher recruitment and retention. The work group is required to submit a report on such recommendations to the Governor, the Senate Committee on Education and Health, and the House Committee on Education by November 1, 2024.

**[HB 328 \(Glass\) and \[SB 407 \\(Durant\\) Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact; enters the Commonwealth into Compact.\]\(#\)](#)** Enters the Commonwealth into the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact, the purpose of which is to facilitate the mobility of teachers across the member states, with the goal of supporting teachers through a new pathway to licensure. The Compact is presently in effect, as it has reached the enactment threshold of 10 state members.

## **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

**[HB 853 \(Obenshain\) Students; Department of Education to establish uniform system of discipline for disruptive behavior.](#)** requires the Department of Education to establish, within its regulations governing student conduct, and each school board to adhere to, a uniform system of discipline for disruptive behavior and the removal of a student from a class that includes, among other things, (i) criteria for teachers to remove disruptive students from their classes, including a requirement for a teacher to remove a disruptive student from a class if the disruptive behavior is violent and a requirement to implement a three-strike system for nonviolent disruptive behavior whereby a teacher is required to remove a student from a class if the student repeats or continues the nonviolent disruptive behavior after the teacher provides two warnings to the student; (ii) a prohibition against holding a teacher liable for taking reasonable actions or utilizing reasonable methods to control a physically disruptive or violently

disruptive student; and (iii) appropriate exceptions and modifications for children with disabilities based on the unique needs of each such student.

**[HB 1319](#) (Kent) Disorderly conduct; penalty.** Removes the prohibition on the applicability of the offense of disorderly conduct in public place to any elementary or secondary school student if the disorderly conduct occurred on the property of any elementary or secondary school, on a school bus, or at any activity conducted or sponsored by any elementary or secondary school.

## INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

**[HB 1355](#) (Tran) Information Technology Access Act; digital accessibility.** Makes numerous organizational changes to the Information Technology Access Act. The bill defines "information and communications technology" as it relates to digital accessibility, defined in the bill, for all persons with disabilities. The bill permits the head of each covered entity, defined in the bill, to designate an employee to serve as such covered entity's digital accessibility coordinator and provides that such digital accessibility coordinator is responsible for developing and implementing such covered entity's digital accessibility policy. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2025.

**[SB 385](#) (Pekarsky) Study; Board of Education; work group on the use of artificial intelligence technology in education; report.** Requires the Board of Education, in collaboration with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, to convene a work group to study and make recommendations on guidelines for the use and integration of AI technology in education in public elementary and secondary schools and public institutions of higher education. The bill requires the work group to submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Department of Education, the Governor, the Senate Committee on Education and Health, and the House Committee on Education by November 1, 2024. **[SJ 14](#) (Subramanyam) Joint Commission on Technology and Science; study; advancements in artificial intelligence; report.** Directs the Joint Commission on Technology and Science to study advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), including assessing (i) the impacts of deep fakes, data privacy implications, and misinformation; (ii) measures to ensure these technologies do not indirectly or directly lead to discrimination; (iii) strategies to promote equity in AI algorithms; and (iv) ways in which AI can be utilized to improve government operations and services, and to make recommendations on any appropriate legislation for consideration by the General Assembly.

## HOMELESS STUDENTS

**[HB 168](#) (Keys-Gamarra) Homeless students; Dept. of Ed. to develop a resource document on supports and services.** Requires the Department of Education to develop and make available to each school board a resource document containing guidance and best practices for providing the necessary supports and services to homeless students, including guidance and best practices relating to (i) decisions regarding whether and when such a student should remain enrolled in a school in a previous school division of residence, (ii) wrap-around supports and services for such students that include the parents when they are available and specific wrap-around supports and services for such students who may have experienced additional trauma prior to becoming homeless, and (iii) any other means by which such students can be best served and protected, particularly those homeless children and youths at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking.

## COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSES

**[HB 505](#) (Cohen) Commercial driver's license work group; DMV to convene a work group to develop & implement strategy.** Directs the Department of Motor Vehicles to convene a work group to



develop and implement a statewide strategy to incentivize and promote the issuance of commercial driver's licenses to qualified applicants in the Commonwealth.

## **STUDENTS WITH LIMITED AND/OR INTERRUPTED FORMAL EDUCATION (SLIFE)**

**[SB 433](#) (Suetterlein) Board of Education; develop and adopt policies relating to supporting Students with Limited and/or Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE).** Directs the Board of Education to develop and adopt policies relating to supporting Students with Limited and/or Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE students) in staying in and graduating from, or otherwise completing, high school in the Commonwealth and to develop formulas for calculating high school drop-out rates and graduation rates in the Commonwealth that do not include any SLIFE student who dropped out if such student had not yet been enrolled in a public high school in the Commonwealth for at least four semesters.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

**[HB 571](#) (Delaney) and [SB 235](#) (Hashmi) Policies on parental notification of instructional material that includes sexually explicit content; scope and use.** Provides that nothing in the law requiring the Department of Education to develop and make available to each school board model policies for ensuring parental notification of any instructional material that includes sexually explicit content and requiring each school board to adopt policies that are consistent with but may be more comprehensive than such model policies or that is in such model policies or school board policies shall be construed to permit the censoring of books in any public elementary or secondary school.

**[HB 757](#) (Walker) Board of Education; model policies on parental review of instructional material; local adoption.** Requires the Board of Education to adopt and distribute to each school board model policies requiring any instructional material used in any public elementary or secondary school in the Commonwealth to be open for inspection during normal business hours by the parents of students enrolled in the relevant public school, regardless of the copyright status of any such material. The bill requires each school board to adopt policies that are consistent with such model policies adopted by the Board.

## **OPEN ENROLLMENT**

**[HB 659](#) (Ballard) and [SB 552](#) (Peake) Public schools; open school enrollment policies and guidance.** Requires the Board of Education to develop and make available to each school board by August 1, 2024, model policies and guidance relating to open school enrollment detailing certain conditions, limitations, and procedures relating to the open enrollment process and nonresident students, defined as any student who is enrolled in a school within such student's school division but outside of the attendance area in which he resides pursuant to an open enrollment policy. The bill requires each school board to establish and implement policies to provide for open enrollment in accordance with the model policies and guidelines developed by the Board. Current law permits, but does not require, each school board to establish and implement policies providing for open enrollment.

## **INCOME TAX/SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION**

**[HB 1159](#) (Sickles) Individual income tax; distribution of revenues; local school construction.** Requires distribution of one percent of the individual income tax revenues collected from residents of a locality to be distributed to that locality. The bill requires such funds to be used for school

construction or renovation purposes and to be repaid to the state if used for any other purpose. The bill provides that a locality shall be required to maintain its level of expenditure for public school purposes as a condition of receiving the income tax revenues; however, a locality may reduce its level of expenditure to account for a loss of revenues resulting from a reduction in machinery and tools taxes or license taxes.

## **VIRGINIA RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

**[SB 548](#) (Craig) Virginia Retirement System; return to work; break in service** Reduces, from six months to one month, the length of the required break in service after retirement for a teacher, bus driver, specialized student support instructor, or law-enforcement officer before such person may return to work full time and continue to receive his pension under the Virginia Retirement System (VRS).