

Charter Schools and College Partnership Laboratory Schools

**Senate Finance Committee
Education Subcommittee**

Charter Schools in Virginia

- Charter schools were first authorized by the General Assembly in 1998.
- The first eight charter schools in Virginia were established between 1999 and 2002 and were converted from traditional public schools.
- Two of these charter schools, located in York County and Albemarle County, are still in operation.
- Two additional charter schools now in operation, in Albemarle County and Richmond City, were initiated by parents and others in the community and not by a school division.

2010 Charter School Legislation

- Charter school applicants are required to submit their application to the Board of Education for a determination as to whether the application meets the Board's criteria prior to submitting it to the local school board.
- If the local school board denies the charter, the applicant may petition the local school board for a reconsideration of its decision.
- Prior to such reconsideration, the applicant may seek technical assistance from the Superintendent of Public Instruction.



Criteria for Charter Schools

- § 22.1-212.9 of the *Code* specifies that the Board of Education must examine charter school applications for:
 - ✓ Feasibility,
 - ✓ Curriculum,
 - ✓ Financial soundness, and
 - ✓ Other objective criteria as the Board may establish.
- The Board must make a determination as to whether the charter school application meets the approval criteria established by the Board.

Policy Work of the Board

The Board is developing or revising:

- Procedures for receiving and reviewing charter school applications,
- Criteria used in reviewing charter school applications,
- A listing of regulations that may be waived for charter schools, and
- Criteria for making distributions from the charter school fund.

Charter School Committee

- **Members: Mrs. Isis Castro (chair), Mrs. Betsy Beamer, Mr. Rob Krupicka**
- **Meetings are held each month that the full Board meets**
- **Panel of national experts in June**
- **Panel of Virginia stakeholders in September**
- **Discussion of draft procedures and criteria planned for October**
- **This will go to the full Board in November for first review, followed by public comment and final review in January.**

Panel of National Experts

- National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
- Illinois Charter School Network
- KIPP Foundation
- Edison Learning
- Lexington Institute

Panel of Virginia Stakeholders

- Virginia Association of School Superintendents
- Virginia School Boards Association
- Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals
- Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals
- Virginia Education Association
- Virginia PTA
- Virginia Counselors Association
- Virginia Conference of the NAACP
- Virginia Municipal League
- Virginia Association of Counties

Charter School Committee

- The agendas, background information, copies of presentations, minutes, and all other materials presented to the Charter School Committee are posted online at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_standing/index.shtml#charter
- Additional information about charter schools in Virginia may be found at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/charter_schools/index.shtml

Laboratory Schools

- Laboratory schools were designed to serve as laboratories for innovative teaching practices, and to enable future teachers to observe master teachers.
- Although John Dewey is credited with the establishment of laboratory schools at the University of Chicago in 1895, the College of William and Mary operated a grammar school, beginning in 1867, that served as a “model and practice school.”



Laboratory Schools

- Other colleges and universities in Virginia have had laboratory schools in the past, including James Madison University, Hampton University, Longwood University, Radford University, Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, Mary Baldwin College, and Sweet Briar College.
- Norfolk State University and Regent University currently operate laboratory schools that serve preschoolers.

2010 College Partnership Laboratory School Legislation

- The school would be a public school established by a contract between the Board of Education and any public institution of higher education that operates a Board-approved teacher education program.
- The school would be designated as a local education agency and would be eligible for federal funds, but it would not constitute a school division.
- The school would be subject to the Standards of Learning, the Standards of Accreditation, and the Standards of Quality.

College Lab School Application

- § 23-299.4 of the *Code* outlines the specific elements that must be included in the application, from the mission and vision statements to cash-flow projections.
- “The purposes of the college partnership laboratory school application are to present the proposed school's academic and operational vision and plans, demonstrate the applicant's capacities to execute the proposed vision and plans, and provide the Board of Education a clear basis for assessing the applicant's plans and capacities.”

Policy Work of the Board

The Board is developing :

- Procedures for receiving and reviewing college partnership laboratory school applications,
- Criteria used in reviewing the applications,
- A listing of regulations that may be waived, and
- Criteria for making distributions from the college partnership laboratory school fund.

College Lab School Committee

- **Members: Mr. David Foster (chair) and Dr. Virginia McLaughlin**
- **Meetings are held each month that the full Board meets**
- **Panel of national experts in July and follow-up conference call in August**
- **Panel of Virginia stakeholders in September**
- **Discussion of draft procedures and criteria planned for October**
- **This will go to the full Board in November for first review, followed by public comment and final review in January.**



Panel of National Experts

- **Dean, Teachers College, Ball State University**
- **Principal and Chair of the Burriss Laboratory School, Ball State University and Board of Directors, National Association of Laboratory Schools**
- **Principal and Director, A. D. Henderson University (Elementary and Middle) School, Florida Atlantic University and Board of Directors, National Association of Laboratory Schools**
- **Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Virginia Commonwealth University**

Panel of Virginia Stakeholders

Provosts

- Radford University
- James Madison University
- Virginia State University
- Virginia Commonwealth University

Deans

- Virginia Tech
- James Madison University
- Radford University
- University of Virginia

College Partnership Laboratory School Committee

- The agendas, background information, copies of presentations, minutes, and all other materials presented to the College Partnership Laboratory School Committee are posted online at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_standing/index.shtml#lab
- Additional information about college partnership laboratory schools may be found at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/laboratory_schools/index.shtml