

Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: O

Date: November 20, 2014

Title	Annual Report from the Virginia Council for Private Education		
Presenter	Rear Admiral J. Scott Burhoe, President, Fork Union Military Academy and Chair of the Virginia Council for Private Education Board of Directors Josie Webster, Executive Director, Virginia Council for Private Education George McVey, President, Virginia Council for Private Education		
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Purpose of Presentation:

For information only. No action required.

Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

Action Requested:

No action requested.

Alignment with Board of Education Goals: Please indicate (X) all that apply:

	Goal 1: Accountability for Student Learning
	Goal 2: Rigorous Standards to Promote College and Career Readiness
	Goal 3: Expanded Opportunities to Learn
	Goal 4: Nurturing Young Learners
	Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Educators
	Goal 6: Sound Policies for Student Success
	Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools
X	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify: Annual Report from the Virginia Council for Private Education

Background Information and Statutory Authority:

At its meeting in November 1993, the Board of Education adopted a resolution that recognized the accrediting process for nonpublic elementary and secondary schools as administered through the Commission on Accreditation of the Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE). The resolution was primarily for the purpose of public school acceptance of credits earned by students who attended such schools when they transfer to public schools and for any other such purpose(s) which may, from time to time, be specified by the *Code of Virginia* or as may be mutually agreed upon by the Board and VCPE. The resolution specifies, among other things, that the Board of Education will receive an annual report from VCPE. A copy of the resolution is attached.

Summary of Important Issues:

VCPE facilitates a statewide framework for communication and cooperation among private schools, their public school counterparts, state and local governments, and other agencies and organizations.

VCPE oversees accreditation of nonpublic preschool, elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth as authorized by the Virginia Board of Education in §22.1-19 of the *Code of Virginia*. State recognized accreditation comes through accreditation granted by any VCPE approved accrediting organization.

All approved accrediting organizations must meet the VCPE core set of standards. The VCPE peer review process and an annual reporting requirement have been developed to monitor the standards. Each association has standards that meet and exceed those that are monitored by VCPE and must be considered individually by an interested school.

There are currently 14 VCPE approved accrediting associations. See the attached briefing for more information.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

None

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

None

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive the Annual Report from the Virginia Council for Private Education.

VCPE

Virginia Council for Private Education

Virginia's Unique Accountability System for Private School Quality

VCPE facilitates a statewide framework for communication and cooperation among private schools, their public school counterparts, state and local governments, and other agencies and organizations.

VCPE adheres to its original purposes to:

- Assist in the maintenance and improvement of the quality of Virginia's nonpublic schools;
- Approve of and review the accrediting processes for state recognized accrediting member associations in the Commonwealth;
- Annually review reports from VCPE member organizations, which demonstrate adherence to policies and standards of VCPE;
- Ensure that the member associations establish and maintain in their schools' general policies and standards for excellence;
- Furnish information about, and articulate the private school viewpoint on educational matters relating to both the public and the private sector;
- Serve as a vehicle through which the public school viewpoint may be conveyed to the nonpublic school constituency;
- Coordinate efforts within the nonpublic school community in order to maintain nonpublic schools as a viable and responsible educational alternative;
- Enhance opportunities for more families to have a realistic choice among schools for their children;
- Encourage vigorous diversity in education; and,
- Encourage a broad public commitment to excellence in education.

What is State Recognized Accreditation?

VCPE oversees accreditation of nonpublic preschool, elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth as authorized by the Virginia Board of Education in §22.1-19 of the Code of Virginia. State recognized accreditation comes through accreditation granted by any VCPE approved accrediting organization.

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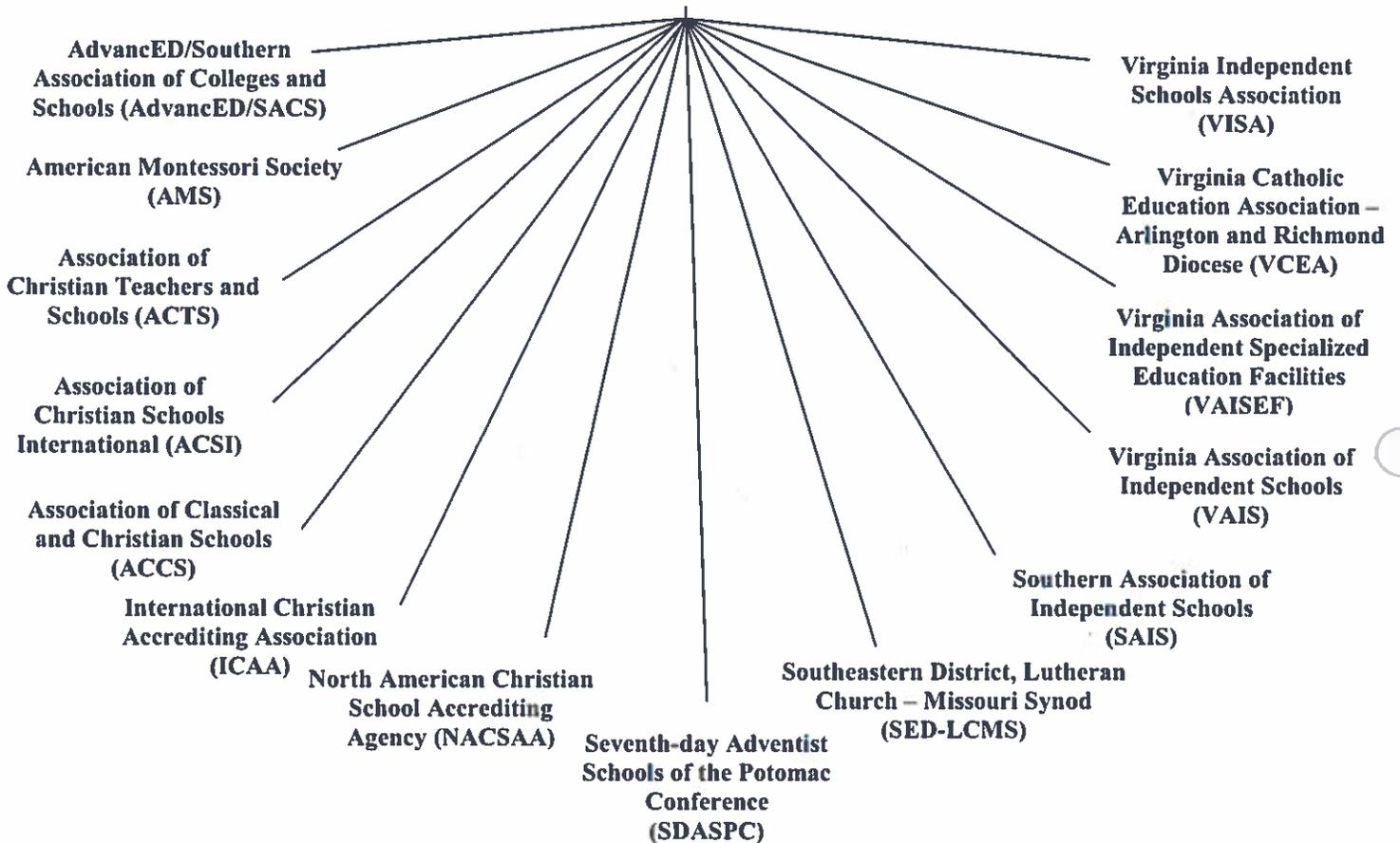
Why Seek Accreditation?

State recognized accreditation is accountability for private schools in Virginia. Many private schools in Virginia seek accreditation as a means of strengthening their programs and facilities and assuring the public that the published purpose and philosophy of a school are being fulfilled.

Accreditation through a VCPE approved accrediting organization guarantees the transfer of student credits from the state recognized accredited private school to a public school and ensures recognition of teacher licensure credits for time served in an accredited private school.

VCPE Approved Accrediting Associations Pursuant to the Code of Virginia §22.1-19

Virginia Board of Education Authorized VCPE to Oversee Accreditation of Nonpublic Schools 14 State Recognized Accrediting Associations



Other VCPE Member Associations

- Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States (AMCSUS)
- Church Schools of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia (CSEDV)
- International League of Christian Schools (ILCS)
- Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association (VISAA)

Virginia Board of Education Resolution

Recognizing VCPE: Accrediting Nonpublic Elementary and Secondary Schools

Resolution Number 1993-6

November 15, 1993

WHEREAS, the *Code of Virginia* requires that all children who are five years old by September 30 and not older than 18 attend a public or private or parochial school to satisfy compulsory attendance laws; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE) was organized in 1974 as the Virginia affiliate of the National Council for American Private Education (CAPE) for purposes including "the encouragement of a broad public commitment to excellence in education"; and

WHEREAS, the VCPE established a Commission on Accreditation in July, 1985, "...for the purpose of approving appropriate accreditation processes for nonpublic schools in order to secure recognition for those schools by the State Department of Education"; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education ceased accrediting nonpublic schools, and at its meeting on April 25, 1985, approved recommendations affecting the relationship of nonpublic schools and the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education has maintained and fostered an ongoing and viable relationship with the VCPE since that time; and

WHEREAS, the 1993 General Assembly of Virginia amended sections of the *Code of Virginia* relating to the licensure of child day care centers which included an exemption for "a certified preschool or nursery school program operated by a private school which is accredited by a statewide accreditation organization recognized by the State Board of Education..."; and

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of reaffirming and strengthening its relationship with the VCPE;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board recognizes the accrediting process for nonpublic elementary and secondary schools as administered through the Commission on Accreditation of the Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE) primarily for the purpose of public school acceptance of credits earned by students who attended such schools when they transfer to public schools and for any other such purpose(s) which may, from time to time, be specified by the *Code of Virginia* or as may be mutually agreed upon by the Board and VCPE; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will periodically review this recognition to ensure its continued relevancy and currency and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, or his designee, shall maintain contact with the VCPE and shall meet with its membership at least annually. Further, the Superintendent shall advise the Board on educational issues of concern to the VCPE.

Adopted in the Minutes of the Virginia Board of Education November 15, 1993