

Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: G

Date: April 23, 2015

Title	Report on the Virginia K-12 Broadband Connectivity Project		
Presenter	Dr. Billy Haun, Chief Academic Officer/Assistant Superintendent, Division of Instruction Ms. Gail Warren, Supervisor of Curriculum and Student Services, Virtual Virginia		
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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
X	Goal 2: Rigorous Standards to Promote College and Career Readiness
X	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
	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify:

Background Information and Statutory Authority:

Goal Two: Providing broadband to all students in Virginia’s schools will create the possibility for all students, pre-K through grade 12, to access high quality learning experiences that will help to ensure global competitiveness.

Goal Three: Providing broadband to all students in Virginia’s schools will increase the opportunities for students to participate and access online learning programs and personalized instruction.

Summary of Important Issues:

On June 3, 2014 Governor Terry McAuliffe announced the state's participation in the Internet access project with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and the EducationSuperHighway. The [EducationSuperHighway](#) is a San Francisco-based nonprofit organization dedicated to improving

Internet access in the schools. This project will help school divisions lower the cost of high-speed Internet access and increase digital learning opportunities.

“Ensuring that all Virginia communities have equal and affordable access to broadband technology is a critical component in developing a 21st Century Virginia economy,” said Governor McAuliffe.

Digital learning is a powerful tool. In Virginia, this includes VDOE programs and initiatives including Virtual Virginia, EduWidgets, eMediaVa and Learn24VA, as well as platforms that are available to students and teachers like HD video, Khan Academy, educational games that develop coding skills, and apps that support language development. Currently, many schools have Internet connections that are either out-of-date, slow, or non-existent. Reliable high-speed broadband is an absolute necessity for these tools to function.

According to EducationSuperHighway, about one-third of Virginia’s divisions are meeting the 2014 FCC and ConnetED goal for broadband connectivity which is 100Kbps/student. The 2018 goal is 1 Mbps/student.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Staff will provide further reports to the Board as the project progresses.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive the Report on the Virginia K-12 Broadband Connectivity Project.

Rationale for Action: