

## VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 13 of Title 22.1 an article numbered 1.5, consisting of sections numbered 22.1-212.28 through 22.1-212.32, relating to School Divisions of Innovation.

[H 1981]

Approved

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 13 of Title 22.1 an article numbered 1.5, consisting of sections numbered 22.1-212.28 through 22.1-212.32, as follows:**

*Article 1.5.*

*School Divisions of Innovation.*

**§ 22.1-212.28. Definitions.**

*As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:*

*"School Division of Innovation" or "SDI" means a school division in which the local school board has developed and for which the Board has approved pursuant to regulations as set forth in this article a plan of innovation to improve student learning; educational performance; and college, career, and citizenship readiness skills in each school in the local school division.*

*"Innovation" means a new or creative alternative to existing instructional or administrative practices or school structures that evidence-based practice suggests will be effective in improving student learning and educational performance.*

**§ 22.1-212.29. Purpose.**

*The Board shall promulgate regulations for the designation of School Divisions of Innovation in which the local school board in the local school division so designated shall, pursuant to a plan of innovation, be exempted from selected regulatory provisions and be permitted to adopt alternative policies for school administrators, teachers, and staff to meet the diverse needs of students.*

**§ 22.1-212.30. Board regulations; procedure.**

*Any local school board may apply to the Board for the local school division or any school therein to be designated as an SDI. Such application shall consist of a plan of innovation for the local school division. The Board shall include in regulations promulgated pursuant to § 22.1-212.29:*

*1. The procedure and timeline for application, review, amendment, approval, renewal, and revocation of SDI designation;*

*2. The procedure for the ongoing evaluation of an SDI; and*

*3. Any other process or procedure that the Board deems appropriate.*

**§ 22.1-212.31. Board regulations; application; expectations.**

*The Board shall establish in regulations promulgated pursuant to § 22.1-212.29 expectations for the plan of innovation of an SDI applicant, including:*

*1. Establishing goals and performance targets that may include:*

*a. Reducing achievement and opportunity gaps among groups of public school students by expanding the range of engaging and relevant learning experiences for students who are identified as academically low-achieving;*

*b. Increasing student learning through the implementation of high, rigorous standards for student performance and balanced assessments that measure both student growth and achievement;*

*c. Creating opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery of learning at different points in the learning process based on readiness;*

*d. Increasing student participation in opportunities that enhance students' preparation for college, career, and citizenship;*

*e. Increasing the number of students who are college, career, and citizenship ready;*

*f. Increasing opportunities for students to learn from content experts through integrated course opportunities; and*

*g. Motivating students at all levels by offering additional curricular choices, personalized learning opportunities, and relevant student learning experiences such as community service projects, internship opportunities, and job shadowing.*

*2. Identifying divisionwide and school-level policies that will lead students to be better prepared for success in work and life.*

*3. Describing the ways in which all schools will incorporate innovative practices.*

*4. Incorporating relevant professional development.*

- 57 5. *Providing evidence of collaboration, support, and shared leadership among teachers in the school*  
58 *division.*
- 59 6. *Providing evidence of the support and engagement of educators, parents, the local community, and*  
60 *the local business community in the development of the plan of innovation and of the capacity of such*  
61 *individuals and entities to support the implementation of innovation.*
- 62 7. *Providing the rationale for requests for waivers from regulatory and statutory provisions.*
- 63 8. *Identifying specific measures of student success that may include alternate assessments or*  
64 *approved substitute tests that will be used to determine if students have met graduation requirements, as*  
65 *applicable.*
- 66 **§ 22.1-212.32. SDI designation; duration; renewal.**
- 67 A. *The initial designation of an SDI shall be for a five-year period.*
- 68 B. *The initial designation of an SDI may be renewed for subsequent periods not to exceed five years*  
69 *each.*