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SENATE BILL NO. 598

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Education
on March 7, 2022)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Pillion)

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-349.1, 22.1-349.5, and 22.1-349.6 of the Code of Virginia, relating to college partnership laboratory schools; application and establishment.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 22.1-349.1, 22.1-349.5, and 22.1-349.6 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-349.1. Definitions; objectives.

A. As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"At-risk student" means a student having a physical, emotional, intellectual, socioeconomic, or cultural risk factor, as defined in Board criteria, that research indicates may negatively influence educational success.

"College partnership laboratory school" means a public, nonsectarian, nonreligious school in the Commonwealth established *as a new school or through the conversion of all or part of an existing school* by a public institution of higher education or private institution of higher education ~~that operates a teacher education program approved by the Board.~~

"Governing board" means the board of a college partnership laboratory school that is responsible for creating, managing, and operating the college partnership laboratory school and whose members have been selected by the institution of higher education that establishes the college partnership laboratory school. The governing board shall be under the control of the institution of higher education that establishes the college partnership laboratory school.

"Underserved community" means a geographical area that is served by public schools in which a high percentage of students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunch, as determined by the Board.

B. College partnership laboratory schools may be established as provided in this chapter to (i) stimulate the development of innovative programs for preschool through grade 12 students; (ii) provide opportunities for innovative instruction and assessment; (iii) provide teachers with a vehicle for establishing schools with alternative innovative instruction and school scheduling, management, and structure; (iv) encourage the use of performance-based educational programs; (v) establish high standards for both teachers and administrators; (vi) encourage greater collaboration between education providers from preschool to the postsecondary level; and (vii) develop models for replication in other public schools.

C. *College partnership laboratory schools may enter into a memorandum of understanding with any individual or entity to provide apprenticeships, career training, and curriculum support to carry out the provisions of this chapter.*

§ 22.1-349.5. College partnership laboratory school application.

A. Any public institution of higher education or private institution of higher education ~~that has a teacher education program approved by the Board~~ may submit an application for formation of a college partnership laboratory school.

B. Each college partnership laboratory school application shall provide or describe thoroughly all of the following essential elements of the proposed school plan:

1. An executive summary;
2. The mission and vision of the proposed college partnership laboratory school, including identification of the targeted student population;
3. The proposed location of the school;
4. The grades to be served each year for the full term of the contract;
5. Minimum, planned, and maximum enrollment per grade per year for the term of the contract;
6. Background information on the proposed founding governing board members and, if identified, the proposed school leadership and management team;
7. The school's proposed calendar and sample daily schedule;
8. A description of the academic program aligned with state standards;
9. A description of the school's educational program, including the type of learning environment, such as classroom-based or independent study; class size and structure; curriculum overview; and teaching methods;
10. The school's plan for using internal and external assessments to measure and report student progress in accordance with the Standards of Learning;

11. The school's plans for identifying and successfully serving students with disabilities, students who are English language learners, students who are academically behind, and gifted students, including compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

12. A description of co-curricular and extracurricular programs and how they will be funded and delivered;

13. Plans and timelines for student recruitment and enrollment, including lottery procedures if sufficient space is unavailable;

14. The school's student disciplinary policies, including disciplinary policies for special education students;

15. An organization chart that clearly presents the school's organizational structure, including lines of authority and reporting between the governing board, staff, any related bodies such as advisory bodies or parent and teacher councils, the Board, and any external organizations that will play a role in managing the school;

16. A clear description of the roles and responsibilities for the governing board, the school's leadership and management team, and any other entities shown in the organization chart;

17. A staffing chart for the school's first year and a staffing plan for the term of the contract;

18. Plans for recruiting and developing school leadership and staff;

19. The school's leadership and teacher employment policies, including performance evaluation plans;

20. A plan for the placement of college partnership laboratory school students, teachers, and employees upon termination or revocation of the contract;

21. Explanation of any partnerships or contractual relationships central to the school's operations or mission;

22. The school's plans for providing transportation, food service, and all other significant operational or ancillary services;

23. Opportunities and expectations for parent involvement;

24. A detailed school start-up plan that identifies tasks, timelines, and responsible individuals;

25. A description of the school's financial plan and policies, including financial controls and audit requirements;

26. A description of the insurance coverage that the school will obtain;

27. Start-up and five-year budgets with clearly stated assumptions;

28. Start-up and first-year cash-flow projections with clearly stated assumptions;

29. Evidence of anticipated fundraising contributions, if claimed in the application;

30. A sound facilities plan, including backup or contingency plans if appropriate; and

31. Assurances that the college partnership laboratory school (i) is nonreligious in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations and (ii) does not charge tuition, except as described in subsection E of § 22.1-349.3.

C. 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 with a clear basis for assessing the applicant's plans and capacities. An approved college partnership laboratory school application shall not serve as the school's contract. Within 90 days of approval of a college partnership laboratory school application, the Board and the governing board of the approved school shall execute a contract that clearly sets forth the academic and operational performance expectations and measures by which the college partnership laboratory school will be judged and the administrative relationship between the Board and the college partnership laboratory school, including each party's rights and duties. The performance expectations and measures set forth in the contract shall include applicable federal and state accountability requirements. The performance provisions may be refined or amended by mutual agreement after the college partnership laboratory school is operating and has collected baseline achievement data for its enrolled students.

§ 22.1-349.6. Review of college partnership laboratory school applications.

A. The Board shall establish procedures for receiving, reviewing, and ruling upon applications and shall make a copy of any such procedures available to all interested parties upon request. If the Board finds that the application is incomplete, the Board shall request the necessary additional information from the applicant. The Board's review procedures shall establish a review committee that may include experts with the operation of similar schools located in other states.

B. To provide appropriate opportunity for input from parents, teachers, and other interested parties and to obtain information to assist the Board in its evaluation of a college partnership laboratory school application, the Board may establish a procedure for public notice, comment, or hearings on such applications.

C. In reviewing and ruling upon applications pursuant to subsection A, the Board shall give substantial preference to any application from a historically black college or university and any application to establish a college partnership laboratory school in an underserved community.