

Note from EMU's teacher education program: *This document highlights certain parts of Virginia's Licensure Regulations for School Personnel that we feel it is important for teacher education candidates to know. Not all sections listed below are presented in their complete form. The complete Licensure Regulations for School Personnel can be found online at <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter23/section750/>*

Virginia Administrative Code
Title 8. Education
Agency 20. State Board of Education
Chapter 23. Licensure Regulations for School Personnel

8VAC20-23-20. Administering This Chapter.

Part II. Administering the Regulations

A. In administering this chapter, modifications may be made in exceptional cases by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Proposed modifications shall be made in writing to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Commonwealth of Virginia, Virginia Department of Education, P.O. Box 2120, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120.

B. In administering this chapter, competencies required for endorsement areas are outlined in the Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia ([8VAC20-543](#)). This document should be referenced for detailed information regarding coursework content for endorsements. Individuals shall complete the semester hours required for endorsement areas, or the equivalent, that shall be documented and approved by the Virginia Department of Education.

Statutory Authority

§§ [22.1-16](#) and [22.1-298](#) of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register [Volume 34, Issue 24](#), eff. August 23, 2018; amended, Virginia Register [Volume 37, Issue 14](#), eff. April 15, 2021.

8VAC20-23-30. Purpose and Responsibility for Licensure.

Part III Licensure

The primary purpose for licensing teachers and other school personnel is to maintain standards of professional competence. The responsibility for licensure is set forth in § [22.1-298.1](#) of the Code of Virginia, which states that the Virginia Board of Education shall prescribe by regulation the requirements for licensure of teachers.

Statutory Authority

§§ [22.1-298.1](#) and [22.1-299](#) of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 34, Issue 24](#), eff. August 23, 2018.

8VAC20-23-40. Conditions for licensure.

A. Applicants for licensure shall:

1. Be at least 18 years of age;
2. Pay the appropriate fees as determined by the Virginia Board of Education and complete the application process;
3. Have earned a baccalaureate degree, with the exception of the Technical Professional License, from an accredited institution and meet requirements for the license sought. Persons seeking initial licensure through approved programs from Virginia institutions of higher education shall only be licensed as instructional personnel if the education endorsement programs have approval by the Virginia Board of Education; individuals who have earned a degree from an institution in another country shall hold the equivalent of an accredited institution degree in the United States, as verified by a Virginia Department of Education-approved credential evaluation agency, for the required degree for the license; and
4. Possess good moral character and be free of conditions outlined in Part VII ([8VAC20-23-720](#) et seq.) of this chapter.

B. All candidates who hold at least a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution and who seek an initial Virginia teaching license shall obtain passing scores on professional teacher's assessments prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education. With the exception of the career switcher program that requires assessments as prerequisites, individuals shall complete the professional teacher's assessment requirements within the three-year validity of the initial provisional license. Candidates seeking a Technical Professional License, International Educator License, School Manager License, or Pupil Personnel Services License are not required to take the professional teacher's assessments. Individuals who hold a valid out-of-state license (full credential without deficiencies) and who have completed a minimum of three years of full-time, successful teaching experience in a public or an accredited nonpublic school, kindergarten through grade 12, outside of Virginia are exempt from the professional teacher's assessment requirements. Documentation shall be submitted to verify the school's status as a public or an accredited nonpublic school.

C. All individuals seeking an initial endorsement in early/primary education preK-3, elementary education preK-6, special education-general curriculum, special education-deaf and hard of hearing, special education-blindness and visual impairments, and individuals seeking an endorsement as a reading specialist shall obtain passing scores on a reading instructional assessment prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education.

D. Licensure by reciprocity is set forth in [8VAC20-23-100](#). A school leader's licensure assessment prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education shall be met for all individuals who are seeking an endorsement authorizing them to serve as principals and assistant principals in the public schools. Individuals seeking an initial administration and supervision endorsement who are interested in serving as central office instructional personnel are not required to take and pass the school leaders licensure assessment prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education.

E. Individuals seeking initial licensure shall demonstrate proficiency in the relevant content area, communication, literacy, and other core skills for educators by achieving a qualifying score on

professional assessments or meeting alternative evaluation standards as prescribed by the board; complete study in attention deficit disorder; complete study in gifted education, including the use of multiple criteria to identify gifted students; and complete study in methods of improving communication between schools and families and ways of increasing family involvement in student learning at home and at school.

F. Every person seeking initial licensure shall (i) complete awareness training provided by the Department of Education on the indicators of dyslexia, as that term is defined by the board pursuant to regulations, and the evidence-based interventions and accommodations for dyslexia; (ii) complete study in child abuse recognition and intervention in accordance with curriculum guidelines developed by the Virginia Board of Education in consultation with the Virginia Department of Social Services; and (iii) provide evidence of completion of certification or training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators. The certification or training program shall (a) be based on the current national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator, such as a program developed by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross, and (b) include hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The Virginia Board of Education shall provide a waiver for this requirement for any person with a disability whose disability prohibits such person from completing the certification or training.

G. Every person seeking initial licensure as a teacher who has not received the instruction described in subsection D of § [23.1-902](#) of the Code of Virginia shall receive instruction or training on positive behavior interventions and supports; crisis prevention and de-escalation; the use of physical restraint and seclusion, consistent with regulations of the Virginia Board of Education; and appropriate alternative methods to reduce and prevent the need for the use of physical restraint and seclusion.

H. The teacher of record for verified credit courses for high school graduation shall hold a Virginia license with the appropriate content endorsement.

I. Every teacher seeking an initial license in the Commonwealth with an endorsement in the area of career and technical education shall have an industry certification credential, as defined in [8VAC20-23-10](#), in the area in which the teacher seeks endorsement. If a teacher seeking an initial license in the Commonwealth has not attained an industry certification credential in the area in which the teacher seeks endorsement, the Virginia Board of Education may, upon request of the employing school division or educational agency, issue the teacher a provisional license to allow time for the teacher to attain such credential.

J. Every person seeking renewal of a license shall complete awareness training, provided by the Virginia Department of Education, on the indicators of dyslexia, as that term is defined by the Virginia Board of Education pursuant to regulations, and the evidence-based interventions and accommodations for dyslexia.

Statutory Authority

§§ [22.1-16](#) and [22.1-298](#) of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register [Volume 34, Issue 24](#), eff. August 23, 2018; amended, Virginia Register [Volume 37, Issue 14](#), eff. April 15, 2021; [Volume 41, Issue 2](#), eff. October 24, 2024.

8VAC20-23-70. Additional Endorsements.

A. An individual who holds a teaching license may add an additional teaching endorsement to the license by passing a rigorous academic subject test for endorsements in which a test is prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education. This testing option does not apply to individuals (i) who are seeking an early/primary education preK-3 or elementary education preK-6 endorsement, special education endorsements, or a reading specialist endorsement or (ii) who hold a Technical Professional License, Vocational Evaluator License, Pupil Personnel Services License, School Manager License, or Division Superintendent License.

B. One or more endorsements may be added to a license, provided that specific endorsement requirements have been met. Written requests may be made by the licensed professional and should be directed to the Virginia employing educational agency (if the individual has such employment) or college or university. If the request is not acted upon by the local educational agency or college or university within 30 days or is disputed, the license holder may make a written request for an additional endorsement directly to the Office of Professional Licensure, Virginia Department of Education. Written requests should be submitted by January 15 to be in effect by July 1 of the same calendar year.

Statutory Authority

§§ [22.1-298.1](#) and [22.1-299](#) of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 34, Issue 24](#), eff. August 23, 2018.

8VAC20-23-50. Types of Licenses; Dating Licenses.

A. The following types of licenses are available:

2. Collegiate Professional License. The Collegiate Professional License is a 10-year, renewable license available to an individual who has satisfied all requirements for licensure, including an earned baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university and the professional teacher's assessments prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education.

[Note from EMU: Collegiate Professional License is the license obtained by EMU program completers. Additional types of licenses can be found online in this section of the Licensure Regulations for School Personnel.]

B. All licenses will be effective from July 1 in the school year in which the application is made. An employing Virginia public school division, agency, or accredited nonpublic school is required to notify employees in writing at the time of employment of the need to meet appropriate assessment requirements for licensure.

Statutory Authority

§§ [22.1-298.1](#) and [22.1-299](#) of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register [Volume 34, Issue 24](#), eff. August 23, 2018; amended, Virginia Register [Volume 37, Issue 14](#), eff. April 15, 2021; [Volume 38, Issue 14](#), eff. April 15, 2022; [Volume 40, Issue 5](#), eff. November 22, 2023; [Volume 41, Issue 2](#), eff. October 24, 2024.

8VAC20-23-720. Revocation.

Part VII Revocation, Cancellation, Suspension, Denial, and Reinstatement of Licenses

A. A license issued by the Virginia Board of Education may be revoked for the following reasons:

1. Obtaining or attempting to obtain a license by fraudulent means or through misrepresentation of material facts;
2. Falsification of school records, documents, statistics, or reports;
3. Conviction of any felony;
4. Conviction of any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude;
5. Conviction of any misdemeanor involving a student or minor;
6. Conviction of any misdemeanor involving drugs (not alcohol);
7. Conduct with direct and detrimental effect on the health, welfare, discipline, or morale of a student or minor;
8. Misapplication of or failure to account for school funds or other school properties with which the licensee has been entrusted;
9. Acts related to secure mandatory tests as specified in subsection A of § [22.1-292.1](#) of the Code of Virginia;
10. Knowingly and willfully with the intent to compromise the outcome of an athletic competition procure, sell, or administer anabolic steroids or cause such drugs to be procured, sold, or administered to a student who is a member of a school athletic team, or fail to report the use of such drugs by a student to the school principal and division superintendent as required by clause (iii) of subsection A of § [22.1-279.3:1](#) of the Code of Virginia. Any person whose license is suspended or revoked by the board pursuant to this section shall be ineligible for three school years for employment in the public schools of the Commonwealth;
11. Revocation, suspension, surrender, cancellation, invalidation, or denial of, or other adverse action against, a teaching, administrator, pupil personnel services, or other education-related certificate or license by another state, territory, or country; or denial of an application for any such certificate or license;
12. Founded case of child abuse or neglect after all administrative appeals have been exhausted;
13. Notification of dismissal or resignation pursuant to subsection F of § [22.1-313](#) of the Code of Virginia; or
14. Other good and just cause in the best interest of the public schools of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

[Note from EMU: Procedures for Revocation can be found online in this section of the Licensure Regulations for School Personnel.]

8VAC20-23-730. Cancellation.

A. A license may be canceled by the voluntary return of the license by the license holder in response to a petition for revocation or suspension or pursuant to a court order. Reasons for cancellation are the same as those listed under 8VAC20-23-720 A.

B. The individual may voluntarily return the license to the division superintendent or the Superintendent of Public Instruction with a written, signed statement requesting cancellation. The individual shall acknowledge in the request that he understands that the notice of cancellation will include the statement: "The license holder voluntarily surrendered his teaching license and requested cancellation. Reasons for cancellation are the same as those for revocation." The individual shall also acknowledge that he understands that the notice of cancellation will include the statement: "The license holder voluntarily surrendered the license in response to a petition for revocation or suspension or a court order." The individual also shall acknowledge that he understands that the cancellation of the license will be reported to division superintendents in Virginia and, through a national clearinghouse, to chief state school officers of the other states and territories of the United States. The division superintendent shall forward any request for cancellation and, if applicable, the petition for revocation or suspension to the Superintendent of Public Instruction within 14 days of receipt. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall cancel the license and send the person a notice of cancellation by certified mail within 14 days of receipt of the request for cancellation.

C. A license that has been canceled may be reinstated by the Virginia Board of Education if the board is satisfied that reinstatement is in the best interest of the public schools of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The individual seeking reinstatement shall submit a written request and completed application to the board. Notification to all appropriate parties will be communicated in writing by the Virginia Department of Education.

Statutory Authority

§§ 22.1-298.1 and 22.1-299 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Volume 34, Issue 24, eff. August 23, 2018.

8VAC20-23-740. Suspension.

A. A license may be suspended for the following reasons:

1. Physical, mental, or emotional incapacity as shown by a competent medical authority;
2. Incompetence or neglect of duty;
3. Failure or refusal to comply with school laws and regulations, including willful violation of contractual obligations;

4. Acts related to secure mandatory tests as specified in subsection A of § 22.1-292.1 of the Code of Virginia;

5. Knowingly and willfully with the intent to compromise the outcome of an athletic competition procure, sell, or administer anabolic steroids or cause such drugs to be procured, sold, or administered to a student who is a member of a school athletic team, or fail to report the use of such drugs by a student to the school principal and division superintendent as required by clause (iii) of subsection A of § 22.1-279.3:1 of the Code of Virginia. Any person whose license is suspended or revoked by the board pursuant to this section shall be ineligible for three school years for employment in the public schools of the Commonwealth; or

6. Other good and just cause in the best interest of the public schools of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

[Note from EMU: Procedures for Suspension can be found online in this section of the Licensure Regulations for School Personnel.]

Statutory Authority

§§ 22.1-298.1 and 22.1-299 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Volume 34, Issue 24, eff. August 23, 2018.

8VAC20-23-750. Denial.

A. A license may be denied for the following reasons:

1. Attempting to obtain a license by fraudulent means or through misrepresentation of material facts;
2. Falsification of records or documents;
3. Conviction of any felony;
4. Conviction of any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude;
5. Conviction of any misdemeanor involving a student or minor;
6. Conviction of any misdemeanor involving drugs (not alcohol);
7. Conduct with direct and detrimental effect on the health, welfare, discipline, or morale of a student or minor;
8. Revocation, suspension, surrender, cancellation, invalidation, or denial of, or other adverse action against, a teaching, administrator, pupil personnel services, or other education-related certificate or license by another state, territory, or country, or denial of an application for any such certificate or license;
9. Founded case of child abuse or neglect, after all administrative appeals have been exhausted; or

10. Other good and just cause in the best interest of the public schools of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

B. Any denial of a license for a reason set forth in 8VAC20-23-750 A shall be reported to division superintendents in Virginia and, through a national clearinghouse, to chief state school officers of the other states and territories of the United States.

Statutory Authority

§§ 22.1-298.1 and 22.1-299 of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Volume 34, Issue 24, eff. August 23, 2018.