

Virginia and The Southern Regional Education Board

This document details Virginia's participation in SREB programs and services from June 2014 through May 2015. Each member state receives a number of general services, plus access to targeted programs funded by grants, contracts and fees. Appropriations from member states support SREB's core operations and general services. SREB leverages the long-standing commitment of member states to attract external funding for an array of targeted projects for educational improvement efforts in states.

Leadership

SREB Board

Terry McAuliffe, Governor

R. Edward "Edd" Houck, Former State Senator, Spotsylvania

Janet D. Howell, State Senator

Chris B. Saxman, Executive Director, Virginia Foundation for Research and Economic Education

Glenda R. Scales, Associate Dean, International Programs and Information Technology, and Director,
Commonwealth Graduate Engineering Program, Virginia Tech

SREB Legislative Advisory Council

David L. Bulova, State Delegate, Fairfax

Thomas A. Greason, State Delegate, Lansdowne

Janet D. Howell, State Senator, Reston

Mamie E. Locke, State Senator, Hampton

Jennifer L. McClellan, State Delegate, Richmond

Policy

Goals for education | Monitoring state policies

Monitoring, measuring and reporting through comparative and state-specific reports to assist education leaders and policymakers as they shape public policy in education. SREB tracks trends and analyzes the progress of all 16 SREB states in each area in the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education and provides Legislative Reports that detail legislative and budget actions in each state.

Virginia information is included in all reports, as applicable, and several are targeted specifically for Virginia. 2014 reports:

Virginia: Taking Stock and Moving Forward

2014 State Progress Report on the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education

High School to College and Careers, 2014

The ACT and SAT: No Longer Just College Admission Tests

SREB States Transform School Accountability with NCLB Waivers, 2014

Workforce Development in SREB States: The Role of Two-Year Colleges in Preparing Students for Middle-Skill Jobs

Focus on Compulsory Attendance Policies: About Age or Intervention?

Notes on School Finance: Selected Information on Funding for Low-Income Students in SREB States

Legislative Reports and Legislative Briefing

More information: Joan.Lord@SREB.org or Jeff.Gagne@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211

College and career readiness

Intensive work to help states implement essential components of SREB's recommendations for statewide college and career readiness.

1. Adopt statewide readiness standards for literacy and mathematics skills.
2. Assess high school juniors to determine their progress toward the standards.
3. Offer transitional readiness courses. Require juniors assessed as underprepared to take the courses in 11th or 12th grade.
4. Apply the standards in deciding whether students need learning support after admission to college.
5. Hold schools accountable for increasing postsecondary readiness.

Virginia has made good progress in implementing the college- and career-readiness recommendations.

More information: Dave.Spence@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Readiness

Benchmarking State Implementation of College- and Career-Readiness Standards

Tracks and reports state progress on how states are implementing college- and career-readiness standards.

SREB launched a new phase of benchmarking in February 2015. In this work, SREB tracks and will report on implementation of standards and related reforms in **all 16 SREB** states.

More information: Kim.Anderson@SREB.org | (404) 775-9366 | SREB.org/1600

English Learners

Conference on preparing English language learners for college and career, co-hosted in May 2014 by SREB, the National Council on La Raza and the Hunt Institute.

Virginia sent a team to the conference. A **fact sheet for Virginia** includes population trends; state and federal policies; and programs, standards and assessments for English learners.

More information: Dave.Spence@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1785

Educator effectiveness

Helps states create policies that support teacher effectiveness so students learn more in the classroom. SREB staff work with policymakers and state agencies in all member states to help them translate current research on what works into evaluation systems that create an environment where teaching improves.

Representatives from Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia engaged with SREB staff during a webinar on equitable access to excellent teachers, sponsored by the Appalachian Regional Education laboratory in March.

The educator effectiveness team refreshed the **educator effectiveness Bill Tracker** in January 2015, which allows Virginia policymakers to track bills across eight topics including teacher preparation, evaluation and professional learning.

Staff presented on **educator evaluation** at SREB's Legislative Advisory Council meeting in December 2014.

The team released the **Elements of Evaluation interactive database** in October 2014, which allows Virginia policymakers to explore policies across 16 states on classroom observations, student growth measures and professional learning systems.

More than 1,000 policymakers and practitioners across the 16 SREB states receive the bi-weekly educator effectiveness e-newsletter.

The SREB educator effectiveness team provided technical assistance, brokered expertise and provided policy and practice resources to Virginia:

- SREB Board and LAC members
- State legislators and legislative staff
- Governor's staff
- State education agency staff
- District superintendents
- School principals
- Teachers

More information: Andy.Baxter@SREB.org | (704) 247-7497 | SREB.org/EE

Early childhood education

SREB Early Childhood Commission

Convenes leaders to recommend policies that will give more young children a solid start when they enter school. The Commission's focus is on access to high-quality programs and the importance of highly skilled teachers to young children's learning experiences. The Commission will present draft recommendations for the SREB Board to consider in summer 2015, and will publish its report later in 2015.

Virginia members of the Commission:

Janet Howell, State Senator

Jennifer McClellan, State Delegate

More information: Mark.Emblidge@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/EarlyLearning

Career and technical education

State Leaders' Forum

A forum for state education leaders and policymakers to consider policies and leadership to create and sustain quality career-technical education. Co-sponsored with the State Consortium for Improving High School Career and Technical Studies.

Virginia attendees at the 2014 State Leaders' Forum: **1**

SREB Commission on Career and Technical Education

Explored how optional career pathway programs of study can help more students acquire the academic and technical knowledge and skills needed to earn industry and postsecondary credentials and degrees to secure high-skill, high-wage, high-demand jobs.

The Commission's final report, *Credentials for All: An Imperative for SREB States*, offers states policies and practices to build high-quality career pathways that transform their educational systems, increase postsecondary credential and degree attainment, and ensure their future economic security.

Virginia members of the Commission:

Elizabeth Creamer, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Career Pathways and Workforce Programs, Virginia Community College System

Sharon Morrissey, Vice Chancellor for Academic Services and Research, Virginia Community College System

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/CTECommission

Postsecondary education

Two commissions carried SREB's completion initiative into the states in 2014 and 2015 with strong emphasis on readiness and pathways for community colleges and affordability for all students. Building on the success of 2011-14 regional working groups of legislators to vet issues and craft recommendations, both commissions included Board and Legislative Advisory Council members and other key policymakers in the states.

SREB Community College Commission

Charged with recommending statewide strategies to strengthen the role of community and technical colleges in raising educational attainment in Southern states.

Virginia member of the Commission:

Glenn DuBois, Chancellor, Virginia Community College System

More information: Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/CommunityColleges

SREB Commission on College Affordability in the South

Charged with recommending postsecondary policies that lead with the need for affordability and adjust institutional appropriations, student aid and tuition policies accordingly.

Virginia member of the Commission:

Peter Blake, Director, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

More information: Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Affordability

State Services

Connects policymakers with custom information, presentations and assistance on education issues as they arise.

Custom information by request of Virginia policymakers and staff:

Parent: Academic Common Market

Governor's staff: about SREB

More information: Gale.Gaines@SREB.org | (404) 879-5582 | SREB.org/StateServices

Professional Development for Teachers, Principals and Counselors

High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference

Annual conference for thousands of school leaders, teachers and counselors from middle grades, high schools and technology centers across the country. The July 2015 conference will be held in Atlanta.

Virginia attendees at the July 2014 summer conference: **45**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/SummerConference

College- and Career-Readiness Standards Networking Conference

Conference on the proven strategies of the Literacy and Mathematics Design Collaborative frameworks. More than 1,200 teachers and leaders attended the first conference in July 2014 to collaborate and share effective instructional strategies. This year's conference will be held in Atlanta, July 13-15.

Virginia attendees at the July 2014 networking conference: **11**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/1615

National Professional Development Workshops

Intensive two- to three-day workshops that address current priorities for school improvement. Attendees leave with a plan of action for their schools. During the 2014-15 school year, SREB offered the Aligning High Schools and Middle Grades With Emerging Priorities for College and Career Readiness workshop and the National Technology Centers That Work Leaders' Forum.

Virginia teachers, counselors and leaders who participated: **2**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/PD

High School and Middle Grades Improvement

SREB Readiness Courses

Math Ready and Literacy Ready

Ready for postsecondary study

SREB courses that teach the reading, writing and mathematics skills young adults must have to succeed in college study and the workplace after high school — how to think independently, read for information and solve problems. Developed by teams of educators and faculty from partner states around the nation, they are being field tested in several states and are available at no cost.

Virginia participated in earlier transitional course activities, developing Capstone courses that are offered in some districts across the state.

More information: John.Squires@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Ready

High Schools That Work

Helps states transform public high schools into places where all students learn at high levels and complete at higher rates. Reforms create career pathway roadmaps for college and career readiness to meet regional and state workforce needs. HSTW serves more than 1,350 schools in 30 states. Schools receive services through membership in the HSTW state network or through contracts for intensive, customized support.

HSTW State Network

Member states select schools to receive services. The fee for state membership in the consortium covers several services and visits.

Virginia is a member of the High Schools That Work state network, in which **10 schools** were active in 2013-14.

Lolita Hall, State Director Career Technical Education, Virginia Department of Education, serves on the HSTW Board.

Joseph Wharff, Office of Career and Technical Education, Virginia Department of Education, is the HSTW State Coordinator.

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/HSTW

Contracts for Direct Support

Schools, districts and states contract with SREB for targeted school improvement services such as on-site coaching, technical assistance and professional development.

In Virginia in 2014-15, **four Governor's STEM Academy Schools** are participating in ongoing professional development from SREB to develop authentic STEM projects. The schools will receive eight days of professional development support in this first year of a three-year effort to develop project-based learning units.

SREB provided the keynote speaker to the **Virginia Career Technical Administrators conference**. SREB staff will work with **Pulaski County** to review current career and technical education programs and determine potential Advanced Career programs for adoption.

More information: Cindy.VanBuren@SREB.org | (803) 984-5986 | SREB.org/HSTW

HSTW Assessment

Subject tests, along with student and teacher surveys to establish baseline data, track progress and identify areas for improvement.

One Virginia high school participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment.

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/HSTW

Special Board Meeting

SREB's High Schools That Work initiative held a special board meeting in March devoted to strengthening the HSTW instructional design to build college and career pathways that link high schools, workplace learning, and community and technical colleges. The goal is to increase the percentage of young people who earn a credible credential by age 25.

Making Middle Grades Work

Engages state, district and school leaders in partnerships with teachers, students, parents and the community to raise student achievement in the middle grades. The network includes 663 schools in 20 states.

In Virginia, **six schools** were served through the network during 2014-15. **One school** contracted with SREB for direct services through MMGW. SREB delivered **two days** of on-site coaching and **four days** of on-site professional development.

One school participated in the 2014 MMGW Teacher Survey or the MMGW Student Survey, which measures student perceptions of school and classroom practices.

More information: Deborah.Bass@SREB.org | (404) 788-1235 | SREB.org/MMGW

Technology Centers That Work

Helps shared-time centers produce high-demand, high-wage graduates. SREB provides staff development, technical assistance, publications and assessment services. The network includes almost 200 sites in 18 states.

One Virginia center was active in the TCTW network in 2014-15.

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org or Lynda.Jackson@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/TCTW

Higher Education Programs and Services

Tuition savings, access to uncommon degrees

Academic Common Market

Provides in-state tuition access to degree programs not available in a student's home state. Approximately 2,500 new students participate each year in 1,900 programs at 150 institutions.

Participating Virginia students, calendar year 2014: **605**

Virginia ACM Representative:

Darlene Derricott, Director of Academic Services, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

A Virginia representative attended the 2015 Academic Common Market annual meeting webinar.

Electronic Campus

Partners with colleges and universities to give students access to almost 37,000 online courses and more than 3,400 online degree programs.

Programs provided by Virginia institutions as of April 2015: **74**

Virginia EC Representative:

Darlene Derricott, Director of Academic Services, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Virginia representatives attended the 2014 Electronic Campus Annual Meeting.

SREB Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement

*Allows institutions to be authorized by their home state to eliminate the need for individual approvals in SREB states where they serve students online. SREB states opt in to SECRRA. A new, nationwide system of reciprocity — SARA, or the **State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement** — will open more high-quality online offerings for students and ease regulatory burdens on institutions.*

Virginia was **one of the first three SREB states approved** as a member of SARA, in October 2014. Virginia will have a representative on the SREB SARA Steering Committee. Virginia participates in SECRRA.

Virginia SARA Representative:

Joe DeFilippo, Director of Academic Affairs and Planning, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

More information: Mary.Larson@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1083

Comparative data

SREB-State Data Exchange

Collects, compiles and publishes data and descriptive statistics on postsecondary education. Data are updated annually on a wide range of policy topics: degree and certificate completion, student persistence and progression, time- and credits-to-degree, student credit hours (including those taken in high school), tuition and fee levels and policies, and faculty salaries. Postsecondary agencies in each SREB state participate and appoint coordinators.

Participating agency and 2015-16 Data Exchange Coordinator:

Tod R. Massa, Director, Policy Research and Data Warehousing
State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

SREB Fact Book on Higher Education

One of the nation's most comprehensive collections of comparative data. The Fact Book keeps policymakers informed with trend data for all 50 states on the population and the economy, college enrollment, degrees awarded, tuition and fees, student financial aid and cost of attendance, faculty and administrators, as well as revenue and expenditures, including state appropriations. Fact Book tables are updated regularly at SREB.org/Data.

Virginia leaders receive the annual **SREB-State Data Exchange Indicators Report**, the **SREB Fact Book on Higher Education**, as well as **Virginia: Featured Facts from the SREB Fact Book on Higher Education**, **Fact Book Bulletins** and special reports.

More information: Susan.Lounsbury@SREB.org | (404) 879-5546 | SREB.org/Data

Nursing education

Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing

Helps expand and strengthen schools of nursing to reduce the critical shortage of nurse educators needed to educate the nation's registered nurses. The Council surveys institutions for nursing education trends and shares online graduate nursing courses.

In Virginia, **six institutions** participate in the Council

Representatives from each institution, with leadership positions on the Council:

George Mason University: Carol Urban, Dean

Hampton University: Deborah Jones, Dean

Old Dominion University: Karen Karlowiez; SREB Nursing Council: Chair, Nominating Committee

Shenandoah University: Kathryn Ganske, Dean

University of Virginia: Dorrie Fontaine, Dean; SREB Nursing Council: Government Relations Committee

Virginia Commonwealth University: Jean Giddens, Dean

More information: Eula.Aiken@SREB.org | (404) 879-5567 | SREB.org/Nursing

Minority Ph.D. scholars

SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program

Supports minority students to help them earn their Ph.D.s and seek employment that helps colleges and universities diversify their faculties. The Doctoral Scholars Program hosts the annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, the nation's largest gathering of minority doctoral scholars — with more than 1,200 attendees.

Scholars funded by Virginia in 2014-15: **9**

2013 Institute attendees from Virginia: **46**

Scholars Virginia has supported since joining in 1993: **111**

Graduates since 1996: **71**

Graduates currently employed: **65**

Percent employed in education: **66**

Virginia-supported students have attended these institutions since 1993:

College of William and Mary

North Carolina A & T State University

University of Pennsylvania

University of Richmond

Virginia Commonwealth University

George Mason University

Old Dominion University

University of Pittsburgh

University of Virginia

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Doctoral Scholars Program Regional Advisory Committee Representative:

Lee Andes, Assistant Director for Financial Aid, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

More information: Ansley.Abraham@SREB.org | (404) 879-5573 | SREB.org/DoctoralScholars

Interstate Cooperatives

Technology Purchasing Savings

Schools, universities and agencies in SREB states saved 3 percent to 18 percent on \$17 million in technology purchases during fiscal year 2014 through SREB's participation in MHECtech discount agreements. Organizations in each of the 16 SREB states participated.

Virginia technology purchases, FY 2014: **\$1,263,800**

More information: Camille.Martin@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1697

The Southern Regional Education Board was created in 1948 by Southern governors and legislators who recognized the link between education and economic vitality. To this day, the organization maintains its focus on critical issues that hold the promise of improving quality of life by advancing public education. The region's track record shows that setting goals and maintaining the commitment to work toward them make a difference.