

Virtual Learning Advisory Committee (VLAC) Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 10, 2025
1:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. – Virtual Meeting via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 1:00PM with a welcome from Reggie Fox, VDOE Office of Innovation staff and providing the agenda for the day's discussions and activities. Mr. Fox organized introductions by regions and agencies represented on the committee. Calypso Gilstrap, Office of Innovation Executive Director outlined the primary objectives of the meeting, ensuring all participants understand the goals and expected outcomes and discussed the potential need for expanding the committee with members and designees.

Dr. Mervin B. Daughtery, Region I, Chesterfield County Schools [absent]

(Designee: Mr. Ernest Longworth)

Dr. Raymond L. Haynes, Region II, Hampton City Schools [absent]

(Designees: Ms. Beth Wygant and Belinda Flucker)

Dr. Bernard Trey Davis, Region III, Richmond County Public Schools

Dr. Tanya McDade, Region IV, Prince William Public Schools [absent]

(Designee: Mr. AJ Phillips)

Dr. Eric Irizarry, Region V, Staunton Public Schools [absent]

(Designee: Mr. Greg Hill)

Dr. Jason Wheeler, Region VI, Craig County Schools

Dr. Robert Graham, Region VII, Pulaski County Public Schools

(Designee: Mr. Lincoln Whitaker)

Mr. Robbie W. Mason, Region VIII, Charlotte County Public Schools

(Designee: Ms. Karen Thompson) [absent]

Ms. Megan Gordon, Virginia School Boards Association

Ms. Amy Griffin, Executive Director, Virginia Association of School Superintendents

Mr. Elmer Seward, Vice President of Digital Learning, WHRO

Dr. Brian Mott, Executive Director of Virtual VA

VDOE participants:

Mr. Dewayne J. McClary, Deputy Superintendent of Innovation, Student Pathways, and Opportunities

Ms. Calypso Gilstrap, Executive Director, Office of Innovation

Mr. Reggie Fox, Educational Technology Specialist

Mr. Dewayne J. McClary, VDOE Deputy Superintendent of Innovation, Student Pathways, and Opportunities provided remarks.

Mr. Fox indicated that the Annual Report on the Conditions and Needs of Public Schools in Virginia is submitted to the Governor, which is required by the Code of Virginia. The report includes school divisions' compliance with the Standards of Quality, an analysis of school division reporting requirements, and other statutory requirements. Data is gathered through VDOE on courses, enrollment, and assessment data. MOP and Virtual VA provide information on course pass rates, participation, and survey results from students, parents, and school staff.

Another report was shared from SETDA – the State Educational Technology Directors Association completed the State EdTech Trends Survey and Report. Artificial intelligence is

the top initiative and priority reported by stakeholders. As classrooms evolve, AI becomes a bridge—not a replacement—for human connection and learning. It empowers educators, uplifts students, and prepares the next generation for a world where technology and people work together. In addition, Virginia is using its \$1.35M Advancing Computer Science Education grant to support AI integration in K-12. The grant can fund a wide range of eligible activities: from AI-specific professional development and robotics that integrate AI, to preparation for Advanced Placement (AP and International Baccalaureate (IB) CS courses and expanding student access to computer science through Virtual Virginia.

Dr. Brian Mott presented updates and developments related to Virtual Virginia programs, data, and plans for summer. Dr. Mott provided background on each program K-12 Instruction, Summer Session, Statewide LMS and Professional Learning. Enrollment data was reviewed for programs. Survey information was supplied from K-12 students and parents. Highlights from the summer program/two cohorts. The statewide LMS is available to VA public schools at no cost. Professional learning courses are provided for teachers and administrators.

Calypso Gilstrap provided an overview of proposed enhancements to the Multidivision Online Provider (MOP) program. The revised process is intentionally aligned with the Board of Education's 2024–2029 Comprehensive Plan, reinforcing the commonwealth's commitment to access, innovation, and accountability. It expands access to high-quality virtual instruction for all students, including those in nontraditional settings, and supports innovative instructional models that reflect the evolving needs of today's learners. Annual monitoring and clearly defined revocation procedures strengthen oversight, while transparency requirements ensure families and divisions can make informed decisions. The process also brings clarity through formalized timelines, review structures, and appeals procedures. Importantly, it supports workforce readiness by aligning virtual instruction with Virginia's Standards of Learning and Career and Technical Education (CTE) competencies, helping to prepare students for success in military, college, careers, and beyond. A definition and additional expectations were reviewed with the committee. It is anticipated to present information to the BOE in December.

Mr. Fox reflected on the information presented to this point about virtual learning. The committee engaged in a virtual learning scenario and discussion to determine responsibilities and actions presented by the leaders and school officials.

In the Spring meeting the committee began a discussion about legislation and now law in the Code of Virginia: *The Department shall develop and post on its official website guidelines and information relating to virtual learning, including (i) statewide policies relating to virtual learning, (ii) the availability of online or virtual learning options and pertinent information on such options, and (iii) guidelines for educators and schools relating to online or virtual learning policies and best practices. In addition, the Department shall provide for the guidelines to allow dissemination to each school board for distribution to parents. B Updated annually*

What is the definition of virtual learning during remote learning days? *Personalized learning vs. remote learning as affecting the entire community, flexibility, planned or strategic, remote – unplanned remote learning day; Planned remote learning day for the unplanned remote learning day.*

To help VDOE prepare to fulfill the requirements of this law, we will continue the discussion of: *VDOE considerations for learning during unscheduled & scheduled remote learning days*. Please respond to the questions related to continuation of learning through unscheduled and scheduled remote learning days.

1. In what ways are you preparing for unscheduled or scheduled remote learning days?
2. If we are providing guidance, what are the major categories or topics to be addressed?

Discussion included communication to all stakeholders, providing LMS and expectations from the school division ensuring that teachers, students, and families understand their responsibilities to meet the requirements during remote learning days.

Mr. Fox shared that VDOE would like to identify examples of how school divisions are preparing for and implementing unscheduled and scheduled remote learning days. A video example was shared from Nelson County School Division as posted on their website.

Mr. Fox asked the committee to consider sharing more information about the topics for the fall virtual meeting (consider the week of April 27-May 1, 2026). Additional information will be emailed about the topics: Virtual Learning Resources, Remote Learning Plans related to virtual learning, and AI Implementation.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30PM.