

VIRGINIA COALITION FOR FINE ARTS EDUCATION

January 20, 2012

LEGISLATIVE ALERT!!!!!!

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUESTED

The VCFAE is requesting immediate response to legislation to appear before the Senate Public Education Sub-committee, **Monday, January 23, 2012**. The Public Education Sub-committee meets 30 minutes after the close of the Monday session of the General Assembly.

The bill in question is **S.B. 256**, addressing **DAILY physical ACTIVITY in schools, K-12**. Please read the excerpt from the full text version of the bill below.

Talking points are provided following the bill. Please contact your senator, particularly members of the Senate Public Education Sub-committee and members of the Senate Committee on Education and Health. Members of these committees are posted on the VCFAE website:

<http://www.vaea.org/coalition.html>

Senate Bill S.B. 256. New information is in italics. Eliminated information is struck through.

SENATE BILL NO. 256

Offered January 11, 2012

Prefiled January 10, 2012

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-253.13:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to physical activity in schools.

Patron-- Miller, J.C.

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-253.13:1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

14. A program of *daily physical-~~fitness~~ activity* available to all students ~~with a goal in grades kindergarten through 12 consisting of at least 150 minutes per week on average 30 minutes per day~~ during the regular school year. Such program may include any combination of (i) physical education classes, (ii) extracurricular athletics, or (iii) other programs and physical activities deemed appropriate by the local school board. ~~Each local school board shall incorporate into its local wellness policy a goal for the implementation of such program during the regular school year.~~

We are calling your attention to the following issues related to this legislation:

1. While we believe the value of students developing a lifelong enjoyment of physical fitness is important, our hope would be that a broader range of options would assist students in finding ways of maintaining healthy lifestyles they could sustain. A lifelong commitment to exercise and other ways of meeting those human needs is based on individual choice of physical activities.
2. The VCFAE opposes legislation that requires a daily physical activity time requirement during the school day. The proposed legislation for physical activity (SB 256), which requires an additional 30 minutes of daily minutes of participation in physical activities, will likely create scheduling issues, a need for additional staff, and would create facilities and equipment issues resulting in significant financial implications for school divisions at a time when meeting current needs is challenging. The result is an unfunded mandate.
3. The additional minutes required in SB 256 will directly impact the ability to meet elementary art and music SOL's and would create substantial scheduling difficulties for those classes.
4. Additional time requirements could impinge student's ability to prepare for careers, through sequential courses, and their preparation for post-secondary study or career pathways, in all advanced elective studies.

Your continued support of fine arts instruction is much appreciated. Offering of fine arts and other electives benefits all students. Thank you for your consideration.

Contact: Stephen E. King, Ed. D., Chair
Virginia Coalition for Fine Arts Education
5250 Keffer Road
Catawba, VA 24070
(540) 384-7449
seking42@verizon.net