



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
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January 10, 2012

Dr. Patricia Wright  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Virginia Department of Education  
James Monroe Building  
101 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

**Re: Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (8 VAC 20-131)**

Dear Dr. Wright:

You ask whether the Department Education possesses the requisite authority to promulgate the above-referenced regulations.

I find that Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-253.13:3 requires the Department of Education (Department) to "promulgate regulations establishing standards of accreditation." I also find that the proposed regulations are consistent with the statutory grant of authority to promulgate them and are internally consistent. The proposed regulations do not appear to run afoul of state or federal statutes. I further find that the proposed regulations have no Constitutional defect.

The foregoing represents my view as your legal counsel but is not an official Opinion of the Attorney General. If you require additional assistance on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Jake A. Belue  
Assistant Attorney General