



## **Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget**

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**8 VAC 20-160 – Regulations Governing Secondary School Transcripts**  
**Department of Education**  
July 26, 2006

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### **Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation**

The Regulations Governing Secondary School Transcripts provide definitions, format options for transcripts and profile data sheets, and the elements for weighting courses. The Board of Education (board) proposes to update these regulations.

The board proposes: 1) changes to the definitions section to ensure that terms are defined in the same manner as other board regulations, 2) changes to the effective date section of the regulations, 3) revisions to the requirements to ensure that school divisions include type of diploma and career and technical industry certification on the student's secondary school transcript, 4) revisions to the requirements to ensure that the different types of diplomas are reflected, but that the inclusion of the information does not violate the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 5) changes to the requirement regarding a student's rank in class to reflect whether the school or program chooses to rank students, 6) changes to the sections concerning advanced-level courses and the elements of weighting courses to ensure that they comport with other state requirements, and 7) changes from a local student identification number to a state student testing identifier so that data can be collected and analyzed on students from grades PK-16.

### **Result of Analysis**

The benefits likely exceed the costs for all proposed changes.

### **Estimated Economic Impact**

The proposed changes to the definitions section to ensure that terms are defined in the same manner as other board regulations is beneficial in that localities and the public will be less

likely to be confused by similar terms being used to indicate different concepts. Changing the effective date of the regulations as applying starting with “students, who take secondary courses for credit in 2007-2008” can perhaps be beneficial in that it allows local school divisions some time to adjust to the new required format.

To the extent that some local school divisions may not have included all such relevant information on transcripts, the proposed revisions to the requirements to ensure that school divisions include type of diploma and career and technical industry certification on the student’s secondary school transcript can potentially be significantly beneficial for students who, for example, earn a technical industry certification in high school. Having such a certification indicated on their transcripts could be potentially useful in the labor market.

The proposal to require that the state student testing identifier be used rather than a local student identification number will in the long run provide significant benefits. Compared to some other states, Virginia policymakers have had less-detailed information concerning student performance and attributes available to use for analysis. The development of a consistent dataset on student performance and attributes statewide will permit better analysis to be performed. Better information can potentially be used to better evaluate state programs and the status of education in the state.

## **Businesses and Entities Affected**

The proposed regulations affect the Commonwealth’s 132 school divisions, their staff, and students.

## **Localities Particularly Affected**

The proposed regulations affect all Virginia localities.

## **Projected Impact on Employment**

In the short run the proposed amendments may have a small beneficial effect on employment in that employers will be better able to verify some achievements by students such as industry certification credentials. In the long run policymakers will have better data upon which to make decisions. This could potentially result in better education in the long term, resulting in improved labor skills and work opportunities.

## **Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property**

Some employers may find it less costly to ascertain applicant qualifications due to the proposed improvement of information on secondary school transcripts.

## **Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects**

Some small businesses may find it less costly to ascertain applicant qualifications due to the proposed improvement of information on secondary school transcripts.

## **Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact**

The proposed amendments do not produce adverse impact.

## **Legal Mandate**

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.H of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 21 (02). Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. Further, if the proposed regulation has adverse effect on small businesses, Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include (i) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation; (ii) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents; (iii) a statement of the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses; and (iv) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the regulation. The analysis presented above represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.