



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

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**8 VAC 20-730 – Regulations Governing Unexcused Absences and Truancy**  
**Department of Education**  
March 5, 2013

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

The Code of Virginia includes required procedures for intervening with students who have unexcused absences and required truancy data collection and reporting. The Board of Education proposes these regulations to provide: 1) clarifying definitions to help ensure consistency in reported data across school divisions and improved understanding of required truancy procedures, 2) recommended options for satisfying the required procedures for intervening with students who have unexcused absences, and 3) further specificity of the required truancy data.

### **Result of Analysis**

The benefits likely exceed the costs for all proposed changes.

### **Estimated Economic Impact**

Code of Virginia Section § 22.1-258 requires each school division to create an attendance plan for any student with five unexcused absences and to schedule a conference with parents after the sixth unexcused absence ... upon the next unexcused absence by such pupil, the school attendance officer shall enforce compulsory attendance by “(i) filing a complaint with the juvenile and domestic relations court alleging the pupil is a child in need of supervision as defined in § 16.1-288 or (ii) instituting proceedings against the parent pursuant to § 18.2-371 or § 22.1-262....” Further, Section § 22.1-260.B requires that “At the end of each school year, each public school principal shall report to the division superintendent the number of students by grade level for whom a conference was scheduled as required by § 22.1-258. The division

superintendent shall compile such grade level information for the division and provide such information to the Superintendent of Public Instruction annually.”

According to the Department of Education (Department), there has been some uncertainty of the options available to local school divisions in satisfying the required procedures for intervening with students who have unexcused absences. Additionally, there has been inconsistency in the truancy data reported by school divisions. The proposed clarifying definitions and listing of recommended options produce no cost and will likely produce some benefit in addressing the problem of truancy. The proposed additional specificity of truancy data to be reported will be beneficial in that it will likely produce more consistent and accurate information for use by analysts and policymakers. It may require a very small addition in staff time for some school divisions; but this potential very small cost would likely be significantly smaller than the benefit of having more accurate and consistent data.

### **Businesses and Entities Affected**

The proposed amendments affect the 132 public school divisions in the Commonwealth.

### **Localities Particularly Affected**

The proposed amendments do not disproportionately affect particular localities.

### **Projected Impact on Employment**

The proposal amendments are unlikely to significantly affect employment.

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

The proposed amendments are unlikely to significantly affect the use and value of private property.

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

The proposed amendments are unlikely to significantly affect small businesses.

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

The proposed amendments are unlikely to significantly affect small businesses.

## **Real Estate Development Costs**

The proposed amendments are unlikely to significantly affect real estate development costs.

## **Legal Mandate**

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.04 of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 14 (10). Section 2.2-4007.04 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 2.2-4007.04 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.