



CAPITOL ISSUES March 16, 2026

2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By David Ellena, Ed.D., VASSP Director of Government Relations

The 2026 General Assembly session has adjourned *sine die*, meaning it has concluded with no set date to reconvene. There was a flurry of activity as the session drew to a close, along with some notable developments in the biennial budget process. The House and Senate were unable to agree on a budget bill. As a result, a special session will be convened, and the two budget bills will go “into conference.” This means that representatives from both chambers will meet to negotiate the differences between their respective budget proposals.

Below are several articles that provide additional information on the budget process.

- [Virginia lawmakers leave Richmond without budget; special session set for April 23](#)
- [\\$2B data center tax break fight pushes Virginia budget negotiations](#)
- [General Assembly adjourns without budget, will return April 23](#)
- [10 things to know about the General Assembly that just ended - Cardinal News](#)
- [Virginia Democrats Fail to Reach Compromise on Data Center Tax Exemption - Inside Climate News](#)
- [Virginia lawmakers wrap session with debate over affordability, limited bipartisan wins](#)

Regarding the bills sent to the Governor’s desk, some include positive developments for school administrators, while others require your attention. Here is a list of bills that VASSP has monitored throughout the course of the session.

Bills Supported by VASSP

[HB125](#)-this bill requires teachers to be notified of non-renewal prior to June 15 of each school year.

[HB195](#)-this bill provides some flexibility for schools and divisions to use At Risk Funds for student mental health, including the hiring of school nurses.

[HB253](#)-this bill enters Virginia into the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact, which will make it easier for teachers moving into the Commonwealth to gain licensure.

[HB332](#)-this bill allows a person to receive a three-year license to teach solely career and technical education courses or dual enrollment courses at public high schools.

[HB478](#)-this bill creates a diploma seal for fine arts.

[HB1283](#)-this bill states that there can be no changes to high school cohorts graduation requirements after their ninth-grade year.

[SB203](#)-this bill is identical to HB332

[SB450](#)-this bill provides additional pathways to teacher licensure.

Legislation That May Affect School Administrators

[HB38](#)-this bill requires mental health training for school personnel.

[HB182](#)-this bill allows for African American Studies to replace certain classes for graduation requirements.

[HB201](#)-this bill requires school to notify parents, in a separate communication, and provide them with information on the safe storage of prescription drugs and firearms.

[HB298](#)-this bill requires administrators to CONSIDER restorative justice practices prior to a suspension.

[HB355](#)-this bill initially would have required mental health screening for secondary students. It was altered to have DOE provide guidance and best practices for mental health screening.

[HB462](#)-this bill adds instruction on health care and health insurance to the Physical Education and Health curriculum. It will be added the next time the curriculum is revised.

[HB1301](#)-requires diabetes training and care for certain school employees.

[SB108](#)-this prohibits cell phone use by students from bell to bell.

[SB109](#)-identical to HB201.

[SB264](#)-could have an impact on the development of a student individualized education program (IEP).

[SB427](#)-identical to HB182.

Please try to find some time and peruse the bills listed. You will find the complete list of House bills and their status [HERE](#). The complete list of Senate bills is [HERE](#). Visit [Virginia's Legislative Information System](#) to read the history of any bill or resolution, all amendments, and the text of the legislation. In reviewing these bills, please do not hesitate to share with me your thoughts or ask any questions about the legislation. I can be contacted at dellena@vassp.org. *Thank you!*



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There will be a session dedicated to the actions of the General Assembly and the effects on school administrators during the School Law Clinic at the **98th Annual Virginia Middle and High School Principals Conference & Exposition** at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Williamsburg, June 22- 25, 2026.



To register for the annul conference
click [HERE](#).