



## CAPITOL ISSUES February 13, 2026

### 2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

The halfway point of the session is next week. Crossover Day is February 18th. You can find more information on how the process of creating a law works by clicking [HERE](#). At this point in time, all of the House subcommittees and Committees have finished their work. They have reviewed all of the education bills and taken action on them. The Senate Subcommittee and Committee still have meetings scheduled for next week.

Here are some developments on bills that VASSP is closely monitoring.

#### House Bills

[HB38](#)-this bill would require mental health training for school staff. It has passed the House and will go to the Senate.

[HB132](#)-this bill deals with IB students who transfer into a new school after their sophomore year. VASSP originally flagged this as a bill with concerns, but after further study this is a bill that we can support. It has been incorporated into HB595, a similar bill.

[HB138](#)-this bill would have required that each high school hire a career coach. It passed the house and was referred to Appropriations, where it was tabled.

[HB182](#)-this bill would allow African American Studies to replace World History I or World Geography. VASSP did not take a position on this bill. It has passed the House.

[HB201](#)-this bill will require schools to notify parents about the safe storage of prescription medications and firearms. It must be in a separate communication and not part of any other communication. It has passed the House.

[HB298](#)-this bill deals with restorative justice practices. Originally, it would have required administrators to implement at least one restorative justice practice before suspension, acceptin certain circumstances. VASSP worked diligently to oppose this bill. The patron did

change the language, so that it is no longer required, it just has to be considered. It has passed the House.

[HB355](#)-this bill would require mental health screening for students in grades 6-12. It has passed the House. VASSP still has some concerns with this bill, but the language has been adjusted to make it more palatable.

[HB462](#)-this bill would make it mandatory to include instruction on health care and health insurance in the health curriculum. The bill had a substitute that would put the responsibility on the DOE to incorporate this curriculum into the Health curriculum the next time it revises it.

[HB532](#)-Sage's Law. This bill has been introduced in the past two sessions. It was tabled during the Committee meeting.

[HB941](#)-this bill would have required all high school students to receive hands-on bleeding control as a graduation requirement. It was tabled in Committee.

[HB1242](#)-this bill would require students to participate in sports or intramurals based on their biological sex. It was tabled in Subcommittee.

### **Senate Bills**

[SB63](#)-similar to HB132. It has passed the Senate.

[SB108](#)-this bill would prohibit student cell phone and smart device possession and use on school property from bell to bell. It has passed the Senate.

[SB109](#)-identical to HB201. It has passed the Senate.

[SB265](#)-this would make aggravated bullying and cyberbullying a class 1 misdemeanor. It has passed the Senate and been referred to Courts of Justice.

[SB427](#)-similar to HB182. It has passed the Senate and been referred to Appropriations.

[SB491](#)-this bill would make it illegal to discriminate against a student based on their immigration status. It has passed the Senate and been referred to Appropriations.

[SB563](#)-this bill would have allowed parents to opt out of any instruction that they deemed inappropriate for their child. It has been passed by indefinitely.

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](#). Tuesday, February 17th is the last day for bills to be acted upon in their chambers of origin, other than the budget bills. Bills must "cross over" to the opposite chamber by Wednesday, February 18. 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 proposed legislation. I can be contacted at [dellena@vassp.org](mailto: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 98<sup>th</sup> 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](#).