



CAPITOL ISSUES February 20, 2026

2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

The 2026 General Assembly Session has reached Crossover Day. On February 18, the bills that have passed each chamber are sent to the opposite chamber for approval. During this week, there is usually a flurry of activity early in the week, then things are pretty quiet until the week after Crossover Day. This session was no exception. Here are some articles discussing the progress of the General Assembly thus far.

- [Crossover marks midpoint of session | State News | cbs19news.com](#)
- [Virginia General Assembly crossover day sends key House measures to Senate](#)
- [Crossover Update from Virginia's 2026 General Assembly Session](#)
- [2026 General Assembly Crossover Update](#)
- [Virginia lawmakers see Crossover Day differently at the General Assembly](#)
- [What's alive and what's dead at the Virginia General Assembly's 2026 midway point | State | loudountimes.com](#)

Here is an update on some of the important bills that VASSP is following and their status at Crossover Day.

House Bills

[HB182](#)-this bill would allow African American Studies to replace World History I or World Geography. VASSP does not have any concerns with this bill. It has passed the House.

[HB359](#)-this bill would regulate how monies are spent at private elementary and secondary schools. It has been continued to the 2027 session.

[HB362](#)-this bill would have required printed textbooks as the primary source of instructional material. It has been continued to the 2027 session.

[HB410](#)-this bill would have required that high schools participate in the SAT Day program, providing opportunities for seniors and juniors to take the SAT during the school day. It has been tabled.

[HB428](#)-this bill would have set up different standards for students with an IEP to receive a standard diploma. It has been continued to the 2027 session.

[HB534](#)-this bill would have allowed a letter by a licensed teacher to verify homeschooled student progress. It has been tabled.

[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.

Senate Bills

[SB4](#)-this bill would have provided free breakfast for all students. It has been continued to the 2027 session.

[SB90](#)-this bill would have provided funds for at risk students prevention, intervention, or remediation. It has been continued to the 2026 session.

[SB102](#)-this bill would have allowed school divisions to create programs for dual enrollment purposes for health care careers (certified nurse aide, emergency medical technician, or firefighter). It has been continued to the 2027 session.

[SB147](#)-this bill would have created a report on the development, approval, and implementation of alternative graduation pathways to earn a Standard Diploma. It has been continued to the 2027 session.

[SB234](#)-this bill would have expanded requirements set forth in current law relating to bullying prevention, response, and intervention in public schools. It was passed by indefinitely.

[SB265](#)-this bill would have made it a Class 1 misdemeanor to commit an act of aggravated bullying or aggravated cyberbullying, as defined in the bill, against any student enrolled in any elementary or secondary school or institution of higher education. It was continued to the 2027 session.

[SB284](#)-this bill would have created study to raise teacher salaries to the national average. It has been continued to the 2027 session.

[SB295](#)-this bill would have required students to participate in sports and extracurricular activities based on their biological sex. It was passed by indefinitely. [SB560](#) was a similar bill and was also passed by indefinitely.

[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](#). 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.
Thank you!



[Click Here](#)

A popular website to track
legislation in the
Commonwealth

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](#).