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Exempt Action: Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	State Board of Education
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	8VAC20-132
VAC Chapter title(s)	Virginia Standards of Accreditation
Action title	Legislative Implementation for 8VAC20-132-151
Final agency action date	August 27, 2026
Date this document prepared	August 27, 2026

This information is required for executive branch review pursuant to Executive Order 19 (2022) (EO 19), any instructions or procedures issued by the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) or the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) pursuant to EO 19. In addition, this information is required by the Virginia Registrar of Regulations pursuant to the Virginia Register Act (§ 2.2-4100 et seq. of the Code of Virginia). Regulations must conform to the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1 VAC 7-10), and the *Form and Style Requirements for the Virginia Register of Regulations and Virginia Administrative Code*.

Brief Summary

Provide a brief summary (preferably no more than 2 or 3 paragraphs) of this regulatory change (i.e., new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or repeal of an existing regulation). Alert the reader to all substantive matters. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

[HB595](#) and [HB182](#) of the 2026 Acts of the Assembly both direct the Board to amend 8VAC20-132.

HB595 directs that 8VAC20-132 be amended to provide that the Board shall grant a waiver for the requirement that students be trained in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators, including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation if a student cannot complete the requirement pursuant to their individualized education program or 504 plan or if a student transfers after tenth grade from a school or other education program that does not require or give credit for health and physical education courses to a public school that provides such training as a part of a health or physical education course to students in grades nine or 10.

HB595 further directs that any student who transfers into a public high school after grade 10 and is simultaneously pursuing an advanced studies diploma and an International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma may complete certain courses or sequences of courses required for the IB diploma as substitutes for the Virginia and U.S. history course, the Virginia and U.S. government course, and the economics and personal finance credit requirement.

HB182 directs the Board to amend its regulations to permit any student to substitute the African American History course or the Advanced Placement African American Studies course for the World History I course or the World Geography course provided that (i) enrollment in such African American History course or Advanced Placement African American Studies course is available to the student and (ii) any such student shall be required to complete and receive a passing score on an applicable local alternative assessment, or an equivalent Board-approved assessment, in order to satisfy history and social studies credit requirements for graduation. The relevant regulatory requirements are found in 8VAC20-132

Mandate and Impetus

Identify the mandate for this regulatory change and any other impetus that specifically prompted its initiation (e.g., new or modified mandate, internal staff review, petition for rulemaking, periodic review, or board decision). For purposes of executive branch review, "mandate" has the same meaning as defined in the ORM procedures, "a directive from the General Assembly, the federal government, or a court that requires that a regulation be promulgated, amended, or repealed in whole or part."

[HB595](#) and [HB182](#) of the 2026 Acts of the Assembly mandate that the Board amend 8VAC20-132 to implement their requirements.

Statement of Final Agency Action

Provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including: 1) the date the action was taken; 2) that the agency has "adopted final amendments" to the regulation; 3) the name of the agency taking the action; and 4) the title of the regulation. A suggested statement is, "On [insert date] the Board/Department of [insert name] adopted final amendments to the [title of regulation(s)]."

On August 27, 2026, the State Board of Education adopted final amendments to the Virginia Standards of Accreditation (8VAC20-132)