

Section 7-26.3. Professional Staff Development; professional development for teachers and principals; 2024-2025 school year training in science-based reading research; required participation by instructional personnel. — A. Suffolk Public Schools provides a program of high-quality professional development in the following areas:

1. In the use and documentation of performance standards and evaluation criteria based on student academic progress and skills for teachers and administrators to clarify roles and performance expectations and to facilitate the successful implementation of instructional programs that promote student achievement at the school and classroom levels;
2. As part of the license renewal process, to assist teachers and principals in acquiring the skills needed to work with gifted students, students with disabilities, and students who have been identified as having limited English proficiency and to increase student achievement and expand the knowledge and skills students require to meet the standards for academic performance set by the Board of Education;
3. In educational technology for all instructional personnel which is designed to facilitate integration of computer skills and related technology into the curricula;
4. For administrative personnel designed to increase proficiency in instructional leadership and management, including training in the evaluation and documentation of teacher and administrator performance based on student academic progress and the skills and knowledge of such instructional or administrative personnel; and
5. Designed to educate School Board employees about bullying as defined in Va. Code § 22.1-276.01 and the need to create a bully-free environment.

B. In addition, the Suffolk Public Schools provides teachers and principals with high-quality professional development programs each year in the following areas:

1. Instructional content;
2. The preparation of tests and other assessment measures;
3. Methods for assessing the progress of individual students, including Standards of Learning assessment materials or other criterion-referenced tests that match locally developed objectives;
4. Instruction and remediation techniques in English, mathematics, science, and history and social science;
5. Interpreting test data for instructional purposes;
6. Technology applications to implement the Standards of Learning; and
7. Effective classroom management.

C. Effective for the 2024-2025 school year, the School Board will provide high-quality professional development and training in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction, from the list developed and the resources provided by the Virginia Department of Education (the Department) pursuant to subsection C of Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:5 or an alternative program that consists of evidence-based literacy

instruction and aligns with science-based reading research approved by the Department, for:

1. Each elementary school principal and each teacher with an endorsement in early/primary education preschool through grade three, elementary education preschool through grade six, special education general curriculum kindergarten through grade 12, special education deaf and hard of hearing preschool through grade 12, special education blindness/visual impairments preschool through grade 12, or English as a second language preschool through grade 12, or as a reading specialist that builds proficiency in evidence-based literacy instruction and science-based reading research in order to aid in the licensure renewal process for such individuals;
2. Each teacher with an endorsement in middle education grades six through eight who teaches English that builds proficiency in evidence-based literacy instruction and science-based reading research; and
3. Each middle school principal and teacher with an endorsement in middle education grades six through eight who teaches mathematics, science, or history and social science that builds an awareness of evidence-based literacy instruction and science-based reading research.

G. D. All instructional personnel are required to participate each year in professional development programs. Unless the School Board or superintendent determines that additional training is necessary to comply with federal or state law or to remediate misconduct, no elementary or secondary school teacher is required to participate more than once every five years in training regarding:

(i) appropriate management of student conduct and student offenses in violation of School Board policies; and ~~or~~

(ii) best practices relating to avoid violating secure mandatory test violations procedures as set forth in Va. Code §§ 22.1-19.1 and 22.1-292.1.

Each teacher who completes such training must sign a written attestation that the teacher has been trained in and understands the relevant subject matter.

All employees of Suffolk Public Schools including each teacher and counselor employed on a full-time basis, are required to complete a mental health awareness training or similar program. Every employee holding a license issued by the Board of Education is required to complete cultural competency training, in accordance with guidance issued by the Board of Education, at least every two years. Each employee required to complete cultural competency training must complete at least one such training no later than the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.

Suffolk Public Schools will annually review its professional development program for quality, effectiveness, participation by instructional personnel, and relevancy to the instructional needs of teachers and the academic achievement needs of the students. (Adopted: October 9, 2008; Ordinance Number 08/09-18; Effective: October 10, 2008; Revised June 9, 2016; Ordinance Number 15/16-64; Effective Date: July 1, 2016; Revised

September 20, 2018; Ordinance Number 18/19-13; Effective Date: September 20, 2018;
Ordinance 22/23-49, Revised/Effective: February 9, 2023)

Legal Authority – Virginia Code §§ 22.1-253.13:5E, 22.1-78, 22.1-23.3, 22.1-253.13:5,
22.1-276.01, 22.1-291.4, 22.1-298.6 and 22.1-298.7 (1950), as amended.