



LaShahn Gaines, CPA
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November 30, 2011

Susan B. Williams, Esq.
Local Government Policy Manager
Commission on Local Government
Department of Housing and Community Development
Main Street Centre
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Ms. Williams,

On behalf of Spotsylvania County Schools, we are requesting your assistance in gaining relief from the following unfunded mandates:

Teacher Evaluation –

Student performance measures will be linked to teacher and principal performance evaluations, beginning in 2011-12. This will require school divisions to engage in extensive administrative activity necessary for tracking classroom observation data, linking teacher and principal evaluations directly with standardized test performance. Those evaluation outcomes will then be posted on the school division web sites. The added costs of this coordination will be expected of the locality.

Special Education Services –

Students who test out of special education services may not be dismissed unless and until the parent/guardian gives a written agreement, beginning in 2010-11. Virginia public schools must continue to offer specialized services to students even though they no longer demonstrate an educational disability, unless the parent/guardian gives written permission to cease such services. This requirement exceeds the federal standard and obligates school divisions to maintain excess staff.

Special Education Services –

The Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) for students and families at risk was revised for 2010-11 to fund fewer specific support services. While CSA funding decreases, requirements for 1:1 behavioral support, residential placements, day treatment support, and medical support remain in effect. As a result, local budgets must assume increasing costs associated with low incidence, high-cost services for special needs students.

Special Education Services –

Licensing requirements for interpreting services, hearing impaired teachers and vision impaired teachers were increased in 2010-11. The school division already faces difficulties each year with staffing in these critical areas. Higher licensing requirements will likely exacerbate the problem possibly, forcing the school division to engage in a "bidding-war" for professional services.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LaShahn Gaines".

LaShahn Gaines, CPM, CPA

From: [Cheryl Boyd](#)
To: [Williams, Susan \(DHCD\)](#);
cc: [J Seaux](#); [LaShahn Gaines](#);
Subject: RE: Governor's Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2011 5:17:53 PM

Susan,

Mrs. Gaines asked me to forward to you the Section of VA Code or Regulation numbers for each of the mandates listed in the letter. Could you please forward this information with the letter as appropriate.

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; ESEA AYP waiver requirement: Link student performance measures with teacher and principal performance evaluations, and "warehouse" related data for the purpose of federal reporting at some future time.
- VAC 20-131-70; VAC 20-81-90.C: Students who test out of specialized education services may not be dismissed unless and until the parent/guardian gives a written agreement.
- VAC 20-131-70; VAC 20-81-250.F; Va. Code 2.2-5211, 5212: The Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) for students and families at risk no longer funds as many specific support services as previously.
- VAC 20-131-70; 20-81-40.E.3b: Increased licensing requirements for interpreting services, hearing impaired teachers and vision impaired teachers.

Please let me know if there are any questions or any other documentation is required.

Thank you and have a great evening!

Cheryl L. Boyd

Administrative Assistant to the CFO

SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS

Phone: 540-834-2500 Ext. 1213

Fax: 540-834-2555

>>> "Williams, Susan (DHCD)" <Susan.Williams@dhcd.virginia.gov>
11/30/2011 3:31 PM >>>

Cheryl:

Thank you for sending the letter. I will forward it to the task force chairman as well as the education subcommittee chair.

Susan

Susan B. Williams, Esq.

Local Government Policy Manager

Commission on Local Government

Department of Housing and Community Development

Main Street Centre - 600 East Main Street, Suite 300

Richmond, VA 23219

PH: 804.786.6508 - FAX: 804.371.7090

Email: susan.williams@dhcd.virginia.gov

Website: www.dhcd.virginia.gov/CommissiononLocalGovernment/default.htm

From: Cheryl Boyd [mailto:cboyd@spotsylvania.k12.va.us]

Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2011 2:32 PM

To: Williams, Susan (DHCD)

Cc: J Seaux

Subject: Re: Governor's Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review

Susan,

Attached please find a letter to you requesting your assistance in gaining relief from unfunded state mandates.

Feel free to contact myself or Mrs. Gaines if you have any questions

or need any additional information.

Thank you,

Cheryl L. Boyd

Administrative Assistant to the CFO
SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS
Phone: 540-834-2500 Ext. 1213
Fax: 540-834-2555

>>> "Williams, Susan (DHCD)" <Susan.Williams@dhcd.virginia.gov>
11/30/2011 12:57 PM >>>

Cheryl:

Here is the link to the Legislative Information System website where the Administrative Code can be found: <http://lis.virginia.gov/>.

Also, Ms. Gaines might also want our regular mailing address, which appears in my signature line below.

Then, just FYI, the task force has its own webpage, which is <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/GovMandateReview/default.htm>, in case she might want to take a look. As I mentioned on the phone, the task force's email address is MandateRelief@dhcd.virginia.gov.

Thank you & have a great day.

Susan

Susan B. Williams, Esq.

Local Government Policy Manager

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