

VIRGINIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

<i>Title: Discharge</i>	Policy Number: S020
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POLICY

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB) shall assure each student's successful discharge from the VSDB to a change in educational placement or transition into post- secondary education or community life.

PROCEDURES

Change in Placement

The VSDB works with the IEP team and the placing local school division through the IEP process to determine whether VSDB continues to be an appropriate placement for the student. The VSDB shall evaluate a child with a disability through the IEP process before proposing a change in educational placement.

VSDB may propose a change in placement for the following reasons:

1. The student no longer meets the criteria for admission to the VSDB; and/or
2. VSDB is no longer the least restrictive environment for the student; and/or
3. Long-term removal or a pattern of short-term removals from the VSDB based on violation(s) of the ***VSDB Student Code of Conduct***; and/or
4. The student demonstrates a need for a therapeutic level of supervision or care, an imminent need for therapeutic care at a treatment facility, long stay hospital, or intensive psychiatric care; and/or
5. The student demonstrates a pattern of disruptive, aggressive or destructive behavior, elopement, self-harming behavior, behavior that threatens the safety or well-being of others, or other imminent health and safety issues that would jeopardize the welfare of themselves or others; and/or
6. The student demonstrates the need for an ongoing level of 1:1 support for behavioral and/or safety needs in order to maintain educational and/or residential program engagement, and/or to maintain a safe learning and working environment; and/or
7. Parent(s) or legal guardian breaches the Service Agreement with VSDB; and/or
8. Placing local school division breaches the Service Agreement with VSDB; and/or
9. The VSDB ceases operation.

Should situation(s) occur related to the above-stated reasons, the Superintendent or Designee will contact the parent(s) or legal guardian and the placing local school division in a timely manner to

convene an IEP team meeting. Upon IEP team determination that includes informed parental consent to change the student's placement from the VSDB to the student's placing local school division, the VSDB will discharge the student on a mutually agreed upon date as determined by the IEP team. The placing local school division is responsible for ensuring the appropriate change in placement for the student. The VSDB or the parent may use Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) mediation or request a VDOE due process hearing to resolve a disagreement regarding the change in placement. The VSDB will assist with the change in placement for the student in the following ways:

1. Through the IEP process, VSDB will provide recommendations to the placing local school division and parent(s) or legal guardian about possible alternate settings, and assist with the development of a new IEP;
2. In accordance with the ***Family Education Rights Privacy Act***, the Superintendent (or designee) will ensure that the following information is made a part of the student's educational record within thirty (30) days of the decision to change the educational placement of the student: date of enrollment and discharge from VSDB, educational services provided to the student during the enrollment period, reason for change of placement, documentation that the discharge has been discussed with the student, the parent(s) and the placing school division, medication administered to the student, need for continuing therapeutic intervention, educational status, and other pertinent medically related information.
3. Should the facility cease operation, the Superintendent (or designee) will forward a written referral to the placing school division explaining the nature of the school's closing and a timeline for completion of change in placement procedures.

Transition to Post-Secondary Education, Vocation, and/ or Community Life

The VSDB ensures that prior to a student's discharge from the VSDB upon exceeding the age of eligibility for special education and related services,¹ or graduating with an Advanced Diploma, Standard Diploma, Applied Studies Diploma, or Certificate of Completion, the VSDB will provide the following services to the student to ensure a successful transition to post-secondary education, vocation, and/or community life:

1. Secondary transition services through the IEP process beginning at age fourteen (14); and
2. Summary of the student's academic achievement and functional performance upon exit, including recommendations on working toward the IEP post-secondary educational and/or vocational goals and independent living skills.

Rescission: Revised: September 2015 Provisionally Approved by BOV on 9/22/15; Revised: May 16, 2022

¹The student reaches her/his 22nd birthday by September 30 of the current school year.