

Unified Regulatory Plan of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)
for Fiscal Year 2025

Prepared on July 12, 2024

Agency Summary

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) is the Commonwealth’s coordinating body for higher education. SCHEV was established by the Governor and the General Assembly in 1956. Then, as now, our mission, which is outlined in the Code of Virginia, is “to promote the development of an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of higher education” in Virginia. To fulfill our mission, SCHEV makes higher education public policy recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly in such areas as capital and operating budget planning, enrollment projections, institutional technology needs, and student financial aid. SCHEV administers a variety of educational programs that benefit students, faculty, parents, and taxpayers. SCHEV serves as a catalyst to promote greater access, quality, affordability, and accountability throughout the system. SCHEV also helps policymakers, college administrators, and other concerned leaders work cooperatively and constructively to advance educational excellence.

Individual Regulatory Activities:

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Not available (RIS Project 7803).		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Revisions to Chapter 31. Regulations Governing Certification of Certain Institutions to Confer Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates		
Brief Overview SCHEV PPE staff have engaged in a thorough review and evaluation of all sections of Chapter 31 to determine their accuracy and efficiency as applied to the agency’s regulation of the Commonwealth’s private and out-of-state postsecondary institutions of higher education. Staff has identified required revisions that will update Code citations, remove unnecessary mandates on regulated schools, and align outdated provisions with current law. The revisions are still in the drafting and review process as of the date of submission of this report.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	<input type="checkbox"/> NOIRA <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed <input type="checkbox"/> Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA <input type="checkbox"/> Revised Proposed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fast-Track
Additional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expedited Review Requested	<input type="checkbox"/> Guidance Document

Description	<input type="checkbox"/> Exempt Action
Legal Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Action required by federal statute <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discretionary Action <input type="checkbox"/> Action required by state statute
Deregulatory Component	The revisions are expected to reduce mandates on regulated schools significantly, streamlining agency functions and complying with the Office of Regulatory Management's Regulatory Reduction Plan.
Expected Date	December 31, 2024

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Not available.	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Revisions to Virginia Tuition Grant (VTAG) Program Regulations (8VAC40-71)	
Brief Overview Staff reviewed the VTAG regulations to determine whether there were requirements that were not necessary for the administration of the program. Staff reduced the regulatory requirements by 3 items by modifying or removing language.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	<input type="checkbox"/> NOIRA <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed <input type="checkbox"/> Revised Proposed <input type="checkbox"/> Final <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fast-Track
Additional Description	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expedited Review Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Guidance Document <input type="checkbox"/> Exempt Action
Legal Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Action required by federal statute <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action required by state statute
Deregulatory Component	The items in the regulation that were modified or removed are a component of full review of SCHEV's financial aid regulations that identified a total of 27 total items that are not necessary to retain in regulation for administration of the programs. Staff estimates that the aggregate changes will reduce regulatory requirements by over 40 percent, exceeding the administrative goal of 25 percent.
Expected Date	December 31, 2024

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Not available.	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document	

Repeal of Cybersecurity Student Loan Repayment Grant Regulations (8VAC40-170)	
Brief Overview The Cybersecurity Student Loan Repayment Grant Program was discontinued in 2018. Staff is preparing for the process of repealing the regulations, removing six regulatory requirements.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	<input type="checkbox"/> NOIRA <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed <input type="checkbox"/> Final <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA <input type="checkbox"/> Revised Proposed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fast-Track
Additional Description	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expedited Review Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Exempt Action <input type="checkbox"/> Guidance Document
Legal Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Action required by federal statute <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action required by state statute <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary Action
Deregulatory Component	This program’s regulations were a component of full review of SCHEV’s financial aid regulations that identified a total of 27 total items that are not necessary to retain in regulation for administration of the programs. Staff estimates that the aggregate changes will reduce regulatory requirements by over 40 percent, exceeding the administrative goal of 25 percent.
Expected Date	December 31, 2024

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Not available.	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Industry Based Credential Grants Guidance	
Brief Overview Staff reviewed the program guidance to determine whether there were requirements that were not necessary for the administration of the program. Staff reduced the regulatory requirements by 3 items by modifying or removing language.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	<input type="checkbox"/> NOIRA <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed <input type="checkbox"/> Final <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA <input type="checkbox"/> Revised Proposed <input type="checkbox"/> Fast-Track
Additional Description	<input type="checkbox"/> Expedited Review Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Exempt Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Guidance Document
Legal Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Action required by federal statute <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action required by state statute <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary Action
Deregulatory Component	This program’s guidance was a component of full review of SCHEV’s financial aid regulations and guidance documents that identified a total of 27 total items that are not necessary to retain in regulation for administration of the programs. Staff estimates that the aggregate changes will reduce regulatory requirements by over 40 percent, exceeding the administrative goal of 25 percent.

Expected Date	December 31, 2024
----------------------	-------------------

Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document	
New guidance for the Virginia Commonwealth Emergency Assistance Program	
Brief Overview	
Pursuant to the Act of Assembly, Chapter 1, Item 255.5, of the 2023 special session of the General Assembly, institutions gained authorization to use a portion of their respective appropriation for the Virginia Student Financial Assistance Program (VSFAP) for use toward emergency assistance programs. Emergency assistance may be awarded to students experiencing an unusual expense that has placed their continued enrollment into jeopardy. As authorized by the enacting language, staff have developed guidelines for this program. These guidelines have been constructed based on common practice for existing institutional and private emergency assistance programs.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	<input type="checkbox"/> NOIRA <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed <input type="checkbox"/> Final <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA <input type="checkbox"/> Revised Proposed <input type="checkbox"/> Fast-Track
Additional Description	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expedited Review Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Exempt Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Guidance Document
Legal Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Action required by federal statute <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action required by state statute <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary Action
Deregulatory Component	N/A
Expected Date	December 31, 2024