

Virginia launches six-year plan to align K-12 standards with university-level education

By Nihit Aurora



It's no secret that Americans depend on schools to prepare their children for higher education and gainful employment. Recently, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) proposed a six-year plan to match K-12 teaching with university-level education. The plan, which would begin in 2007, aims to improve schools so that the schools, in turn, can better prepare students for college educations and ultimately enable them to become members of what the plan hopes will be a stable, dynamic workforce. Among the plan's goals is also improving financial aid for Virginia's students, in addition to the following:

- Making detailed information about higher-education opportunities in Virginia available to students and their families, especially those who belong to under-represented groups.
- Highlighting details about financial aid opportunities.
- Motivating students to pursue higher education in Virginia.
- Providing scholarships for students who wish to enter careers in high demand.
- Determining tax revenue from university graduates versus non-graduates.
- Assessing the current quality of degree programs in the state.
- Increased levels of support for the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) program.
- Expanding financial aid to match the increase in college-level tuition.
- Further improving and advancing the Virginia College Savings Plan (VSCP).
- Tailoring existing programs such as the American Diploma Project and the College Board Standards for College Success to match the educational standards of public schools in Virginia with colleges and Universities in Virginia.
- Creating better research opportunities in-state and enhancing research funding.

Virginia hopes to generate a productive workforce by preparing current K-12 students for higher education so that they can then become the torchbearers for productive employment.

On the Net

Virginia: Panel Calls for Increased Financial Aid, Alignment of K to 12 Standards with College Curricula
www.hewi.net/news/news.asp?Type=States

Preparing Our Children: Math and Science Education in the National Interest
www.nsf.gov/pubs/1999/nsb9931/nsb9931.txt