

## Governor's School Background Information

There are three different types of Governor's Schools:

- Academic-Year
- Summer Residential
- Summer Regional

The Governor's School Programs Web site provides additional information on each of the program models. [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/governors\\_school\\_programs/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/governors_school_programs/index.shtml)

### Academic-Year Governor's Schools

Typically, school divisions spend 6-12 months planning and preparing a proposal to be brought to the Board of Education (BOE) for approval. The BOE will determine if the proposed program is approved as a joint/regional school in accordance with Section 22.1-26 of the *Code of Virginia*, and is to be recommended to the Governor to be designated, with appropriate funding, as a Governor's School.

The Academic-Year Governor's Schools are established as "joint schools" by Virginia school law. As such, they are typically managed by a regional governing board of representatives from the school boards of each participating division. The regional governing board is charged with developing policies for the school including the school's admissions process.

While these processes differ from school to school, all applicants are assessed using multiple criteria by trained evaluators who have experience in gifted education and the focus area of the specific Academic-Year Governor's School. Students can only attend an Academic-Year Governor's School program if their school division is a participating public school division and the students are selected by the Academic-Year Governor's School program through a competitive admission process. Governor's Schools give gifted students academic and visual and performing arts opportunities beyond those normally available in the students' home schools. Students are able to focus on a specific area of intellectual or artistic strength and interest and to study in a way that best suits the gifted learner's needs

This document outlines the process and procedures for the development of an Academic-year Governor's School.

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/governors\\_school\\_programs/academic\\_year/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/governors_school_programs/academic_year/index.shtml)

### Summer Residential Governor's Schools

Summer Residential Governor's Schools provide gifted high school juniors and seniors with intensive educational experiences in visual and performing arts; humanities; mathematics, science, and technology; or through mentorships in marine science, medicine and health sciences, or engineering.

Based on a request for proposals (RFP) offered by the Virginia Department of Education, universities and colleges throughout the commonwealth develop proposals to host these month-long, residential programs. A committee of in-state and out-of-state educators, members of the Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted, and others who are knowledgeable in the area of

specialization evaluates these proposals for the Department of Education. Evaluation expectations are outlined in the RFP. The selected institution receives a one-year contract that may be renewed for four more years, based on successful evaluations.

### **Summer Regional Governor's Schools**

The Summer Regional Governor's Schools exist in a variety of formats. Most often, groups of school divisions design these programs to meet the needs of their local gifted elementary and middle school students. These schools provide exciting opportunities in the arts, sciences, and humanities. The Department of Education approves each Summer Regional Governor's School and evaluates each program as funding permits.