



VIRGINIA REGULATORY UPDATE ON SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT (December 2016)

The most recent draft of the Second Review of Proposed Regulations Governing the Use of Seclusion and Restraint in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools in Virginia (Proposed Stage) is available here:

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2016/10-oct/agenda-items/item-g.pdf>

Public Participation in the Regulatory Process

There are many ways the public can participate in the regulatory process and make their voice heard. These opportunities include making a public comment, attending board meetings, and public hearings.

Public Comments

Although regulatory boards will accept public comments in a variety of ways, the Town Hall website (<http://townhall.virginia.gov/>) makes it easy for any member of the public to submit comments. Public comment forums will automatically open upon an action's publication in The Virginia Register (<http://register.dls.virginia.gov/>). These comment forums are monitored by the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB). You can access Virginia's Public Comment Policy here: <http://townhall.virginia.gov/um/userpolicy.cfm>.

Your public comment can express support for or disagreement with a regulatory action. To make your comments helpful, impactful, and have maximum effect in developing the final regulations, keep in mind the following:

- Read and attempt to fully understand each issue; you may ask for help or clarification from the agency contact listed in the document.
- Clearly identify the issues within the regulatory action on which you are commenting; provide the page number, column, and paragraph citation from the Virginia register document.
- Support your comment with sound reasoning, scientific evidence, substantive data, facts, expert opinions and/or how you will be impacted.
- Include and explain the pros/cons and trade-offs of your position.
- Remember that the comment process is not a vote

All comments received from members of the public are available for public viewing in their entirety online, unless they violate the Public Comments Policy as determined by The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB). Therefore, commenters should be careful to include in their comments only information that they wish to make publicly available and become part of the public record.

Meetings and Hearings

Through the Town Hall notification service (<http://townhall.virginia.gov/L/Register.cfm>), the public can find out when board meetings and public hearings will be held where regulations will be discussed.

The Virginia Board of Education also provides a schedule of its meetings, agendas, minutes of past meetings, and information on attending meetings (<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/index.shtml>).