



VSBA

Virginia School Boards Association

Leadership · Advocacy · Support

2025 VSBA Showcases for Success Guide



Look inside for more information on the **NEW VSBA Showcasing Innovation Award**, an optional award for school divisions to highlight one of their Showcases for Success Entries.



Participation in VSBA initiatives and observances is optional. School boards in Virginia have the discretion on whether to participate locally. Any related materials from the Association are shared as suggested ideas for implementation for any member board that may choose to do so.

2025 VSBA Showcases for Success

Dear VSBA Members,

The Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) is proud to continue our tradition of celebrating the exceptional programs and initiatives shaping public education through the VSBA Showcases for Success. This initiative highlights the transformative power of innovation, collaboration, and dedication that positively impacts our students, educators, and communities. We encourage all school divisions to participate by sharing their successes to inspire and foster a spirit of collaboration across the Commonwealth.

This year, we are excited to introduce the **2025 VSBA Showcasing Innovation Award**, offered **in conjunction with the VSBA Showcases for Success initiative**. This **optional** award provides an opportunity to recognize school divisions that exemplify innovation, measurable impact, and meaningful collaboration. Submissions for the Showcasing Innovation Award must receive **majority approval from the school board** prior to submission. Please continue reading this guide for more information on guidelines for submission to this award.

We hope these efforts not only celebrate your achievements but also provide a model for others striving for excellence in education. Thank you for your dedication to public education and for sharing your stories of success. Together, we can continue to elevate and empower public education across Virginia.

Sincerely,



Gina G. Patterson
Executive Director

New this year!

2025 VSBA Showcasing Innovation Award



About the VSBA Showcases for Success

WHAT IS THE VSBA SHOWCASES FOR SUCCESS?

As a means of encouraging community awareness and positive press coverage of public education, the VSBA invites school divisions to recommend programs and initiatives that serve as appropriate “Showcases for Success” in public education. Last year, 92 programs were profiled and shared with journalists, school board members, superintendents, legislators, and top state officials. This initiative generated statewide press coverage and proved to be an effective tool for disarming critics of public education. We are now compiling a new list for 2025, and these successful programs will be showcased on the VSBA website throughout the year.

HOW MANY PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES CAN A DIVISION SUBMIT?

Each division may submit up to three programs/initiatives using the form linked below.

HOW DO I SUBMIT?

Submit online using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025Showcases>

****If you are also submitting for the VSBA Showcasing Innovation Award, please read the directions carefully when filling out the submission form. The VSBA Showcasing Innovation Award submission is through the same link as above.****

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION?

Friday, March 24, 2025, by 4:00 p.m.

For questions, contact Bella Corbo at bella@vsba.org or call 434-295-8722 ext. 2.

Introducing the 2025 VSBA Showcasing Innovation Award

The **VSBA Showcasing Innovation Award** is an exciting enhancement to the **VSBA Showcases for Success** initiative. This prestigious award recognizes and honors outstanding achievements and innovative practices in public education across the Commonwealth. The goal is to celebrate **two school divisions** that exemplify excellence in education through their successful programs and initiatives:

- **One winner for school divisions with a student population below 10,000**
- **One winner for school divisions with a student population above 10,001**

As part of the **VSBA Showcases for Success**, school divisions are encouraged to choose one of their submitted programs for this distinguished award at the time of application. **While divisions may submit up to three programs to the Showcases for Success, only one of these programs may be nominated for the award.**

Award Details

Eligibility

- All VSBA Member School Boards are eligible to apply.
- Submissions must be part of the VSBA Showcases for Success Initiative.
 - **Only one entry per school division**, and it **must** be one of the three submitted to the VSBA Showcases for Success initiative.
- The program or initiative submitted should be currently implemented, or have already been implemented, and demonstrate measurable success.

Regional Category

A Regional Category is available for submissions that reflect collaborative efforts between multiple school divisions. This category is intended for programs or projects involving partnerships across school division boundaries. **Individual school divisions submitting in the Regional Category may also submit a separate application for a program within their division, provided it is independent of the Regional Category submission.**

School Board Approval

For a program to be considered for the VSBA Showcasing Innovation Award, it must receive **majority approval from the school board(s) during a school board meeting.** However, if a submission is **solely** for the Showcases for Success initiative, school board approval is not required.

Criteria for Evaluation

Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Innovation:** The originality and creativity of the program or initiative.
2. **Impact:** The measurable outcomes and benefits to students, teachers, and the community.
3. **Sustainability:** The program has plans in place to ensure ongoing success.
4. **Collaboration:** Involvement and partnerships with stakeholders, including staff, parents, and community members.
5. **Scalability:** Potential for the program or initiative to be adapted and implemented in other school divisions.

Submission Requirements

- **Applications form:** Complete the online [Showcases for Success submission form](#), including basic information about the school division and the program or initiative.
 - Online submission will include an option to opt-in for the award.
 - If opting in, a signed document from the board chair and superintendent agreeing to the submission and that it has a majority vote from the board will be required. (This document is included on the next page.)
- **Program description:** Provide a detailed description of the program or initiative, including goals, implementation process, and outcomes.
- **Additional Questions:** You will be asked the below short answer questions:
 - What makes this program or initiative innovative? How does it demonstrate originality and creativity?
 - How is this program or initiative designed to be sustainable over time? What plans are in place to ensure its continued success?
 - What partnerships or collaborations were involved in developing and implementing this program? Include stakeholders such as staff, parents, and community members.
 - How can this program or initiative be adapted or implemented in other school divisions?
- **Supporting materials:** Submit documentation supporting the success and impact of the program, such as data, testimonials, photos, and videos.



VSBA

Virginia School Boards Association

Rivanna Ridge Professional Building
200 Hansen Road, Suite 2
Charlottesville, VA 22911

VSBA Showcasing Innovation Award Submission Confirmation

We hereby certify that the _____ program has been approved by a majority vote from the _____ Public Schools School Board.

School Board Chair Signature

Date

Superintendent Signature

Date



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