

Training and Certification Committee Minutes
2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294
Wednesday, April 5, 2023 – 10:30 am

Members Present

R. Jason Ferguson, Chair
 William Akers
 Larry Oliver
 Bobby Lester
 Matthew Lawler
 Brian McIntosh
 Mike Watkins
 Steven Moring
 Peppy Winchel
 Marlon Rickman

Members Absent

Christopher Kroboth
 Charles Lane

Staff

Chad Blosser
 Debbie Akers
 Dr. George Lindbeck
 Scott Winston
 Wanda Street
 Daniel Linkins
 Wayne Perry

Guests

Donna Galganski-Pabst
 Meagan Middleton
 E. Michael McDonald
 Paige Greene
 J. J. Bonavita
 David Keeler

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Welcome	Jason Ferguson called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m.	
II. Introductions	Everyone around the room introduced themselves.	
III. Approval of Agenda	The Committee reviewed the agenda for today's meeting. (Attached)	Approved by consensus
IV. Approval of the October 5, 2022 minutes:	The committee approved the minutes as submitted. (Attached)	Approved by consensus
V. Reports of Committee Members	A. Reports of Committee Members <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chairman Report – R. Jason Ferguson – No report at this time. 2. Medical Direction Committee – Dr. George Lindbeck – Nothing to report. 3. Committee Members: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Non-VCCS EMS Program – Steven Moring – In final approval for ECPI's Paramedic program. b. VCCS – Bill Akers – No report. c. VAVRS – Bobby Lester – No report. 	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>d. Regional EMS Council Executive Directors – Peppy Winchel – CSEMS had a successful Expo in March. Had a small fee during registration and had a 92% attendance rate. Tidewater Healthcare Expo is May 16-21, 2023.</p> <p>e. EMSC – Mike Watkins – Annual EMS Survey ended on March 31 with 82% participation. More child restraint systems have been received. One or two will go out to more EMS agencies. Specific training needs to be had to utilize the restraints properly.</p> <p>f. VAGEMSA – Larry Oliver – No report. VAGEMSA’s president Brian Hricik passed away last month.</p> <p>g. Fire Based Organization – Christopher Kroboth – No report.</p> <p>h. Educators – Brian McIntosh – No report.</p> <p>i. EMS Advisory Board – Matt Lawler – No report.</p> <p>B. Office of EMS</p> <p>1. Division of Accreditation, Certification & Education (ACE)</p> <p>a. Education Program Manager – Chad Blosser, OEMS</p> <p>i. Virginia EMS Scholarship Program Update – This document is located on the OEMS website.</p> <p>ii. Education Coordinator Candidate Program – There are 714 Education Coordinators as of today. We have 236 candidates in the pipeline, of which 27 are eligible for the next Institute to be held the end of June in Roanoke. The September Institute will be held at Tidewater Community College. The remainder of 2023 and 2024 dates are being posted on the website.</p> <p>b. ACE Division Director – Debbie Akers, OEMS</p> <p>i. Accreditation – Report was distributed by email. There continues to be growing interest in gaining accreditation especially at the AEMT level. Debbie cannot promise timeline for letters of review due to lack of staff support.</p> <p>ii. National Registry Updates – The results at the EMT level are pretty astounding. Virginia is doing very well. QA/QI teams are making visits to non-accredited programs and that is going well. Some accredited sites have been missed because we don’t have the staff. National Registry will be moving to a scored scale to align with other allied health professions. More information to come.</p> <p>iii. Other – Tracie Jones retired from the Office of EMS on March 1, 2023. This position will not be replaced but will be repurposed. Debbie has been fulfilling this role. The position is being repurposed to the Accreditation Manager position. A notification will be sent out for anyone interested in applying.</p> <p>iv. Symposium – The Call for Presentations is closed. The committee will meet next week to start making course decisions. We have about 998 course proposals. If you know of anyone who wants to submit, please let Debbie know and it will be opened for a short period.</p>	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>v. Travel Reimbursement – A meeting was held with the Chief Operating Officer, Christopher Lindsay and this is an issue all over the State. Complete the back of the Reimbursement Worksheet and if you travel over 200 miles a Trip Calculator and a Cost Benefit Analysis will need to be completed by staff to determine if it is more cost effective to get a rental car. If you prefer to drive your personal vehicle, you will possibly be reimbursed at the lower mileage rate of .246 instead of .655 per mile.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. State Medical Director – Dr. George Lindbeck – No report. 3. EMS for Children – David Edwards – Not present. 4. Regulation & Compliance – Ron Passmore - Not present. 5. Director/Asst. Director – Scott Winston – VDH is going through of period of transition. Dr. Colin Greene was not confirmed as the State Health Commissioner by the General Assembly. Christopher Lindsay, Chief Operating Officer, was assuming some of those duties. Just last week, an announcement was made that Dr. Parham Jaberri will serve as the interim Health Commissioner until a new Health Commissioner is confirmed. Scott mentioned the passing of Susan McHenry in December. She was the former OEMS Director before Gary Brown. Her memorial service is Saturday, April 29, at the Arcola Church in Dulles at 2 p.m. Scott has more information if needed. The General Assembly adjourned the end of February and was a short session. The Essential Service bills passed unanimously. The administration by EMS personnel of patient prescribed medications HB was passed. Advisory Board is meetings are May 4 and 5, here at the Embassy Suites. The first notice of the meetings went out last week with the list of dates and times of the meetings. Scott gave updates on four items that will go before the State Board of Health at their next meeting. 6. Other Office Division Directors – No other Division Directors were present. 	
<p>VI. Committee Discussion Items</p>	<p>Bill Akers had a concern expressed to him about verification of people challenging EMT Certification from out of State; this refers to flight services who live in Florida, for example, and they fly to Virginia to do work. The biggest question is why a person (RN) has to be affiliated with a fire-based system or an accredited system. The committee continued to discuss this matter. Please refer the concerns to Debbie or Chad.</p> <p>Jason Ferguson mentioned that the US Department of Education wants to designate clinical locations as third-party service providers. He read some of the impacts that this would have on EMS and Clinical programs. This was mentioned to bring awareness and for informational purposes. It was asked if the State will voice opposition to this. Debbie stated that she thinks NASEMSO will review this and let us know what action to take if any.</p>	
<p>VII. Previous Business</p>	<p>None.</p>	
<p>VIII. New Business</p>	<p>A. EMT Programs in the High Schools</p>	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>Jason discussed the educational challenges in conducting high school EMS training and explained that every school does it differently. Chad explained the Memo that was distributed to Valerie Quick and the Workforce Development Committee. Basically, the Workforce Committee wanted to know the outcomes, retention rates as well as the difficulties and issues that are encountered. Valerie Quick wanted to know what the Advisory Board could do to support high school EMS programs. She also wanted to know if a white paper could be created. A Virginia education coordinator needs to be teaching the courses. Chad went over the retention, pass, withdrawal, and failure rates according to academic years 2018 through 2022. Chad discussed the recommendations, the primary request as well as the secondary request and the conclusion. The committee discussed this at length with feedback from Peppy Winchel, Bill Akers, Larry Oliver, Mike Watkins and Matt Lawler. Steve Moring suggested that there is a standard by the experts. Brian McIntosh suggested meeting with city/county executives and asking where is the incentive? Looking at it from a student perspective, students should be given a goal to work towards. Debbie suggested that if the Workforce Development and the Training & Certification Committees could start developing some best practices to be implemented across the board, it might give more consistency. It was also suggested to offer something at a symposium geared to this high school group.</p> <p>B. Legal Medical Marijuana Mike Watkins asked about the future of legal medical marijuana and the EMS workforce. The issue is not the impaired provider, it is the off-duty use for PTSD or other issues. Scott stated that the Office will look at this.</p>	
XI. Public Comment	None.	
X. Dates for 2021 Meetings	<p>A. Scheduled dates: It was decided to change the next meeting date to July 12th instead of the 5th, due to the July 4th holiday. January 4, 2023 April 5, 2023 July 12, 2023 October 4, 2023</p>	
XI. Adjourn	1. Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:33 p.m.	

Transcribed by:
Wanda L. Street
Executive Secretary, Sr.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Health

Office of Emergency Medical Services
1041 Technology Park Drive
Glen Allen, VA 23059-4500

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FAX: 804-371-3108

Gary R. Brown
Director

P. Scott Winston
Assistant Director

Training & Certification Committee

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 – 10:30 AM

Embassy Suites by Hilton
2925 Emerywood Pkwy
Richmond, VA 23294

Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome**
- II. Introductions**
- III. Approval of Agenda**
- IV. Approval of Minutes from January 2023 meeting.**
- V. Reports of Committee Members**
 - A. Reports of Committee Members**
 1. Chairman Report
 2. Medical Direction Committee
 3. Committee Members
 - B. Office of EMS**
 1. Division of Accreditation, Certification & Education (ACE)
 - a. Education Program Manager – Chad Blosser, OEMS
 - a. Virginia EMS Scholarship Program Update
 - b. Education Coordinator Candidate Program
 - b. ACE Division Director – Debbie Akers, OEMS
 - a. Accreditation
 - b. National Registry Updates
 2. State Medical Director – Dr. George Lindbeck
 3. EMS for Children – Dave Edwards, OEMS
 4. Regulation & Compliance – Ron Passmore, OEMS
 5. Director/Asst. Director – Gary Brown/Scott Winston, OEMS
 6. Other Office Division Directors

- VI. **Committee Discussion Items**
- VII. **Previous Business**
- VIII. **New Business**
 - A. EMT Programs in the High Schools
- IX. **Public Comment**
- X. **Quarterly Meetings**
 - A. **2023 Quarterly Meetings**
 - 1. ~~January 4, 2023~~
 - 2. ~~April 5, 2023~~
 - 3. July 5, 2023
 - 4. October 4, 2023
- XI. **Adjourn**

DRAFT

**Attachment A to the
April 4, 2023 TCC Minutes**

Accreditation Report

Accredited Training Site Directory

As of April 1, 2023



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Accredited Paramedic Training Programs in the Commonwealth

Site Name	Site Number	BLS Accredited	# of Alternate Sites	Accreditation Status	Expiration Date
<i>Blue Ridge Community College</i>	79005	Yes	--	CoAEMSP - LOR	
<i>Brightpoint Community College</i>	04115	Yes	--	CoAEMSP - Initial	CoAEMSP
<i>Central Virginia Community College</i>	68006	Yes	--	CoAEMSP – Continuing	CoAEMSP
<i>Chesterfield Fire and EMS</i>	04103	Yes	--	CoAEMSP – LOR	
<i>ECPI University</i>	70017	Yes	--	CoAEMSP – Initial	CoAEMSP
<i>Germanna Community College</i>	13720	Yes	--	CoAEMSP – LOR	
<i>Hanover Fire EMS Training</i>	08533	Yes	--	CoAEMSP - LOR	
<i>Henrico County Division of Fire</i>	08718	Yes	--	CoAEMSP – LOR	
<i>J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College</i>	08709	No	--	CoAEMSP – Continuing	CoAEMSP
<i>Laurel Ridge Community College</i>	06903	Yes	--	CoAEMSP – Continuing	CoAEMSP
<i>Loudoun County Fire & Rescue</i>	10704	Yes	--	CoAEMSP – Continuing	CoAEMSP
<i>Newport News Fire Department</i>	600975	Yes	--	CoAEMP – LOR	
<i>Northern Virginia Community College</i>	05906	Yes	--	CoAEMSP – Continuing	CoAEMSP
<i>Patrick and Henry Community College</i>	08908	No	--	CoAEMSP – Continuing	CoAEMSP
<i>Piedmont Virginia Community College</i>	54006	Yes	--	CoAEMSP – Continuing	CoAEMSP
<i>Prince William County Dept. of Fire and Rescue</i>	15312	Yes	--	CoAEMSP – Continuing	CoAEMSP
<i>Radford University Carilion</i>	77007	Yes	--	CoAEMSP – Continuing	CoAEMSP
<i>Rappahannock Community College</i>	11903	Yes	--	CoAEMSP – Initial	CoAEMSP
<i>Southside Virginia Community College</i>	18507	Yes	--	CoAEMSP – Continuing	CoAEMSP
<i>Southwest Virginia Community College</i>	11709	Yes	2	CoAEMSP – Continuing	CoAEMSP
<i>Stafford County & Associates in Emergency Care</i>	15319	Yes	10	CoAEMSP – Continuing	CoAEMSP
<i>Tidewater Community College</i>	81016	Yes	--	CoAEMSP – Continuing	CoAEMSP
<i>VCU Health System Authority</i>	76011	Yes	6	CoAEMSP – Continuing	CoAEMSP
<i>Virginia Peninsula Community College</i>	83012	Yes	2	CoAEMSP – Initial	

Programs accredited at the Paramedic level may also offer instruction at AEMT, EMT, and EMR, as well as teaching continuing education and auxiliary courses.

CoAEMSP In-person Site Visit for Henrico County Division of Fire was conducted on February 16th and 17th. They are awaiting their findings letter and the program should be promoted to CAAHEP for approval.

CoAEMSP virtual Site Visit for Central Virginia Community College was conducted on March 20th and 21st. They are awaiting their findings letter and the program should be promoted to CAAHEP for approval.

J Sargeant Community in-person site visit is scheduled for June 12th and 13th.

Accredited AEMT Training Programs in the Commonwealth

Site Name	Site Number	BLS Accredited	# of Alternate Sites	Accreditation Status	Expiration Date
Accomack County Dept. of Public Safety	00121	No	--	State – LOR	December 31, 2023
Augusta County Fire and Rescue	01521	Yes	--	State – LOR	December 31, 2023
City of Virginia Beach Department of EMS	81004	Yes	--	State – LOR	December 31, 2023
Danville Training Center	69009	No	--	State – Full	December 31, 2023
Fauquier County Fire & Rescue – Warrenton	06125	Yes	--	State – LOR	December 31, 2023
Frederick County Fire & Rescue	06906	Yes	--	State – Full	December 31, 2023
Hampton Fire & EMS	83002	No	--	State – Full	December 31, 2023
Hampton Roads Regional EMS Academy (HRREMSA)	74039	Yes	--	State – LOR	December 31, 2023
James City County Fire Rescue	83002	Yes	--	State – Full	December 31, 2023
King George Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services	09910	No	--	State – LOR	December 31, 2023
Norfolk Fire and Rescue	71008	Yes	--	State – Full	December 31, 2023
Northern Neck Advanced EMS Education Alliance	19318	No	--	State – LOR	December 31, 2023
Paul D. Camp Community College	62003	Yes	--	State – Full	December 31, 2023
Richmond Ambulance Authority	76031	No	--	State – LOR	December 31, 2023
Rockingham County Fire and Rescue	16536	Yes	--	State – LOR	December 31, 2023
Southwest Virginia EMS Council	52003	Yes	--	State – Full	December 31, 2023
UVA Prehospital Program	54008	Yes	--	State – Full	December 31, 2023
WVEMS – New River Valley Training Center	75004	No	--	State – Full	December 31, 2023

Rockbridge County VRS has submitted a self-study for consideration of issuance of a Letter of Review.
 Prince Edward VRS has submitted a self-study for consideration of issuance of a Letter of Review.

Accredited EMT Training Programs in the Commonwealth

Site Name	Site Number	# of Alternate Sites	Accreditation Status	Expiration Date
Albemarle Co Dept of Fire	54013	--	State – Letter of Review	December 31, 2023
Arlington County Fire Training	01305	--	State – Letter of Review	December 31, 2023
Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Dept.	05918	--	State – Letter of Review	December 31, 2023
Gloucester Volunteer Fire & Rescue	07302	--	State – Letter of Review	December 31, 2023
Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Fire EMS	71006	--	State – Full	December 31, 2023
Roanoke Valley Regional Fire/EMS Training	77505	--	State – Letter of Review	December 31, 2023

**Attachment B to the
April 4, 2023 TCC Minutes**

**Virginia EMS Scholarship
Program**



Quarterly Report

Virginia EMS Scholarship Program

Third Quarter – FY23

Accreditation, Certification & Education

Background

The Virginia EMS Scholarship Program is managed by the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services providing scholarship awards to current Virginia EMS Providers and those seeking to become EMS providers in the Commonwealth.

The scholarship program supports students who are accepted into an eligible Virginia approved initial certification program—EMR, EMT, Advanced EMT and Paramedic.

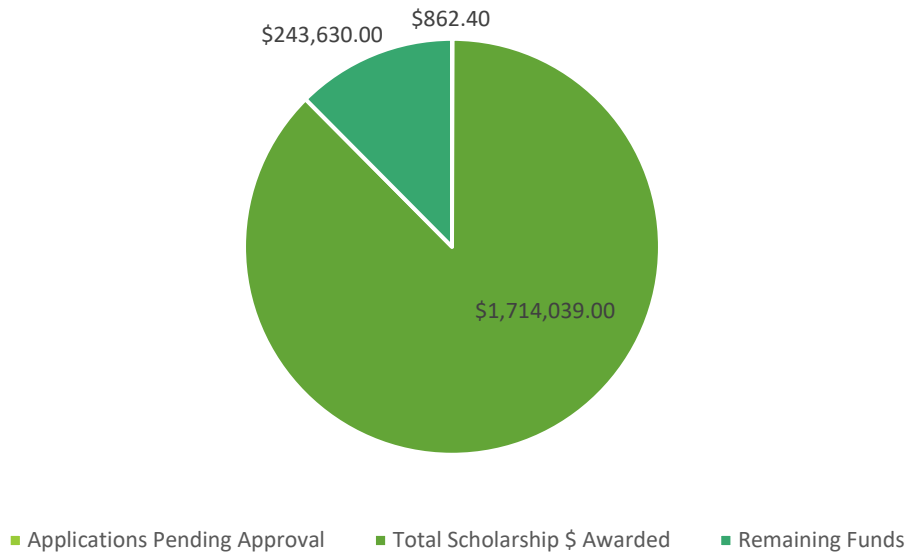
The scholarship program is not designed to provide 100% funding for a training program.

FY23 Scholarship Budget

The FY23 budget for the Virginia EMS Scholarship Program is \$2,000,000.00. The following chart shows a breakdown of funding based on three (3) categories: 1) Applications Pending Approval, 2) Total Scholarship \$ Awarded, and Remaining Funds.

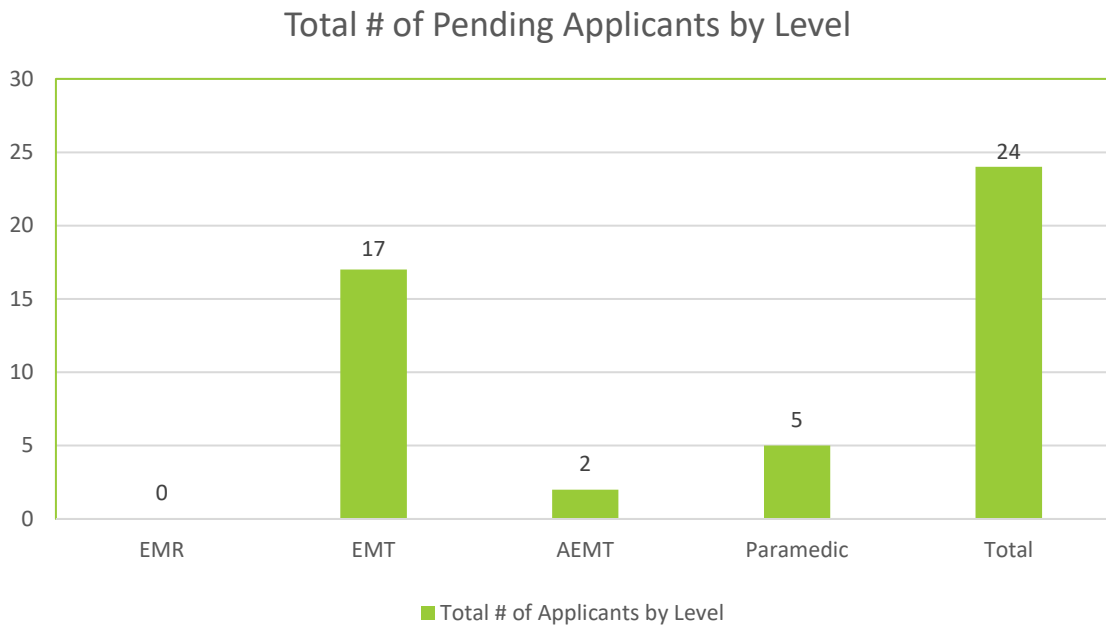
- **Application Pending Approval** – this category includes the total dollar value for all applications received through December 31, 2022. This covers Q1 & 2.
- **Total Scholarship \$ Awarded** – this category is the total dollar value for all scholarship applications which have been approved and are in the process of being paid. Since the Virginia EMS Scholarship module is new, OEMS staff have only approved a small group of test applications as we work through the payment processes with the VDH Office of Financial Management.
- **Remaining Funds** – this category is the total dollar value of funds remaining in the scholarship program and available for to students for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Scholarship Funding Overview

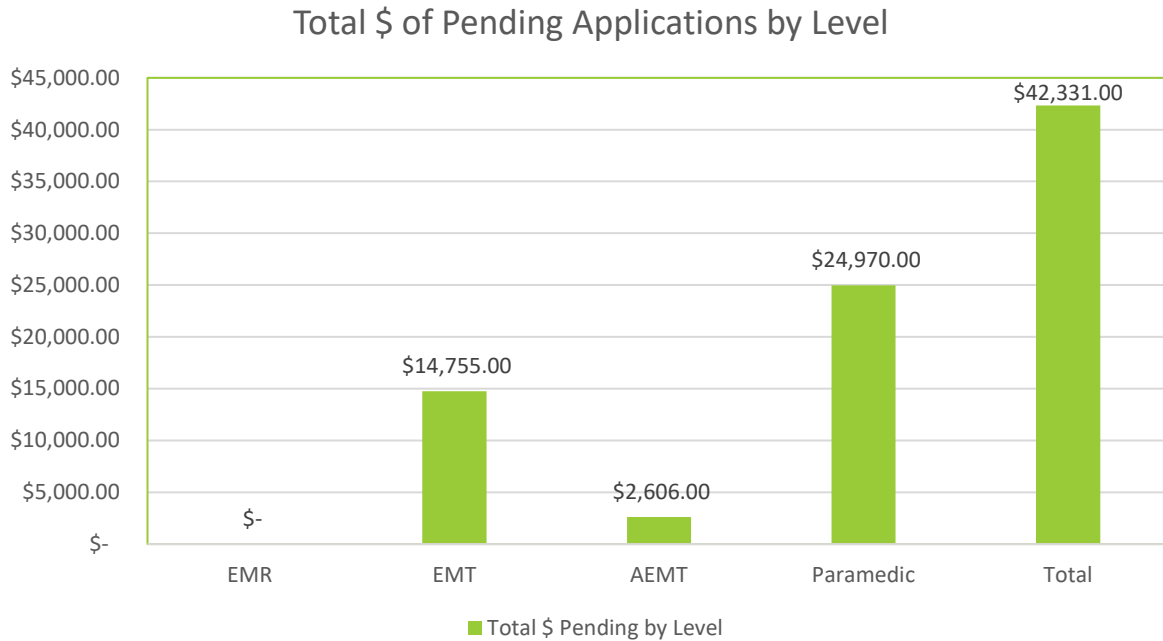


Breakdown of Pending Applications

The following chart shows pending scholarship applications by training level. This includes all pending applications for students enrolled in eligible initial certification courses from June 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023.

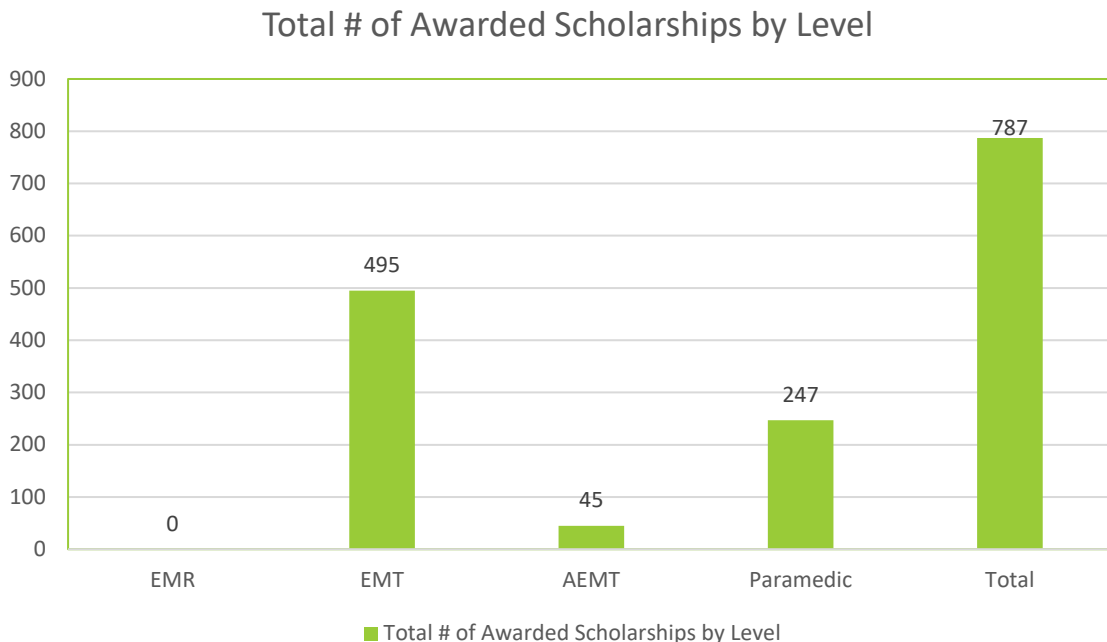


The following chart show of pending scholarship applications by training level. This includes all pending applications for students enrolled in eligible initial certification courses from June 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023.



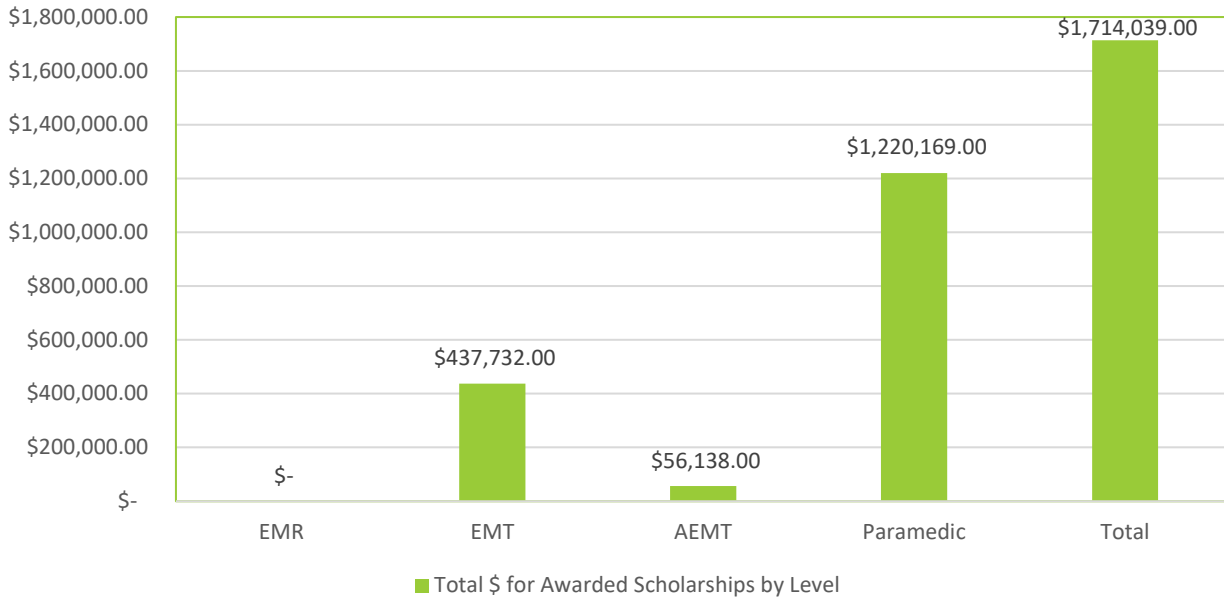
Breakdown of Awarded Scholarships

The following chart shows data for all scholarship applications which have been awarded by training level. This includes all awarded applications for students enrolled in eligible initial certification courses from June 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023.



The following chart shows data for all scholarship applications which have been awarded by training level. This includes all pending applications for students enrolled in eligible initial certification courses from June 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023.

Total \$ for Awarded Scholarships by Level



**Attachment C to the
April 4, 2023 TCC Minutes**

**Educational Challenges
Conducting EMS Training:
Virginia High School EMS
Programs**

MEMO

TO: VALERIE QUICK, RN - CHAIR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
DR. JASON FERGUSON, EdD, - CHAIR TRAINING & CERTIFICATION
COMMITTEE

FROM: CHAD BLOSSER, OEMS EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER

CC: DEBBIE AKERS, DIRECTOR DIVISION OF ACCREDITATION,
CERTIFICATION & EDUCATION

DATE: MARCH 16, 2023

SUBJECT: EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES CONDUCTING EMS TRAINING: VIRGINIA
HIGH SCHOOL EMS PROGRAMS

OVERVIEW

On February 8, the Division of Accreditation, Certification and Education met with the high school Program Directors and Virginia Department of Education (DOE) staff to assess what, if anything the EMS Advisory Board could do to assist high school programs with their mission.

This meeting was conducted at your request.

THE ASK

The Workforce Development Committee—a sub-committee of the EMS Advisory Board—recently discussed high school EMS programs at their February 2023 meeting. The results of this discussion included the need to meet with Virginia’s high school Program Directors to have an honest and open discussion about these programs.

Some of the items that we were requested to review were:

- Outcomes
- Program Metrics
- Difficulties / Challenges Encountered
- Program Availability Statewide

Are High School Programs the Answer to the EMS Shortage?

EMS worker shortages continue to be an issue. With a shortage of EMS workers pushing some communities into dire straits, the conversation has shifted to what can be done to fill the gaps. Are high schools an untapped resource to assist with staffing shortages and decreasing workforce numbers?

College level programs are doing their best to train their students and put them out into the community, but with some programs only having a dozen students, others are looking for ways to get kids interested in EMS from a younger age.

What can the EMS Advisory Board Do to Assist High School EMS?

The Workforce Development Committee is interested to learn:

1. Is there anything the EMS Advisory Board can do to support high school EMS programs?
2. Create a white paper on entrance requirements for HS Guidance Counselors?
3. Engage the Department of Ed directly?
4. Engage local HS principals directly?
5. How can the EMS Advisory Board work to increase the number of high school EMS programs across the state?

HISTORICAL HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Ultimate outcomes for high school programs are difficult to gauge due to the age of the student. High school students are likely to enroll in a college or university which makes tracking outcomes on the part of the programs difficult to say the least.

Additionally, unless a very distinct bond has been developed between the educator and the student, once they graduate, the likelihood of seeing/hearing from the student is negligible.

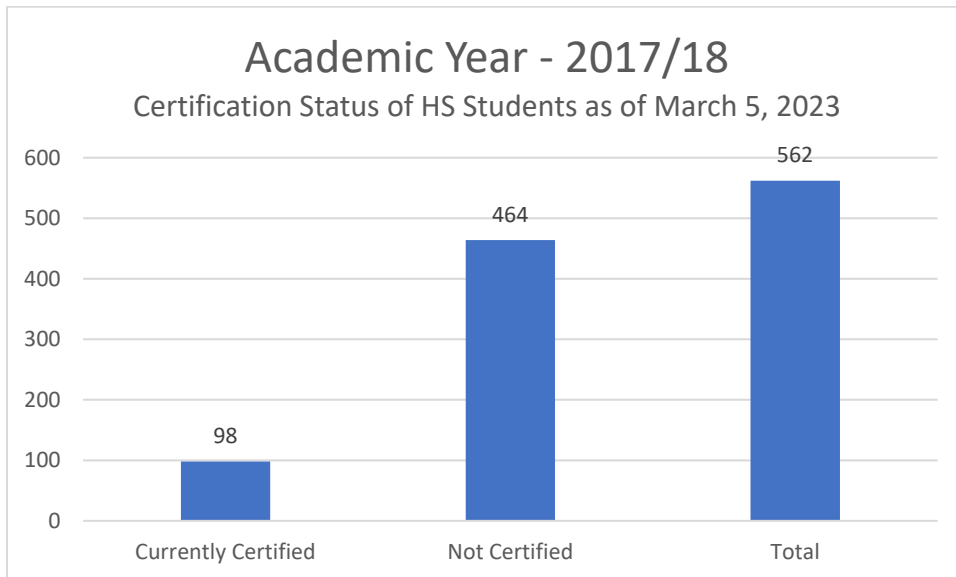
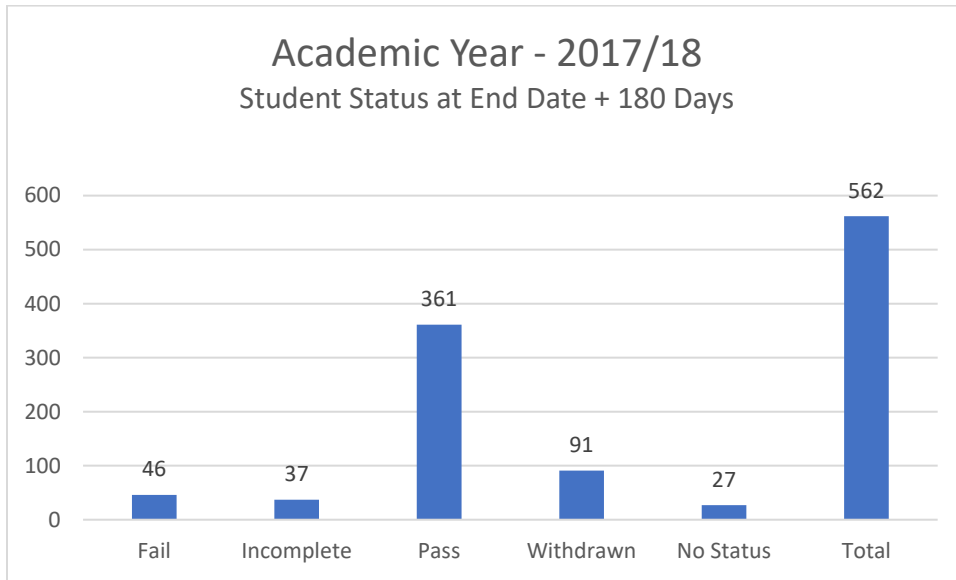
Student Outcomes Based on OEMS Data

The following data have been extracted from the Virginia EMS Portal in order to provide basic outcomes for students enrolled in high school EMS programs.

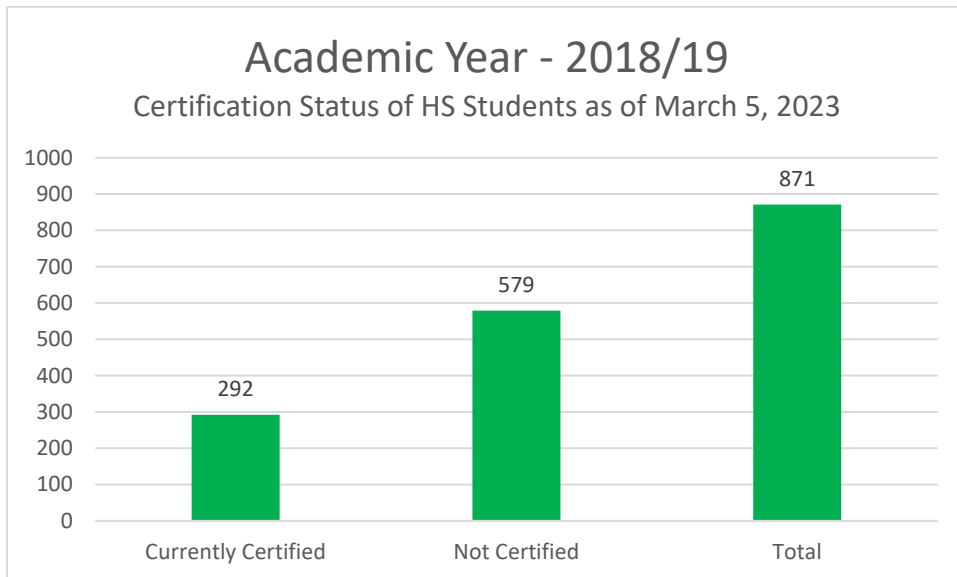
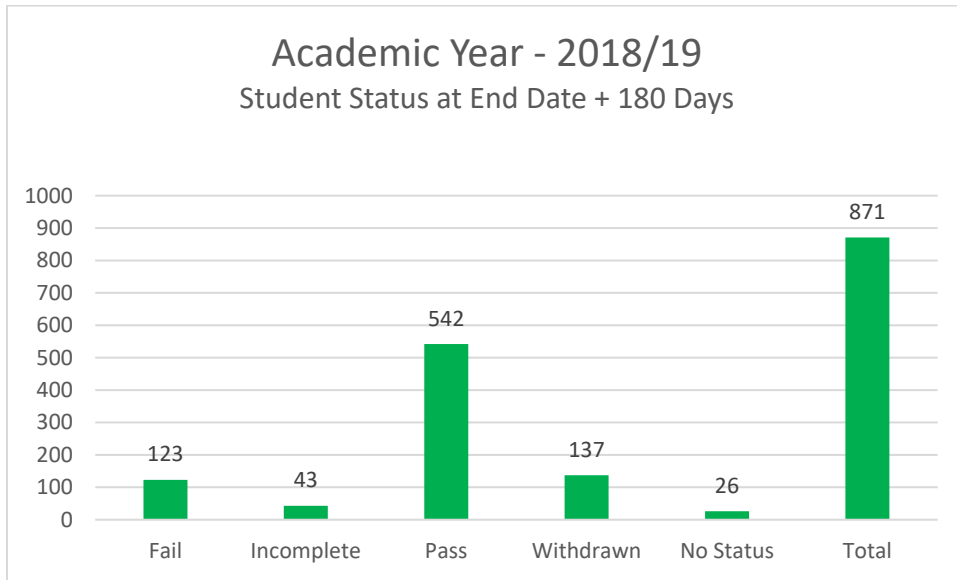
There are two distinct graphs provided for each academic year: 1) the status of each enrolled student in the cohort at the end of their program + 180 days; 2) the current number of high school students in that same cohort that are currently certified in Virginia as an EMS provider. Affiliation was not tracked or monitored.

We only reported data for academic years 2018—2022.

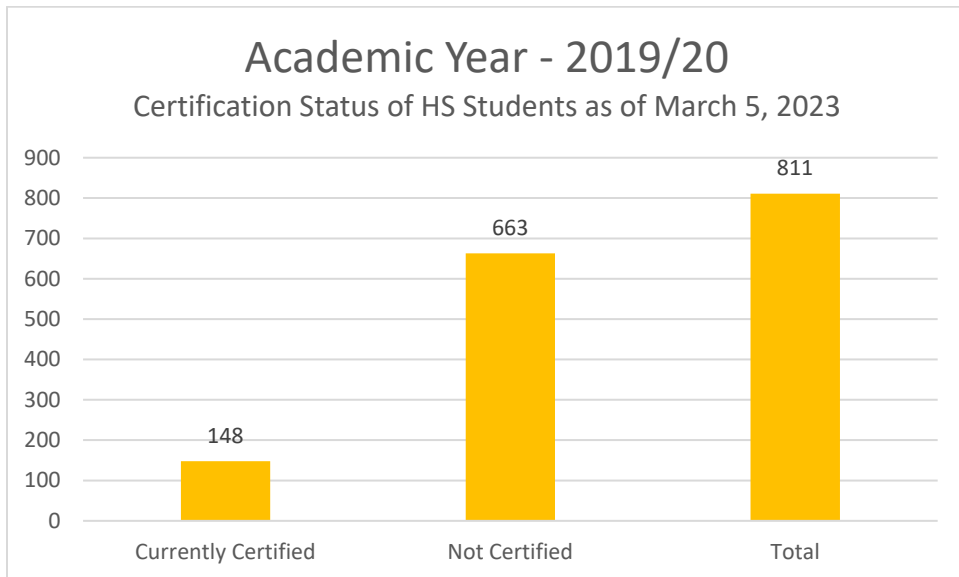
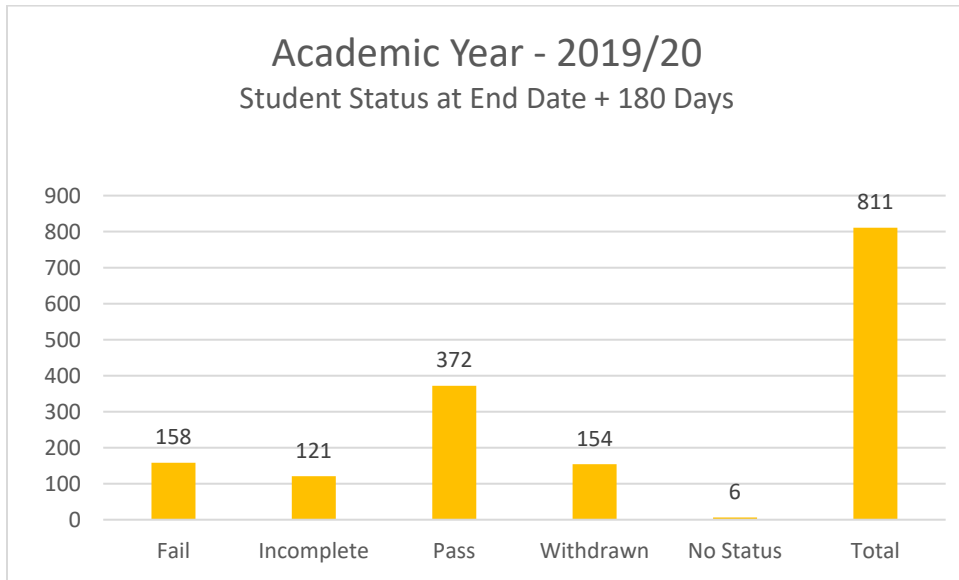
Academic Year 2018



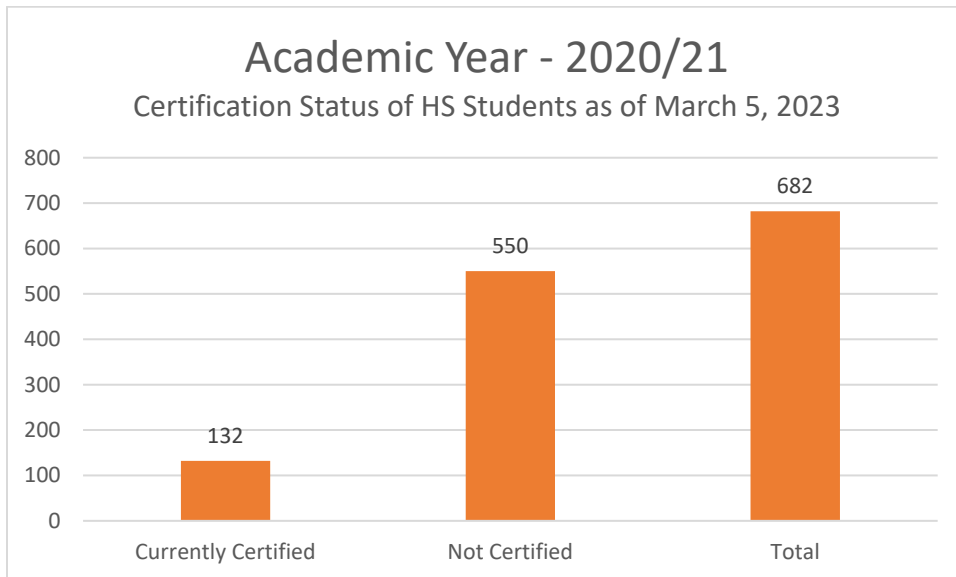
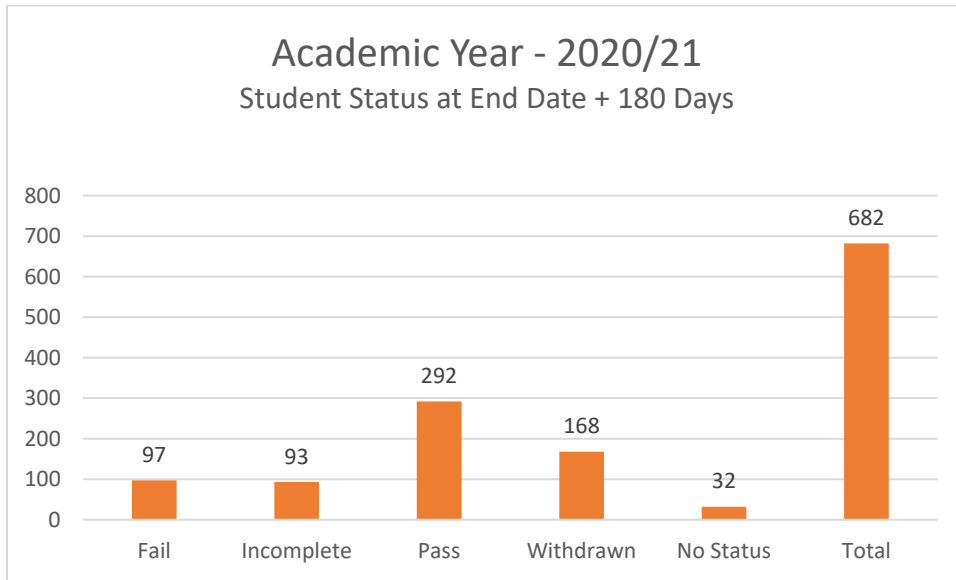
Academic Year 2019



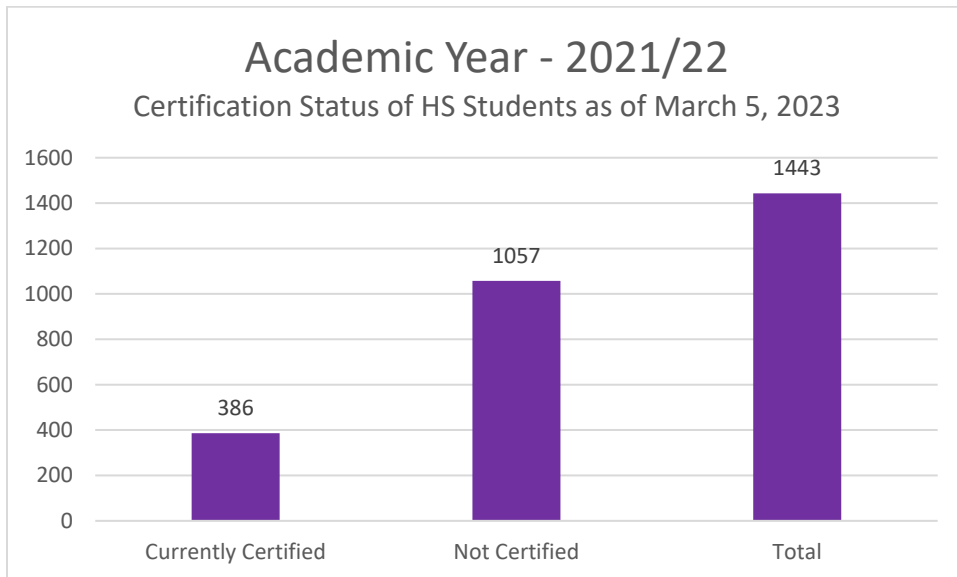
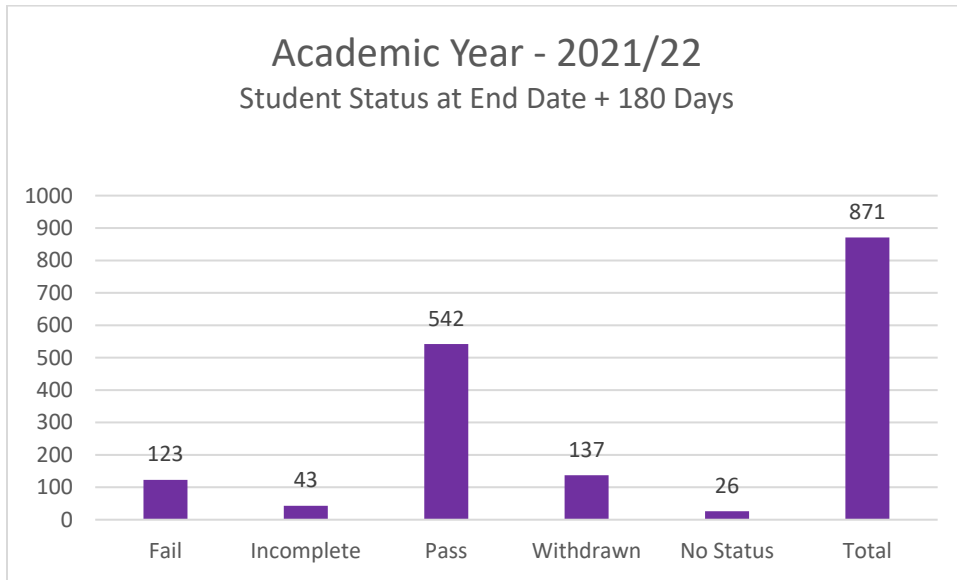
Academic Year 2020



Academic Year 2021



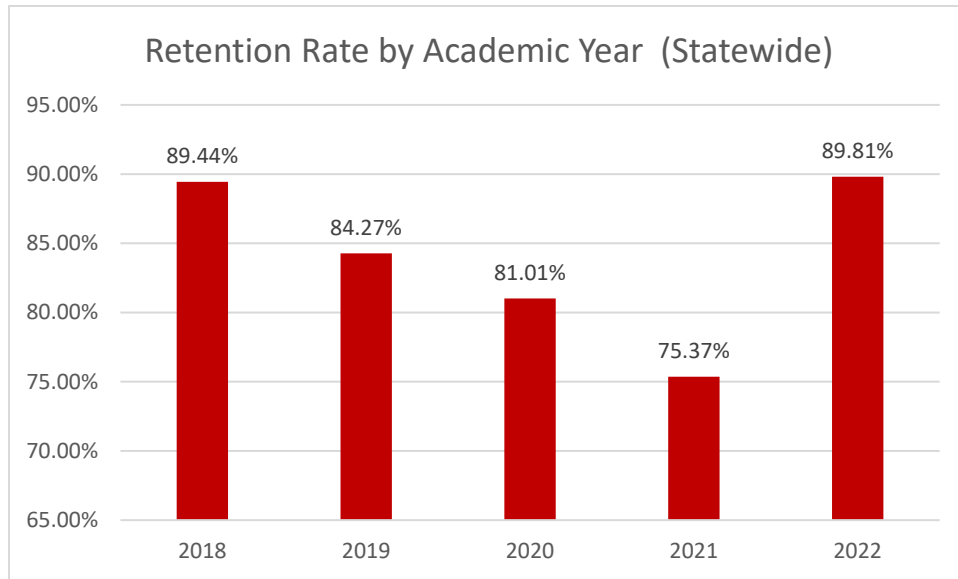
Academic Year 2022



PROGRAM METRICS

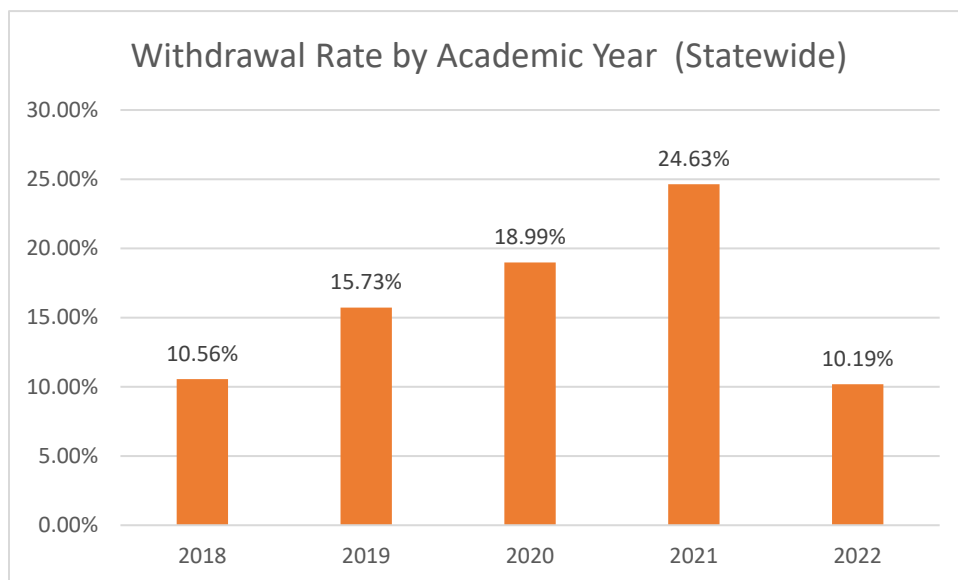
Retention Rate

For the purpose of this memo, **Retention rate** is the percentage of a school's students who continued through the program through the academic year.



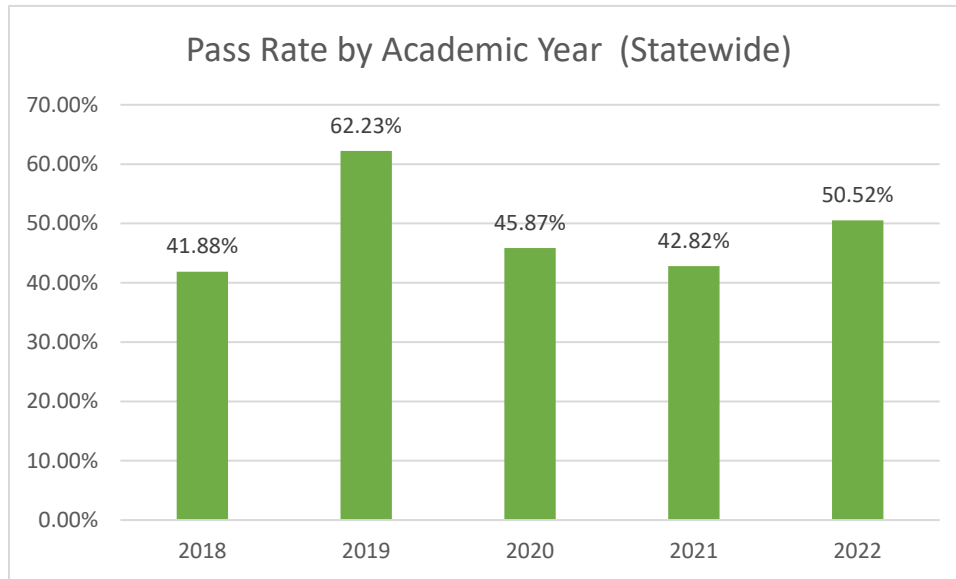
Withdrawal Rate

Withdrawal Rate means the number of withdrawals as a percentage of program enrollment, that is, $Withdrawal Rate = (Number\ of\ Withdrawals / Program\ Enrollment) \times 100$.



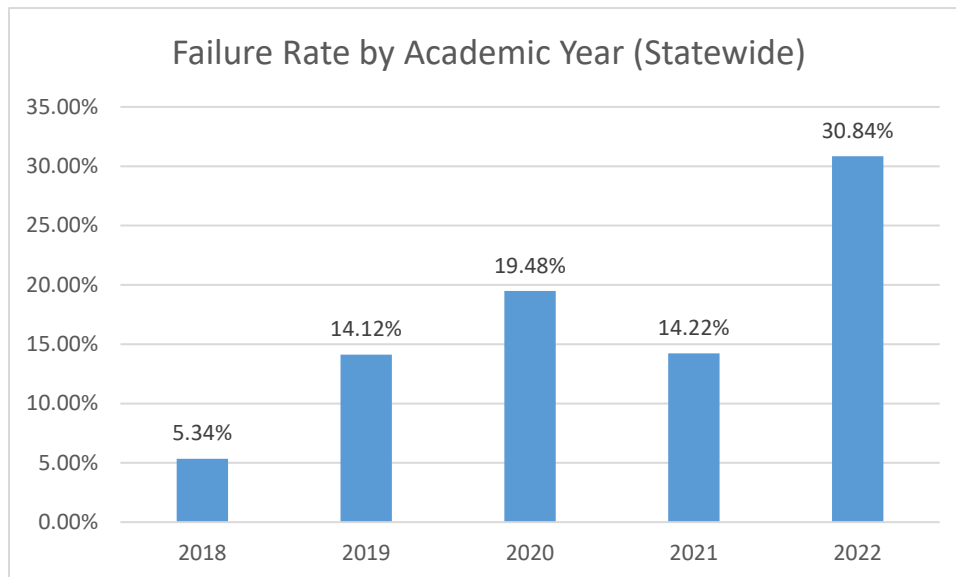
Pass Rate

Pass Rate means the number of students marked as pass as a percentage of program enrollment, that is, $\text{Pass Rate} = (\text{Number of Passes} / \text{Program Enrollment}) \times 100$.



Failure Rate

Failure Rate means the number of students who failed out of the program as a percentage of program enrollment, that is, $\text{Failure Rate} = (\text{Number of Fails} / \text{Program Enrollment}) \times 100$.



DIFFICULTIES / CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

Educational Challenges In Emergency Medical Students

A pro-active approach to EMS programs by school administrators is required in order to avoid or limit:

- programs operating without a Medical Director,
- programs operating without credentialed instructors,
- instructors feeling pressured by administration to pass and certify students,
- student motivation,
- teacher turnover,
- lack of professional support,
- class size is too large, and
- passing and licensing students who have not demonstrated competency.

Student Selection is Key

School Administration

Far too often, school administrators (principals) do not take a pro-active approach to EMS programs and as long as there are “no big problems coming to their level” are hands-off. Regretfully, this is far from what is needed in high school programs.

School Guidance Counselors

Either due to failure to preemptively discourage EMS, failure to take the initiative or a lack of training/understanding of Emergency Medical Services, high school Guidance Counselors are placing the wrong students in EMS programs.

More often than not, high school programs become the dumping ground for students who cannot be placed in any other program, either due to grades, truancy, propensity to be in trouble, etc. This not only make the educational process that much more difficult; it also does not result in students’ successful completion of the program and certification as an EMS provider ready to join the workforce.

All Guidance Counselors should be required to ask this question of themselves of each student they are placing in an EMS program:

- “Would I want to look up from a stretcher following a car accident and see this individual in charge of my medical care?”, or

- “Can I trust this individual to care for a sick family member in their time of greatest need?”

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to enroll in and pursue licensure in a high school EMS course, should all EMS students in the Commonwealth be required to meet minimum criteria? Suggested criteria could include:

- Be proficient in reading, writing, and speaking the English language.
- Must have a 1.85 cumulative GPA prior to entering the EMR program and maintain a 2.0 course GPA while in the program. Must have a 2.0 cumulative GPA prior to entering the EMT program and maintain a 2.0 course GPA while in the program.
- Be a minimum of 16 years of age by the scheduled end date of the course.
- The student must provide the course instructor with a parental permission form (TR-07), with the signature of a parent or guardian, verifying approval for enrollment in the course.
- Have no physical or mental impairment that would render the student unable to perform all practical skills required for the level of certification including the ability to function and communicate independently and perform appropriate patient care, physical assessments, and treatments without the need of an assistant.
- Currently possess or earn a current BLS Healthcare Provider CPR (or equivalent) card.
- Currently possess a current state-issued license/ID, valid passport, or federal visa.
- Not have an arrest/conviction record (as an adult) that has not been cleared by the EMS Certification Commission.
- Maintain a professional appearance in line with local EMS expectations and according to the local school district policy.
- Not be under the influence of any drugs or intoxicating substances that impair the ability to provide patient care or operate a motor vehicle while in class or the clinical setting, while on duty, when responding to, or assisting in the care of a patient.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following a lengthy discussion with the high School Program Directors, the following consensus opinions were agreed upon.

Primary Request

The Program Directors feel that Virginia Department of Education needs to provide more education for high school administrators and Guidance Counselors to ensure that every school district in the state is on the same page when it comes to EMS programs in the high schools. The Virginia Office of EMS has been working hand-in-hand with the Department of Education CTE staff for more than 20 years. Recently, following some personnel changes, the OEMS staff is extremely optimistic that we can work together with DOE and that this relationship is positive and can produce results.

It is important that administrators and the Guidance Department understand the reason for and the need to follow state DOE policies and Office of EMS Regulations and policies as set forth in the Training Program Administration Manual.

Secondary Request

Program Directors would request that the state Workforce Development Committee in coordination with the EMS Advisory Board take the necessary steps to develop a memorandum or white paper which would clearly outline the minimum basic eligibility requirements that districts must follow when placing students in EMS programs.

Suggested eligibility criteria should include:

- Be proficient in reading, writing, and speaking the English language.
- Must have a minimum GPA prior (TBD) to entering and EMR or EMT program.
- Be a minimum of 16 years of age by the scheduled end date of the course.
- The student must provide the course instructor with a parental permission form (TR-07), with the signature of a parent or guardian, verifying approval for enrollment in the course.
 - Require parents or guardians to attend a meeting about the content and situations encountered in EMS. Each Program Director would be responsible for conducting one of these sessions in the mid-summer.
 - Develop a DOE approved PowerPoint presentation which would be used during this meeting containing, videos, graphic pictures, descriptions of scenes, etc.
- Have no physical or mental impairment that would render the student unable to perform all practical skills required for the level of certification including the ability

to function and communicate independently and perform appropriate patient care, physical assessments, and treatments without the need of an assistant.

- Currently possess or earn a current BLS Healthcare Provider CPR (or equivalent) card.
- Currently possess a current state-issued license/ID, valid passport, or federal visa.
- Maintain a professional appearance in line with local EMS expectations and according to the local school district policy.
- Not be under the influence of any drugs or intoxicating substances that impair the ability to provide patient care or operate a motor vehicle while in class or the clinical setting, while on duty, when responding to, or assisting in the care of a patient.

Conclusion

The Program Directors would like to thank the Workforce Development Committee, the EMS Advisory board and the Department of Education for taking an interest in high school EMS education programs.

High school educators are passionate about what they do and with the right education for administrators, guidance staff and parents, they feel these programs could lead to a pipeline for the current provider shortages being felt across the industry. Additionally, if done correctly and rolled out to the districts in a positive way, this is a CTE program that is ripe for growth and development across the Commonwealth.