

# 2024 - 2026 IT Strategic Plan

**Agency:** 245 State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

**Date:** 9/28/2023

## Current IT State

**In this section, describe the high-level strategy the agency will use to manage existing operational IT investments over the next year to 5 years. This section should align with identified Business Requirements for Existing Technology (BReTs). At minimum, please address the following questions in your description of your agency's strategy for managing existing operational IT investments:**

**Are there existing IT investments that will require additional funding over the next year to 5 years, such as license renewals, re-competition of current IT contracts, or system enhancements required by the Agency Strategic Plan?**

**If there are systems that will no longer support the agency's business needs, either through poor performance or excessive cost, how does IT leadership in the agency plan to address the issues?**

**If the agency does not have the staff or funding to meet increasing demand for IT services, how will IT leadership fulfill the requests?**

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) advocates and promotes the development and operation of an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of higher education and leads state-level strategic planning and policy development and implementation based on research and analysis.

The Council and its staff fulfill this mission by:

- Leading state-level strategic planning and policy development that promotes greater access, quality, affordability, and accountability.
- Implementing policy and programs based on research and analysis.
- Facilitating collaboration among institutions of higher education that enhances quality, advances educational excellence and creates operational efficiencies.
- Recommending higher education policies and funding to the Governor and General Assembly that support our mission.
- Communicating openly, honestly and effectively to the public.

## AGENCY PAIN POINTS AND CHALLENGES

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia has established the following goals to provide the overarching direction to help steer long-term outcomes The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia has established three to five agency objectives for the upcoming biennium.

Promote the strategic management of Virginia's system of higher education.

### Summary and Alignment

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia's primary mission is to promote the continuous improvement of the Commonwealth's nationally recognized higher education system through state-level strategic planning, coordination and collaboration that recognize the individual missions of the institutions while reflecting and meeting the needs and goals of the Commonwealth as a whole. Virginia statute clearly defines the educational goals and objectives that SCHEV and the public institutions must address, and SCHEV's new state-wide strategic plan articulates broad goals and strategies for the system and the Commonwealth. Many of the duties and activities inherent in this goal are codified in Virginia law. This goal is consistent with SCHEV's mission to promote the development and operation of a sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of higher education.

Ultimately, the responsibility for planning and execution of these duties and responsibilities rests with the Council, which is comprised of 13 members appointed by the Governor. The Council hires a director for the state agency

known as SCHEV, which carries out the Council's directives and its mandated activities.

Maximize higher education access and affordability for all qualified citizens.

Summary and Alignment

SCHEV is committed to supporting the investment of higher education funds so as to maximize the benefits of financial resources for all students seeking postsecondary education. In addition, SCHEV supports policies that optimize the effective use of financial resources to minimize costs to students.

Promote and convey progress toward state goals for educational attainment and workforce development.

Summary and Alignment

SCHEV collaborates with public and private institutions of higher education to develop enrollment projections and estimates for credential awards (degrees and non-degree workforce credentials). The agency also assists institutions with efforts to improve students' educational attainment and workforce readiness, and it reports on progress toward relevant goals set by the Governor and General Assembly.

Coordinate and enhance the federal programs that support Virginia's postsecondary education system.

Summary and Alignment

The purpose of the GEAR UP program is to increase the awareness and readiness of low-income school childhood for postsecondary education and training. This goal is consistent with SCHEV's mission to promote the development and operation of an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of higher education. The purpose of the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title II, Part A, Improving Teacher Quality State Grants," is to increase the academic achievement of all students by helping schools and school districts improve teacher and principal quality and ensure that all teachers are highly qualified. SCHEV is responsible for competitively administering federal grants to institutions of higher education that partner with local school districts to support this purpose.

Maximize productivity through the efficient use of resources.

Summary and Alignment

SCHEV strives to maximize productivity through the efficient and effective use of resources in the administration of the agency's budget and finance functions, while adhering to all applicable state laws and regulations.

### **Factors Impacting the Current IT**

**In this section, the agency will describe the changes in their business environment that will require or mandate changes to the agency's current IT investments. These are requirements and mandates from external sources, such as other agencies or business partners, the agency's customer base, product and service providers, or new federal or state legislation or regulations. The agency must identify the business value of the change, any important deadlines that must be met, and the consequences if the deadlines are not met. In your discussion, be sure to note whether the proposed enhancements are funded or not. If the agency's existing current IT investments will not need enhancement due to requirements or mandates from external sources in the foreseeable future, the agency should enter the following text rather than leave the Factors Impacting the Current IT section blank**

**For each mandated change, summarize your agency's response from your Agency Strategic Plan, and is it the opinion of agency IT leadership that the IT portion of the response is adequately funded?**

**Do the mandated changes affect IT in other Commonwealth agencies, or in other states? If so, how?**

At this point, there are no new requirements expected. The agency is currently in recruitment for a new agency head and a new director of finance policy. The Council also has three new gubernatorial appointments, and the July meeting was canceled for not having a quorum, prior to their appointment, so things are currently in stasis. We anticipate there may be substantial updates to this plan in the spring or summer of 2024.

## **Proposed IT Solutions**

**In this section, describe the high-level strategy the agency will use to initiate new IT investments over the next year to 5 years in support of the agency strategic objectives documented in your Agency Strategic Plan. The agency does not need to consider specific technologies at this time, however, the strategy should identify how the IT implementation will provide business value to the organization. This section should align with identified Business Requirements for New Technology (BRnTs). At minimum, please address the following questions in your description of your agency's strategy for initiating new IT investments:**

**What are the most important solutions, based on the priority assigned to the requirements by the business sponsors in your agency, and what is the approach to achieving these priority solutions?**

**If any new IT initiatives will be started in the upcoming budget biennium, is it the opinion of agency IT leadership that it is adequately funded?**

**Does the agency's current IT staff have the appropriate skill set needed to support future agency technologies? If not, what skill sets need to be acquired?**

**If the agency will be engaged in multiple new IT initiatives, how will agency IT staff and agency subject matter experts be used across the initiatives?**

We have no new proposed IT solutions at this time.

# Business Requirements For Technology

Agency:	245 State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Date:	9/28/2023
<b>BReT - FAFSA Completion Project</b>	
BRT Type:	Business Requirement for Existing Technology
Date Submitted:	9/1/2023
Mandate:	
Mission Critical:	
<b>Description:</b>	
A possible project to receive student data from the US Education Department on a weekly basis of students/families completing the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance and reporting that information back to high schools and LEAs to assist them in encouraging students to complete the FAFSA and apply to college.	
<b>BReT Security Compliance</b>	
BRT Type:	Business Requirement for Existing Technology
Date Submitted:	9/1/2023
Mandate:	Yes
Mission Critical:	
<b>Description:</b>	
Implementation Corrective Action Plan for security audit.	
<b>Cloud Platforming of SCHEV Applications</b>	
BRT Type:	Business Requirement for New Technology
Date Submitted:	9/1/2023
Mandate:	
Mission Critical:	
<b>Description:</b>	
SCHEV Is contemplating and investigating the benefits to moving to AWS or Azure, away from the Commonwealth's private cloud if sufficient savings are possible.	

SCHEV SD-WAN Upgrade	
<b>BRT Type:</b>	Business Requirement for Existing Technology
<b>Date Submitted:</b>	3/1/2023
<b>Mandate:</b>	Yes
<b>Mission Critical:</b>	Yes
<b>Description:</b>	
<p>Configure existing routers to support SD-WAN capability across all agency locations. This approach prepares agency location(s) with the ability to add additional network capabilities (multiprotocol label switching (MPLS), broadband, wireless (i.e., Cradlepoint)) to take advantage of application -aware routing over private and public networks.</p> <p>Three step process:</p> <p>Remote internetwork operating system (IOS) software upgrade on the router.</p> <p>Remote SD-WAN deployment</p> <p>Circuit deployment as needed</p>	
SCHEV Website Modernization	
<b>BRT Type:</b>	Business Requirement for New Technology
<b>Date Submitted:</b>	6/19/2023
<b>Mandate:</b>	
<b>Mission Critical:</b>	Yes
<b>Description:</b>	
<p>The primary objective of the COV Website Modernization and the CMS Virginia.gov projects are to ensure all state sites are on a single common platform and are following required VITA, COV and 508 standards.</p>	
Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS) BReT	
<b>BRT Type:</b>	Business Requirement for Existing Technology
<b>Date Submitted:</b>	9/1/2023
<b>Mandate:</b>	Yes
<b>Mission Critical:</b>	Yes
<b>Description:</b>	

The Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS) provides state policy makers, authorized researchers and citizens with access to educational and workforce training data from multiple sources while protecting the privacy of Virginia students.

VLDS supports critical reporting on the quality of public education - such as accurate graduation and dropout rates for high schools and school divisions - while providing information that can help policy makers improve programs that prepare and connect Virginians with employment opportunities.

VDOE & the Virginia Longitudinal Data System - Improving Student Outcomes & Protecting Privacy (PDF) - More on how VLDS protects student privacy, including answers to frequently asked questions about data available through the system.

Data are provided by VDOE, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Virginia Community College System and the Virginia Employment Commission. The development of VLDS was funded through a Longitudinal Data Systems Grant awarded to the commonwealth under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The federal grant allowed Virginia to build on VDOE's state-funded Educational Information Management System and put additional high-quality data into the hands of teachers, administrators, researchers, policymakers and the public - while safeguarding the privacy of students and adults.

SCHEV will utilize the CAI contingent labor contract with augmented staff to complete the associated tasks for this effort.

# IT Strategic Plan Budget Tables

<b>Agency:</b>	245 State Council of Higher Education for Virginia			
<b>Date:</b>	9/28/2023			
<b>Current IT Services</b>				
	<b>Costs Year 1</b>		<b>Costs Year 2</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>NGF</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>NGF</b>
<b>Projected Service Fees</b>	\$712,439.43		\$733,812.61	
<b>VITA Infrastructure Changes</b>				
<b>Estimated VITA Infrastructure</b>	\$712,439.43	\$0.00	\$733,812.61	\$0.00
<b>Specialized Infrastructure</b>				
<b>Agency IT Staff</b>	\$1,140,000.00		\$1,140,000.00	
<b>Non-agency IT Staff</b>	\$599,760.00		\$611,755.00	
<b>Cloud Computing Service</b>				
<b>Other Application Costs</b>				
<b>Total:</b>	\$2,452,199.43	\$0.00	\$2,485,567.61	\$0.00
<b>Proposed IT Investments</b>				
	<b>Costs Year 1</b>		<b>Costs Year 2</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>NGF</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>NGF</b>
<b>Major IT Projects:</b>				
<b>Non-Major IT Projects:</b>				
<b>Agency-Level IT Projects:</b>				

<b>Major Stand Alone IT Procurements:</b>					
<b>Non-Major Stand Alone IT Procurements:</b>					
<b>Agency-Level Stand Alone IT Procurements:</b>	\$38,000.00		\$38,000.00		
<b>Procurement Adjustment for Staffing:</b>					
<b>Total:</b>	\$38,000.00	\$0.00	\$38,000.00	\$0.00	
<b>Projected Total IT Budget</b>					
		<b>Costs Year 1</b>		<b>Costs Year 2</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>NGF</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>NGF</b>	
<b>Current IT Services</b>	\$2,452,199.43	\$0.00	\$2,485,567.61	\$0.00	
<b>Proposed IT Investments</b>	\$38,000.00	\$0.00	\$38,000.00	\$0.00	
<b>Total</b>	\$2,490,199.43	\$0.00	\$2,523,567.61	\$0.00	



## Commonwealth Projects $\geq$ \$250,000.00

There are no projects for this agency.

# Commonwealth Procurements $\geq$ \$250,000.00

There are no stand alone procurements for this agency.