



Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Committee

December 2, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

General Assembly Building, Senate Room C, Room 311

<https://brownscholarship.virginia.gov>

The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Committee (the Committee) met in Richmond with Senator Angelia Williams Graves, chair, presiding.¹ The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks followed by presentations and discussion. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Committee's meetings webpage](#).

2025–2026 Application Cycle

The meeting began with Senator Williams Graves providing an overview of the proposed policy changes for the 2025–2026 application cycle, including (i) specifying that funds will be awarded for up to \$5,000 in the fall and spring semester, with remaining funds eligible for use during the summer semester; (ii) removing the requirement that funds be used for "tuition only"; (iii) removing the requirement for renewal applicants to provide documentation to establish domicile; (iv) removing the requirement for applicants to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Virginia Alternative State Aid (VASA) application; (v) simplifying the renewal application process; and (vi) changing prioritization criteria. The Committee is also considering future amendments to the scholarship legislation to allow Virginia applicants who are attending out-of-state schools.

Lily Jones, Legislative Projects Manager, Division of Legislative Services, provided the Committee with information about the 2024–2025 application cycle, including advertising methods, funding, and applicant history.

Delegate Jackie Hope Glass advised the Committee to utilize school counselors, social media, and personal networks to advertise for the 2025–2026 application cycle. Mr. Cameron Patterson suggested reaching out to school counselors, superintendents, and admissions offices in order to advertise. Dr. Barbara L. Inman recommended distributing application information to financial aid offices. Delegate Candi Mundon King proposed that Senator Williams Graves and the members advertise to colleagues, school board members, community foundations, and the common app used by colleges. Delegate Chris Runion suggested mailing formal letters and information to constituents.

The Committee voted unanimously to adopt the proposed policy recommendations.

Public Comment and Next Meeting

A descendant of a person impacted by the 1954–1964 school closures and the family commented to provide insight into the importance of expanding the eligibility pool to include Virginia students attending out-of-state schools.

¹ **Members Present:** Senator Angelia Williams Graves (chair), Delegate Candi Mundon King (vice-chair), Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi, Delegate Jackie Hope Glass, Delegate Chris Runion, Delegate Anne Ferrell H. Tata, Joan Johns Cobbs, Dr. Barbara L. Inman, Geneda Kearney, Cameron Patterson

Members Absent: Paris Turner

Senator Williams Graves directed staff to poll members for the next meeting.

For more information, see the [*Committee's website*](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

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