

2022 - 2024 IT Strategic Plan

Agency: 245 State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Date: 12/21/2022

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?

SCHEV's mission is to advocate and promote the development and operation of an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia and to lead state-level strategic planning and policy development and implementation based on research and analysis. The Council shall also seek to facilitate collaboration among institutions of higher education that will enhance quality and create operational efficiencies and shall work with institutions of higher education and their boards on board development.

SCHEV has four primary applications that support its mission. The first consists of the public websites, specifically research.schev.edu which houses the most expansive collection of state higher education data in the nation. The second application is the data collection system that is used by Virginia's public and private, nonprofit colleges to provide student-level data to the agency, continuing a collection that began in 1992. The third application is the Private and Out-of-State Public Education (PPE) Certification (to operate in Virginia) web application to process institutional applications to operate and annually certify their ability to operate in the Commonwealth. The fourth application is web application supporting the GEAR-UP Scholarship program which will manage the distribution of funds to a cohort of students as they transition from high school to postsecondary education.

By act of General Assembly in 2016, SCHEV now administers the Virginia Longitudinal Data System with a dozen current partner agencies, and two nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) - Virginia Goodwill Network and Virginia Early Childhood Foundation. Virginia Department of Health was in the process of onboarding and that has been halted temporarily by the Covid-19 crisis and still has not moved forward. The Registered Apprenticeship program of DOLI is in process of joining VLDS during FY23. The website for PPE has been moved to a hosted application through Virginia Interactive. We transitioned the main SCHEV website to a cloud hosting of Granicus during the second half of FY22. The remainder of our applications remain in the Commonwealth private cloud.

SCHEV contracted with Regent Education to build a hosted solution for receiving applications for Virginia state aid programs available to undocumented students and we expect that relationship to continue.

SCHEV has joined two multi-state partnerships to share data across state lines through Advanced Data Research Facility hosted at the Coleridge Institute. First year activity is funded by grant, future years are not, should the Commonwealth elect to continue, there will be a budgetary impact.

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?

Participation in the Workforce Data Trust as required by the Commonwealth is expected to take place in FY23, which may require some investment. Estimated investment is not known at this time.

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?

SCHEV has begun evaluating the potential of moving its data infrastructure to AWS or Azure. We do not have a cost estimate for this activity at this time.

SCHEV has procured the development of a system to manage student internships in the Commonwealth and the work has begun. Cost is \$859,000 in FY23.

IT Strategic Plan Budget Tables

Agency:	245 State Council of Higher Education for Virginia			
Date:	12/21/2022			
Current IT Services				
	Costs Year 1		Costs Year 2	
Category	GF	NGF	GF	NGF
Projected Service Fees	\$632,992.00		\$651,982.00	
VITA Infrastructure Changes				
Estimated VITA Infrastructure	\$632,992.00	\$0.00	\$651,982.00	\$0.00
Specialized Infrastructure				
Agency IT Staff	\$800,000.00		\$840,000.00	
Non-agency IT Staff	\$513,000.00		\$526,000.00	
Cloud Computing Service				
Other Application Costs			\$200,000.00	
Total:	\$1,945,992.00	\$0.00	\$2,217,982.00	\$0.00
Proposed IT Investments				
	Costs Year 1		Costs Year 2	
Category	GF	NGF	GF	NGF
Major IT Projects:				
Non-Major IT Projects:				
Agency-Level IT Projects:				
Major Stand Alone IT Procurements:				
Non-Major Stand Alone IT Procurements:	\$859,000.00			
Agency-Level Stand Alone IT Procurements:				
Procurement Adjustment for Staffing:				
Total:	\$859,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Projected Total IT Budget				
	Costs Year 1		Costs Year 2	
Category	GF	NGF	GF	NGF
Current IT Services:	\$1,945,992.00	\$0.00	\$2,217,982.00	\$0.00
Proposed IT Investments:	\$859,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total:	\$2,804,992.00	\$0.00	\$2,217,982.00	\$0.00

Business Requirements For Technology

Agency:	245 State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Date:	12/21/2022
BReT - FAFSA Completion Project	
BRT Type:	Business Requirement for Existing Technology
Date Submitted:	3/26/2021
Mandate:	
Mission Critical:	
Description:	
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.	
BReT Security Compliance	
BRT Type:	Business Requirement for Existing Technology
Date Submitted:	3/26/2021
Mandate:	Yes
Mission Critical:	
Description:	
Implementation Corrective Action Plan for security audit	
Cloud Platforming of SCHEV Applications	
BRT Type:	Business Requirement for New Technology
Date Submitted:	10/4/2022
Mandate:	
Mission Critical:	
Description:	
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.	

Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS) BReT

BRT Type:	Business Requirement for Existing Technology
Date Submitted:	3/26/2021
Mandate:	Yes
Mission Critical:	Yes
Description:	
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Data are provided by VDOE, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Virginia Community College System and the Virginia Employment Commission.</p> <p>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.</p>	

IT Strategic Plan Projects

There are no projects for this agency.

IT Strategic Plan Procurements

Agency:	245 State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Date:	12/21/2022
Stand Alone Procurements:	
Procurement Name:	Internship Training Module and Delivery System
Procurement Date	3/15/2023
Procurement Description:	Creation of a development and readiness training modules for the Virginia Talent Pipeline Initiative. Section 23.1-903.4 of the Code of Virginia. SCHEV conducted an RFP and have ECOS approval.