

ITSP Summary Biennium 2026-28

Agency Name: 245 State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Date Generated: 09-29-2025

Agency Mission, Goals and Objectives:

Agency Mission:

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) is the Commonwealth of Virginia's coordinating agency for higher education. As an entity of the Commonwealth of Virginia government, SCHEV exists to serve the public interest and to assist the state's system of higher education.

Agency Goals:

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 Objectives:****Academic Responsibilities****

Academic Policy and Approval Authority

Authorization of New and Out-of-State Institutions

****Budget and Finance Responsibilities****

Finance Policy Analysis and Recommendations

Oversight of Financial Aid Programs

****Data Research Responsibilities****

Data Collection and Dissemination

****General System Responsibilities****

Boards of Visitors Orientation

Communications

Legislative Affairs

Grant and External Program Administration

Institutional Performance Review

Statewide Strategic Planning

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 6 years in support of the strategic objectives of your agency.

At this time, the agency anticipates that all Current Operational IT Investments will continue to meet agency business needs in the foreseeable future and will not need enhancement or additional investment.

Will any of the following areas require additional funding over the next 6 years beyond that currently forecast by your agency? (please check all that apply)

None

Looking ahead over the next 6 years, please list any IT initiatives needed to support the business Mission, Goals, and Objectives of your agency not addressed by application modernization (other than staffing levels and applications detailed elsewhere). These could include disaster recovery, network upgrades, radio communications etc.

None

External Factors Impacting IT:

In this section, describe changes or mandates from external sources to the agency's current IT investments. These are requirements and mandates from external sources, such as new federal or state legislation, executive orders, regulatory bodies, or legal requirements. The agency must identify the change, any important deadlines that must be met, and the consequences if the deadlines are not met.

At this time, the agency is not aware of any external factors, requirements or mandates that will require IT investments by the agency in the foreseeable future.

Are there any mandate driving changes in your current IT environment? (Yes/No)

No

Future IT Solutions:

This section will discuss how the agency's IT investments and investment strategies support the business strategies over the next 6 years. The agency does not need to discuss specific technologies at this time.

At this time, the agency does not have any Proposed IT Solutions or investments that will support agency strategic objectives, service area strategic objectives, commonwealth, enterprise, or secretariat-level strategic priorities, agency performance measures, or societal indicators.

IT Strategic Plan Budget Tables

Current IT Services				
	Costs Year 1		Costs Year 2	
Category	GF	NGF	GF	NGF
Projected Service Fees	\$1,630,030		\$831,318	
VITA Infrastructure Changes				
Estimated VITA Infrastructure	\$1,630,030		\$831,318	
Specialized Infrastructure				
Agency IT Staff	\$1,400,000			
Non-agency IT Staff	\$605,640			
Cloud Computing Service	\$120,000			
Other Application Costs				
Total:	\$3,755,670		\$831,318	

Proposed IT Investments				
	Costs Year 1		Costs Year 2	
Category	GF	NGF	GF	NGF
Major IT Projects:	\$750,000			
Non-Major IT Projects:				
Agency-Level IT Projects:				
Major Stand Alone IT Procurements:				
Non-Major Stand Alone IT Procurements:				
Agency-Level Stand Alone IT Procurements:				
Procurement Adjustment:				
Total:	\$750,000			

Projected Total IT Budget				
	Costs Year 1		Costs Year 2	
Category	GF	NGF	GF	NGF
Current IT Services	\$3,755,670		\$831,318	
Proposed IT Investments	\$750,000			
Total	\$4,505,670		\$831,318	

Commonwealth Projects >= \$250,000.00

There are no projects for this agency.

Commonwealth Procurements >= \$250,000.00

Agency:	245 State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Date:	10/29/2025
Procurement Name:	Student Pathways Portal Design and Build
Procurement Date	12/5/2025
Procurement Description:	The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) is committed to harnessing the power of higher education to expand opportunity, develop talent, and strengthen Virginia's economy. Yet, for many prospective students, especially those from underserved backgrounds, the journey to postsecondary education can be daunting. The wide range of choices, combined with psychological and behavioral barriers, can discourage students from fully exploring or pursuing their options. Through our prior collaboration, Supplier has gained a deep understanding of SCHEV's mission, the higher education landscape in Virginia, and the challenges faced by students and their families. Together, we identified key opportunities for SCHEV to serve as a trusted guide, helping students confidently navigate their educational and career decisions. Building on these insights, Supplier will design and develop a postsecondary navigation website specifically tailored for middle and high school students. This unified digital experience will enable students to: • Integrate school records with personal data on strengths, interests, and goals. • Explore personalized recommendations for career paths, job opportunities, schools, and academic programs. • Receive guidance that evolves alongside their skills and aspirations. In the long term, this platform will serve as a critical resource for Virginia learners and professionals, helping them choose the right career paths, connect with jobs that match their abilities, and continue advancing in their careers. Core components for MVP: • Leverage Records: uses available student records to enhance suggestions with experiences students already had.

	• Smart Intake Form: uses short-answer, multiple-choice questions, and/or gamification to uncover student preferences around hobbies, passions, financial concerns, and other information to generate career/academic options that match interests and aptitudes. • Editable Profile: students can revisit and update their answers to see how options shift. • Paths for Exploration: suggests potential career.
Procurement Name:	Student Pathways Procurement
Procurement Date	10/31/2025
Procurement Description:	SCHEV has committed to building a new family- and student-facing portal to simplify and improve the college and career choice process. This portal is intended to standalone from all other such projects through incredible simplification, integration of existing student data, and the removal of friction points in registration and gaining value from the portal. Further, we hope that some institutions will guarantee admission to students meeting specified criteria through the portal. This procurement is focused on the behavior aspects of the intended market using Accenture via CAI. Accenture is not providing any specific hardware or software. However, as a strategic partner, Accenture will work with SCHEV to uncover behavioral barriers and cognitive biases that hinder post-secondary decision making and develop behavioral tactics aimed at supporting prospective postsecondary students and their families. The Accenture team will conduct primary and secondary behavioral research with the aim of uncovering logistical and cognitive barriers faced by prospective postsecondary students and their families. Primary research: • 1:1, 45–60-minute interviews with prospective postsecondary students and their caregivers, to include contextual inquiry where interviewees walk interviewers through current tool use and discuss pain points and opportunity areas (up to 15 interviews); • 1:1, 45-60 minute interviews with high school college counselors and/or guidance counselors (up to 5 interviews); and • Statewide survey of prospective postsecondary students and their families (up to 100 respondents). Secondary research: • Comparative and competitive analysis to examine existing interventions, programs, tools, and strategies aimed at increasing post-secondary exploration

and enrollment, with a specific focus on psychological and behavioral barriers affecting students. To include analysis of intersections and opportunities with existing college and career activities within the COVA:

- GEAR Up
- Level Up Virginia
- Virginia Wizard
- VCAC
- Commonwealth Savers
- Others.

The output of the behavioral research will be a Behavioral Analysis Report. This report will detail the student and family decision making journey, identify high impact decision moments, and describe how specific cognitive biases are currently influencing post-secondary decision making behaviors.