

## **WHAT IS VSCA?**

Founded in 1962, the Virginia School Counselor Association is a state chapter of the American School Counselor Association. VSCA provides professional development opportunities through workshops and conferences, advocacy at the state and national level, networking opportunities through in-person (when safe) and social media outlets, and relevant information to school counselors throughout the state.

## **WHAT ARE VSCA'S ENDS POLICIES?**

Our association exists to ensure Virginia School Counselors practice with the highest level of effectiveness and integrity.

1. **Virginia School Counselors** are leaders who share a common and consistent professional identity. They:
  - are committed to working with and advocating for marginalized groups.
  - practice within a data-informed, culturally responsive comprehensive school counseling framework.
  - employ evidence-based frameworks/models.
  - utilize trauma-informed counseling practices.
  - promote the mental health and wellness of all students.
  - assist students in the cultivation of college and career readiness.
  - support students in developing the skills necessary to attain academic and postsecondary success.
  - adhere to the ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors and actively work to dismantle destructive systemic inequities.
  - advocate in local, state, and national initiatives that impact the school counseling profession.
  - improve their knowledge and efficacy through continuous professional development activities.
  
2. **Virginia School Counselor Educators** are knowledgeable about current standards and best practices. They maintain a high level of professionalism, academic rigor, and experiential learning within their school counseling degree programs. School counselor

educators have professional experience in K-12 school settings, remain connected to practice, and provide ongoing support for the school counseling profession.

3. **Virginia Key Stakeholders** (including but not limited to school administrators, district leaders, policy makers, and community members) understand the current role of the school counselor and support the school counseling profession.

### **WHAT DOES A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS DO?**

The VSCA Board of Directors strives to represent the diverse needs and perspectives of all Virginia school counselors. The nine-member Board manages the general administration and executive functions of the association. They create and oversee policies and procedures to carry out VSCA's Ends Policies and ensure that the association is fiscally responsible.

### **WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?**

Elected board members' terms will officially coincide with the fiscal year, July 1 - June 30. Members of the Board of Directors *typically* serve three-year terms, however, this may be adjusted to account for unexpected board turnover.

Directors are required to attend all Board of Directors meetings and other functions in accordance with VSCA policies and procedures. The Board of Directors meets at least once per fiscal year and The Chair of the Board of Directors of the Association shall call meetings as are deemed necessary to carry on the business of the Association. Such meetings may be held in person or via an electronic medium in which all individuals can hear one another. (These meetings have been held monthly for the past few years - virtually and in person.) Each member of the Board serves as a liaison to a committee and is responsible for regularly communicating with the committee chairperson.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RUN FOR A POSITION?**

To be eligible to run for a Board position, the individual must:

- be a current member of VSCA
- be a school counselor, faculty in a school counselor education program, or a

recently retired aforementioned position for no less than three years

- have at least three years of experience in the school counseling profession

To be eligible to run for a Board position, the individual must NOT be:

- serving more than two consecutive terms on the Board of Directors

## **HOW ARE BOARD MEMBERS COMPENSATED?**

Members of the Board of Directors shall not receive any compensation for services, but their necessary expenses shall be paid in accordance with the VSCA Financial Policies and Procedures Handbook.

## **WHAT QUALITIES ARE WANTED FOR A MEMBER OF THE VSCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS?**

- Leadership
- Service
- Advocacy
- Collaboration
- Commitment
- Excellent Communication Skills

## **HOW DO I APPLY?**

Applications are accepted [online](#) beginning March 6, 2023. The deadline to apply is 11:59pm, March 26, 2023. Application information includes:

- Information regarding the applicant's professional identity
- A description of the applicant's leadership experience
- A position statement detailing the applicant's vision for serving on the VSCA Board of Directors

## **WHAT INFORMATION IS REQUESTED FOR THE SELF-NOMINATION?**

*Demographic Information*

*In 200 words or less, provide a brief biography. Be sure to include information about your professional identity. **\*\*This will be shared on the election slate\*\****

*In 200 words or less, describe your experiences in leadership/service to the profession, and how you advocate for marginalized groups. **\*\*This will be shared on the election slate\*\****

*In 200 words or less, provide a statement about your goals for your time of service on the VSCA board of Directors. **\*\*This will be shared on the election slate\*\****

*If elected, do you agree to abide by the VSCA By-Laws, Ends Policies, and other policies/limitations?*

*We are looking for four new Directors to join the VSCA Governing Board, three for a three-year term and one for a two-year term, beginning July 1, 2023. Please indicate your interest/preference in term length, but understand that by completing this nomination form, you are agreeing to serve a two year or three year term, according to the needs of the board.*

*If you are not elected, are you interested in being a part of the [VSCA Emerging Leaders Cohort](#)? **\*Link provided for informational purposes only. An additional application is not necessary. Your VSCA Board Nomination Form would be considered in lieu of this application.***

## **HOW AND WHEN DOES VOTING OCCUR?**

Voting information will be communicated to VSCA members at the end of March. The slate of nominees and voting will open to all members via the “Members Only” portal on the VSCA webpage on April 3, 2023. Voting will remain open through April 14, 2023. The four candidates with the highest number of votes will be the new members of the Board of Directors.