

# **Resolution 1 – Unifying Student Holidays for Religious Observances Across Virginia**

**WHEREAS** various school divisions across Virginia observe a varying number of religious occasions, and

**WHEREAS**, the opportunity for each student to observe purposeful religious occasions through student holidays varies throughout Virginia, and

**WHEREAS** students taking part in religious observances not recognized as student holidays by the school division face penalization from non-exempt work to be completed while observing religious obligations, and

**WHEREAS** the current standards of respect and acknowledgment of differing religious observations are not provided equally across Virginia, and

**WHEREAS** students face unequal periods of time for curriculum and content ahead of national and state standardized testing; so be it,

**RESOLVED** that the Virginia Student Councils Association encourages the General Assembly of Virginia to determine a statewide holiday schedule, with respect and acknowledgement to all religions and beliefs, and provides consistency throughout the public schools in the state.

# Resolution 2- Recognizing and Accommodating for Transgender Student Identity

**WHEREAS** the model policy for the implementation of Virginia School Code § 22.1-23.3 states that “the phrase “transgender student” shall mean a public school student whose parent has requested in writing, due to their child’s persistent and sincere belief that his or her gender differs from his or her sex, that their child be identified while at school”; and

**WHEREAS** this model policy designates the parent, not the student, have voice in choice in their identity within a school setting; and

**WHEREAS**, in the state of Virginia at the age of 15, students are allowed to begin legal processes in decision-making, such as obtaining a learner’s permit; and

**WHEREAS**, a school’s purpose is to provide a safe learning environment where students are able to learn how to make healthy decisions through the process of being an independent individual; so be it

**RESOLVED** that the Virginia Student Councils Association encourages the General Assembly of Virginia to establish a universal process for students 15 and older enrolled in Virginia public schools to enact the alteration of their preferred name and pronouns and accommodate their preferences across all school settings.