



Virginia House of Delegates Page Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The following information applies only to applicants seeking appointment to the House of Delegates Page Program. The Senate Page Program, administered by the Senate Clerk's Office, is a separate program that requires completion of a different application that can be found [here](#).

Question #1

Q: How long is the House of Delegates Page Program?

A: House Pages work the same schedule as the annual General Assembly session, which generally lasts 46 days in odd years and 60 days in even years. House Pages begin working the Sunday before the General Assembly convenes. House Pages work 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 a.m., Monday – Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Fridays (in order to travel home for the weekend). There is no weekend work except for the last Saturday of session.

Question #2

Q: What is the age to apply?

A: An applicant must be 13 or 14 years old by the start of the General Assembly Session, which convenes annually on the second Wednesday in January. In 2022, that date is January 12, 2022.

Question #3

Q: What are the application requirements other than age?

A: Applicants must reside in one of the Commonwealth of Virginia and not have previously served as a House or Senate Page. Applicants must also provide an essay describing why they want to serve as a House Page along with authorization from their principal, teachers, and guidance counselor and an endorsement letter from their House of Delegates legislator.

Applicants selected to be House Pages should not plan vacations and activities during the General Assembly session. House Pages are unable to participate in sports or organized activities that would require absence from the House Page Program.

Question #4

Q: How are House Pages selected?

A: The Speaker of the House of Delegates selects the House Pages and strives to appoint a diverse group of students while maintaining a geographical balance.

Question #5

Q: Where do House Pages stay in Richmond?

A: House Pages reside at the Omni Hotel with chaperones during their employment. Each Page shares their hotel room with another Page. Pages go home on Friday afternoon and return to the Omni Hotel on Sunday evening. Transportation to and from the Omni in Richmond is the responsibility of the Pages and their parents or guardians.

Question #6

Q: How many applications does the House receive and how many applicants are chosen to be Pages?

A: The House receives approximately 250 applications for approximately 30 positions. The application process opens on August 1 and closes at the end of October/beginning of November of each year. Students who want to be considered for a House Page position must submit a complete online application by the deadline.

Question #7

Q: Are there any upfront costs?

A: Appointed Pages are responsible for purchasing uniform attire. Assistance may be available and questions about this should be directed to Elizabeth Mancano at (804) 698-1502 or emancano@house.virginia.gov .

Question #8

Q: Are parents required to attend orientation with their Page?

A: Attendance is mandatory for all Pages and parents/legal guardians.

Question #9

Q: Is there a dress code for House Pages?

A: House Pages are required to wear a standard-cut navy-blue blazer while on duty. Girls must wear white dress shirts, gray slacks, gray skirts, or blue/gray plaid skirts, and coordinating socks or tights. Boys must wear white shirts, gray slacks, and neckties. Comfortable, black walking shoes are required and a warm coat to go over the blazer is strongly recommended. Pages selected for the program will receive more detailed information on required attire.

Question #10

Q: What is the code of conduct?

A: Each House Page is held to a strict code of professional conduct at all times, and details will be covered during orientation and training. Those who do not adhere to the code of conduct may be subject to suspension or dismissal from the program.

Question #11

Q: Do Pages attend school?

A: No. Students are excused from attending school for the duration of the General Assembly session in Richmond. If your school has questions about how an extended absence of this magnitude should be documented, please ask administrators to contact the Superintendent of Public Instruction at the Virginia Department of Education. [Perhaps we could contact the Department of Education and get the name of a contact person there.]

Superintendent of Public Instruction
James Monroe Building
101 North 14th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 225-2057

Question #12

Q: How will the student receive assignments when they are participating in this program?

A: House Pages and their families are responsible for acquiring and submitting all schoolwork. Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss the House Page Program and academic requirements with their school before submitting an application. Do not assume a school is familiar with the House Page Program. Failure to maintain academic requirements may result in

suspension or dismissal from the House Page Program, so a proactive approach will result in a more positive experience for everyone. Students appointed to the program should have exceptional time management skills and be capable of doing a lot of independent study during their term of service as a House Page. It is the responsibility of the student, parents or guardians, and teachers collectively to determine how the student will receive his or her assignments each week. Typically, teachers provide a packet of assignments directly to the parent or student each Friday. This allows for work to be completed and turned in the following Friday when, ideally, the next packet is picked up. The House Clerk's Office does not handle the coordination or transfer of homework assignments, tests or exams.

Question #13

Q: When will the Pages do homework?

A: House Pages are required to attend a mandatory study hall from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. During this time, they will have access to tutors who are experienced at teaching in many of the usual middle-school and high-school courses (i.e., math, science, English, social studies). Please note that these tutors are simply resources for the Pages, and that no formal classes will be held during the program. In addition to the mandatory two-hour nightly study hall, House Pages often have some downtime during the day (usually during breaks, or when they are between jobs), and are encouraged to work on assignments during this time as well.

Question #14

Q: Is study hall ever cancelled?

A: The only time study hall would be cancelled is in the event of early dismissal due to major inclement weather or a nighttime social event. On average, pages attend five evening events over the course of a seven to nine weeks.

Question #15

Q: What does the House Page Leadership Program encompass?

A: Students participating in this program will be assigned to specific jobs on a rotating schedule from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday – Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon each Friday. In addition to the normal work schedule, House Pages will participate in the House of Delegates Page Leadership Program. Page Coordinators and guest speakers will present new material each week. Material presented will be reinforced through group discussion and exercises as well as individual assignments throughout the program. The Program also includes field trips to historical sites and other educational venues and events as available.

Curriculum Modules include:

- Civility in the Workplace and Appreciation for Diversity
- Managing Money and Saving for the Future
- Goal Setting for Lifelong Success
- Professional Etiquette – Making a Good Impression
- Public Speaking
- Relationship Building and Leading Others
- College Applications – What Matters and What Doesn't
- Service Project – Ideals in Action

Guest Speakers: The class will hear from community leaders, elected officials, state government representatives, and others who will present on topics relevant to future leaders.

Question #16

Q: What is the electronics usage policy?

A: Permitted use of any electronic device is a privilege that can be suspended. In addition to a cell phone, a House Page is permitted to have one additional electronic device, that should be suitable for homework tasks. The use of a cell phone is only allowed before and after work hours, during breakfast, on the way to and from work, and during dinner hours. Limited use of the one other personal electronic device is permitted during work hours. Reasonable exception may be made by the Page Coordinators if necessary.

Question #17

Q: How much is a House Page paid?

A: The salary is \$440 per week. Payroll and per diem checks are paid through direct deposit to a checking or savings account. This is a mandatory requirement for all employees on state payrolls. Pages also receive a weekly expense allowance of \$250.

Question #18

Q: What happens if a House Page gets sick?

A: **Pages who are sick should not be at work.** Pages are required to contact hotel chaperones by 7:30 a.m. or the Page Coordinator by 8:30 a.m. if they are unable to report to work. They will be required to see a physician at VCU Medical Center or be picked up by their parent or guardian. If a physician confirms a Page is unable to work, arrangements to go home for the duration of the illness must be made promptly by the parent or guardian. Parents or guardians and Pages are solely responsible for any medical treatments and costs.

Question #19

Q: If I have further questions?

A: Please call (804) 698-1502 or e-mail Elizabeth Mancano at emancano@house.virginia.gov .