

	VCCS ITS	Document #:	VCCS-ITS-08-5400
Information Technology Policies		Revision:	1.0
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Information Technology Security Policy

General	<p>The Virginia Community College System (VCCS) has a highly complex and resource-rich information technology environment upon which there is increasing reliance to provide mission-critical academic, instructional and administrative functions. Safeguarding the VCCS’s computing assets in the face of growing security threats is a significant challenge requiring a strong, persistent and coordinated program that leverages widely accepted, effective security practices appropriate for the higher education environment. This policy states the codes of practice with which the VCCS aligns its information technology security program.</p>
Policy Statement	<p>The VCCS’s information technology security program is based upon best practices recommended in the “Code of Practice for Information Security Management” published by the International Organization for Standardization and the International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC 17799), appropriately tailored to the specific circumstances of the VCCS. The program also incorporates security requirements of applicable regulations, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Professional organizations, such as the national EDUCAUSE Association and the Virginia Alliance for Secure Computing and Networking, serve as resources for additional effective security practices.</p> <p>The ISO/IEC 17799 Code of Practice and other sources noted above are used to guide development and ongoing enhancement of additional information technology security policies as needed. Policies governing information technology security can be found in the VCCS’s IT Website (VCCS Information Technology Standard) and the IT Security Program page (VCCS Information Technology Security Program).</p>
Terms	None
Related Information	<p>“Code of Practice for Information Security Management” (ISO/IEC 17799) – This international standard defines guidelines and general principles for the effective management of information security within an organization. It is a risk-based framework widely used to guide establishment of security standards and management practices.</p> <p>EDUCAUSE Association – EDUCAUSE is a nonprofit association dedicated to the</p>

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advancement of higher education through the effective use of information technology. Members include representatives from institutions of higher education, higher education technology companies, and other related organizations.

[International Organization for Standards \(ISO\)](#) – The world’s largest developer of standards, the organization is made up of representatives from governmental and private sector standard bodies, e.g. the American National Standards Institute.

[International Electrotechnical Commission \(IEC\)](#) – The IEC is a global organization that develops and published standards addressing electrical, electronic and related technologies. Membership comes from government, the private sector, consumer groups, professional associations, and others.

[Virginia Alliance for Secure Computing and Networking \(VA SCAN\)](#) – VA SCAN was formed to help strengthen information technology security programs within Virginia. The Alliance was organized and is operated by security practitioners and researchers from several Virginia higher education institutions.

Policy Background

Chapter 945 of the 2005 Session of the General Assembly provided for a significant restructuring of operational authority for Virginia’s institutions of higher education (the 2005 Restructuring Act). Additionally, the 2005 Restructuring Act permits Level 1 institutions to enter into a Level 2 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Administration in one or more operational areas. Legislation approved in the 2008 legislative session established eligibility criteria for an institution to be granted additional operational authority in a minimum of two, but not all three, of the following areas: information technology, procurement, and capital outlay. At the May 2008 meeting of the State Board, a resolution was passed indicating that the Virginia Community College System is qualified to be, and should be governed by memoranda of understanding in the areas of capital outlay and information technology, and that authority was provided by the Board to the Chancellor to move forward on activities designed to secure Level 2 authority in the areas of Information Technology and Capital Outlay.

The policy statements indicate that the Virginia Community College System has adopted procedures and policies that are in line with existing state and federal code requirements as well as industry best practices appropriately tailored for

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	higher education.
Policy Approval and Revisions	<p>The VCCS State Board adopted the proposed Information Technology policy statements in the areas of accessibility; infrastructure, architecture and operations; project management; and security to fully comply with §2.0 and §5.0 of Chapter 824, 829 of the 2008 Acts of Assembly.</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE STAFF:</p> <p>Vice Chancellor, Information Technology Services Virginia Community College System its@vccs.edu</p>