Virginia Department of Education

Summer Residential Governor's Schools

MARINE SCIENCE

Student Application

2026-2027

Section 1: Applicant Information

Provide your contact details below. Use a personal email address only. This is the email that will be used to notify you of your application status

First Name: _____
Middle Initial: ____
Last Name: _____
Phone Number: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____
Zip: _____

Personal Email (*not school issued*): _____
Graduation Year: _____

Parent/Guardian Contacts (phone and email)

Contact 1: _____ _____
Contact 2: _____ _____

Section 2: School Information

All students must provide the full school information (no acronyms or abbreviations). Public school students must provide the school division name. Private school regional coordinators will enter the correct region number.

School Name: _____
School Phone Number: _____
School Contact Full Name: _____
School Contact Email: _____
Division (public schools only): _____
Region Number (private schools only): ____ ← *Completed by regional coordinator*

Section 3: Recommendations

All applicants must request two recommendations; one must be from a teacher; the second may be from another teacher or any adult who knows your strengths. Recommendation forms are available on the VDOE Summer Residential Governor's Schools website. Provide the names and email addresses of the two individuals you will ask to submit recommendations on your behalf

	Name	**Email**
Recommendation A (Teacher-only):	_____	_____
Recommendation B (Teacher or Adult):	_____	_____

Section 4: Resume (Activities, Research, & Honors)

List accomplishments from both in-school and out-of-school activities. Highlight leadership roles (extracurricular/community groups, national organizations) and intellectual pursuits (research, presentations, competitions). Examples are provided

Activities & Programs

List up to 3 impactful activities or programs you participated in during the past three years, related to your interest area. Be sure to include the activity or organization, position held, time involved, and year(s).
Example: Student Government, Secretary, 2 hrs./month, 2019-2020

1.

2.

3.

Research and Experiences

List up to 3 impactful research or study experiences completed over the past three years related to your area of interest. Be sure to include the research or study area, teacher/mentor, organization, & year(s)
Example: Independent Research/Study, Terry Lewis, Macon Public Library, 2018-2019

1.

2.

3.

Honors & Recognitions

List up to 3 significant honors or recognitions received in the past three years related to your area of interest. Be sure to include the honor or recognition, scope of event (local, regional, state…), and year(s).
Example: National Honor Society, National, 2022

1.

2.

3.

Section 4 Part 2: Additional Information (VIMS Applicants)

Select your first and second areas of interest. Mark one option in each column. Your first and second choices must be different.

Area of Interest	First Choice	Second Choice
Biological Oceanography & Fisheries	○	○
Chemical Oceanography	○	○
Coastal Law, Marine Resources, & Advisory Services	○	○
Geological Oceanography	○	○
Physical Oceanography	○	○
Wetlands Ecology & Environmental Science	○	○

Clear Choices

Complete the following:

1. Have you worked with a mentor during your high school experience (Yes or No)?

   Select

2. If "yes," answer the following:
   a. With whom do/did you work?

   b. Where do/did you work?

   c. For how long have you worked with this mentor?

Section 5: Essays

Respond to both Essay A & Essay B. Carefully review the rubric provided which will be used to evaluate your submission (max score=6). Consider each of the areas as you proofread & edit.

Composition (0 – 4 points)

Criteria	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point
Central Idea (Position)	Strong	Weak	Unclear	Missing
Evidence (Details)	Precise/Relevant	Adequate	Minimal	Unclear
Organization (Unity)	Logical/Unified	Some digressions	Many digressions	Lacking
Word Choice	Highly Specific	Some Specificity	Limited	Lacking

Mechanics (0 – 2 points)

Criteria	2 points	1 point	0 points
Sentence Structure	Varied	Some variety	Weak
Usage	Consistently correct	Some incorrect	Incorrect
Mechanics	Consistently correct	Some incorrect	Incorrect

Essay A: Respond to the prompt below in 250 words or less.

Prompt: Reflect on a significant experience, idea, or aspect of your background that has inspired your intellectual curiosity &/or personal growth, especially in relation to your chosen program area. Discuss:

- How has this influenced your perspective on learning & the subject?
- How do you hope to explore & develop these interests further?
- How would the Governor's School support you, & what will you contribute to the community?

Essay B: Respond to the prompt below in 500 words or less with sources cited at the end.

Prompt: Research activities at the VIMS involve various fields in Marine Science and extend from fresh water to salt water. **Using the list of mentorships listed below**, identify one specific environmental issue within one of these areas that you might research while participating in your mentorship. Discuss the relevance of this issue and the consequences that the world might experience if this issue were not studied. Describe relevant research and experience you have had that would assist you in the study of the issue. Your essay should verify that you have completed research consistent with the *Virginia Junior Academy of Science or the International Science* and *Engineering Fair* methodologies. This essay will be instrumental in matching your interests, research, and experiences with marine science mentors.

1. Biological Oceanography & Fisheries Science
2. Coastal Law, Marine Resources and Advisory Services
3. Wetlands Ecology & Environmental Science
4. Chemical Oceanography
5. Geological Oceanography
6. Physical Oceanography

Student Name: _____

ESSAY A

*Type or paste **ESSAY A** below. The essay length should be **250 words or less.** Formatting within the essay box is limited. You may type and edit/format your essay using another application (i.e. Microsoft Word or Google Docs), then copy & paste it into the box below. Points will not be deducted for minor formatting issues. Refer to the rubrics for how your essay will be scored.*

Student Name: _____

ESSAY B

*Type or paste ESSAY B below. The essay length should be **500 words or less.** Formatting within the essay box is limited. You may type and edit/format your essay using another application (i.e. Microsoft Word or Google Docs), then copy & paste it into the box below. Points will not be deducted for minor formatting issues. Refer to the rubrics for how your essay will be scored.*

Section 6: Assurances & Acknowledgements

Carefully read the following expectations & type your initials into the space provided.

I. Program Eligibility & Expectations

1. Previous participants of any Summer Residential Governor's School program (including Governor's Foreign Language Academies) shall not apply for nor participate in the Summer Residential Governor's School program.
   Student Initials: _____ **Parent Initials** _____

2. I am expected to thoroughly read, understand, & follow the 2026 Student & Parent Guide for Governor's Schools & any other instructions provided by the program director.
   Student Initials: _____ **Parent Initials** _____

3. Final notifications will be made by mid-April, & no information will be available before.
   Student Initials: _____ **Parent Initials** _____

4. The programs require focus, preparation, & motivation. Emotional maturity, self-discipline & respect for myself, others, programs, & school is expected.
   Student Initials: _____ **Parent Initials** _____

5. Participants are expected to arrive by the opening ceremony & remain through the closing ceremony. Leaves of absence are granted ONLY in the case of medical or family emergencies.
   Student Initials: _____ **Parent Initials** _____

II. Conduct & Consequences

6. Possession of tobacco, alcohol, weapons, or nonprescription drugs will result in the immediate dismissal & be subject to any disciplinary action that the sponsoring school division or private school chooses to invoke. Certain infractions may also result in legal consequences as outlined in the Code of Virginia.
   Student Initials: _____ **Parent Initials** _____

7. Failure to provide complete & accurate medical, mental, & prescription information may result in immediate dismissal.
   Student Initials: _____ **Parent Initials** _____

III. Technology Assurances

8. The essay responses provided are my own original work. I have followed all school division & local school policies regarding the use of technology & artificial intelligence.
   Student Initials: _____ **Parent Initials** _____

9. The email address(es) listed in this application are my personal accounts, which are checked regularly. I understand that important communications will be sent to these addresses, including messages that could appear in spam or junk folders.
   Student Initials: _____ **Parent Initials** _____

IV. Waiver

10. I waive my rights to review & inspect the application & score sheet for the Summer Residential Governor's School program.
    Student Initials: _____ **Parent Initials** _____

STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I certify that I am a resident of Virginia & eligible for free, public education in the Commonwealth, I am not applying for a 2027 Governor's Foreign Language Academy or for another Summer Residential Governor's School program & that these are my truthful responses to these assurances.

Full Name _____ Date _____

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I permit my child, if selected, to participate in the 2027 Summer Residential Governor's School. I agree that I have been duly informed that leaves of absence from these programs are allowed only for severe cases of medical &/or family emergencies. Medical & family emergencies include major illness, hospitalization, or death of an immediate family member or guardian. Additionally, I understand that transportation to & from the Governor's School & money for personal expenses must be provided by participants. If selected, they must abide by the rules & expectations set forth for the school; failure or refusal to participate & abide by these rules & expectations may be just cause for immediate dismissal.

Full Name _____ Date _____