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Albemarle County
School Board Office
By: *[Signature]*



At-Large
School Board Member Application

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, August 21, 2026**

Name Lucas Alexander Johnson

Home Address [Redacted]

**You must be registered to vote in Albemarle County. You can determine this by checking your voter card or by calling the Voter Registration Office at 434.972.4173.*

Phone [Redacted]

Cell Phone [Redacted]

Email [Redacted]

Do you currently have children/grandchildren in ACPS?

☐ YES

☒ NO

If no, have you had children/grandchildren in ACPS?

☐ YES

☒ NO

How long have you resided in Albemarle County

Have you previously served on the Albemarle County School Board or an Albemarle County Public Schools Committee or Council?

If so, please explain your previous committee/council work.

Please indicate why you are interested in serving on the School Board.

Please indicate where appropriate, areas in which you have experience or knowledge:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ School Construction | ☒ Research |
| ☒ Education/Curriculum | ☒ Strategic Planning |
| ☒ Databases | ☐ Finance/Budget |
| ☒ Community Engagement | ☒ Nonprofit and Human Services |
| ☐ Public Administration | ☐ County Government |
| ☒ Policy Development | ☒ Statistics/Demographics |
| ☐ Governance | ☐ Other |

Please further describe the experience, education, and leadership skills you would bring to the School Board.

Indicate if you are attaching additional information pertinent to this application.

- ☒ Attachments are provided
☐ No attachments were necessary

Signature  Date 8/19/2026

Please be advised that, upon submission, this application and any supporting documents become public records and may be disclosed or published by Albemarle County Public Schools.

Applications may be submitted by email or delivered/mailed to:

M. Christine Thompson, Clerk of the Board
Albemarle County School Board
401 McIntire Road, Room 345
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Phone: 434-296-5820
cthompson@k12albemarle.org

How long have you resided in Albemarle County?

I have resided in Albemarle County since August 2014.

Have you previously served on the Albemarle County School Board or an Albemarle County Public Schools Committee or Council? If so, please explain your previous committee/council work.

As a third- and fourth-year student at Monticello High School, I served on the County Student Advisory Council. During my tenure, I worked with Superintendent Pam Moran and the Albemarle County School Board to improve mental health resources in our county's high schools, leading to a \$160,000 allocation to fund mental health professionals in the 2018-2019 budget. Additionally, I wrote and proposed legislation to mandate mental health education in public high school health classes, which Senator Creigh Deeds and Delegate Rob Bell sponsored in the 2018 Regular Session of the Virginia General Assembly. The bill, SB953, passed the Senate 39-1 and the House of Delegates 98-0, and was signed into law by then-Governor Ralph Northam on March 19, 2018. When it was implemented on July 1, 2018, Virginia became the first state, alongside New York, to mandate mental health education in public schools. For this work, I – along with my friends and colleagues on this project, Alexander Moreno and Choetsow Tenzin – received the Mental Health Advocacy Champion Award from Mental Health Virginia, an affiliate of Mental Health America. Pivotal for our success was the strong support of my teachers, principal, the Albemarle County School Board, and elected representatives, to whom I am immensely grateful.

Please indicate why you are interested in serving on the School Board.

The students whose education we are vested to protect can provide us with many of the solutions to the challenges we face. With this in mind, it is our responsibility to make the work of the School Board more accessible to our primary constituents: the students and staff of Albemarle County Public Schools. The education I received in the Albemarle County Public School system has helped me become the person I am today, and I remain dedicated to ensuring that students today receive the same level of excellent education I was privileged to receive. For that to happen, students need to be encouraged to participate. I firmly believe that it is important to consider the opinions and perspectives of today's youth in our decision-making processes, particularly those related to their education. When I graduated from Albemarle County Public Schools eight years ago, my education was already shaped by social media, the threat of violence against schools, and the breakdown of peaceful, respectful civic and public discourse. However, I hadn't yet encountered developments like TikTok, generative artificial intelligence, or a pandemic. Given the weight we give these issues today, I think it is important to have School Board members who can recall a time when they were students facing such challenges and who can be better situated to find solutions to some of the most pressing

issues we face today. Further, youth have become skeptical of people in positions of authority, and that needs to change. In this regard, I would strive to bridge the divide between students and the Board so as to foster greater collaboration, dialogue, and problem-solving. While entities like the County Student Advisory Council exist, participation in it, or in similar groups, should not be limited to secondary school upperclassmen. Students should be just as able as their parents and grandparents to voice opinions on decisions affecting their day-to-day academic life and concerns. These objectives will be difficult to achieve, particularly during this period of heightened scrutiny and attention, but I believe my dedication to these topics, along with my experience and awareness of them, will allow me to prioritize them during my tenure on the Board.

Please further describe the experience, education, and leadership skills you would bring to the School Board.

In the eight years since I graduated from Monticello High School, I have focused my academic and professional work on youth mental health care and policy. In this capacity, I worked with Maine State Senator Brownie Carson on a bill requiring mental health education in Maine's K-12 public schools, which passed unanimously in the Maine Senate and House of Representatives and was signed into law by Governor Janet Mills. Due to my work on this, I received a grant to travel to Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Pennsylvania to meet with legislators and mental health advocates to promote similar legislation in their states. Concurrently, in Virginia, I worked together with Senator Creigh Deeds to introduce a bill, SB619, that required school boards to train educators in mental health awareness, which was signed into law by then-Governor Ralph Northam.

After the pandemic began, I decided that I wanted to learn more about the role of the federal government in education and health policy. This led to my work within the offices of U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Susan Collins, as well as on the staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions under Ranking Member Richard Burr. In addition, I have worked at Mental Health America, the Bipartisan Policy Center, Inseparable, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and I have advised #HalfTheStory on forming its inaugural Digital Civics Academy and The Trevor Project on research concerning the importance of family relationships to adolescent physical and mental health.

After studying economics, government, and history at Bowdoin College, I started a master's program in biomedical engineering at Johns Hopkins University while working in the Department of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences within the UVA School of Medicine. Hired as a clinical research specialist for the Center for Leading Edge Addiction Research, I help manage clinical trials investigating treatments for substance use disorders, including those on the use of neuromodulation to address addiction. Through

all these efforts, I have been learning how to work together with people and institutions representing different perspectives, translate ideas into policy, evaluate evidence carefully, and focus on the way in which decisions affect the people they are intended to serve, all of which will help me with my work on the School Board.

On a more personal note, I moved with my parents to Albemarle County three weeks before attending Monticello High School because they wanted my brother and me to experience the excellent public schools here. My achievements since then are directly a result of attending an Albemarle County Public School. I would welcome the opportunity to bring my experience in policy, research, and advocacy to the Board and, in doing so, give back to the school district that has fundamentally influenced who I am today.

Lucas A. Johnson

Charlottesville, VA, USA

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Virginia Center for Leading Edge Addiction Research, Charlottesville, VA, USA <i>Clinical Research Specialist</i>	May 2024 – Present
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA <i>Research Fellow</i>	May 2024 – Present
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA <i>Visiting Researcher</i>	July 2022 – Present
Zurich Center for Neuroeconomics, Zürich, ZH, CH <i>Predoctoral Research Associate</i>	January 2024 – August 2024
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA <i>Student Researcher</i>	July 2022 – August 2022
University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA <i>Student Researcher</i>	June – August 2021

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#HalfTheStory, New York, NY, USA <i>Program Development Advisor</i>	January 2024 – August 2024
United States Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC, USA <i>Interagency Mental Health and Substance Use Intern</i>	September 2022 – June 2023
Inseparable, Washington, DC, USA <i>Legislative Affairs Intern</i>	January 2023 – May 2023
Bipartisan Policy Center, Washington, DC, USA <i>Health Program Intern</i>	September – November 2022
United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, Washington, DC, USA <i>Legislative Intern</i>	May – July 2022
Mental Health America National, Washington, DC, USA <i>Legislative Affairs Intern</i>	January 2022
Office of United States Senator Susan Collins, Portland, ME, and Washington, DC, USA <i>Constituent Services and Legislative Intern</i>	September 2021 – February 2022
Office of United States Senator Mark Warner, Washington, DC, USA <i>Legislative Intern</i>	January – May 2021

EDUCATION

The Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering, Baltimore, MD, USA <i>Master of Science in Applied Biomedical Engineering, Concentration: Neuroengineering</i>	Expected: May 2027
Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME, USA <i>Bachelor of Arts, Major: Economics, History, Minor: Government and Legal Studies</i>	May 2023
Virginia Governor's Health Science Academy at Monticello High School, Charlottesville, VA, USA <i>Advanced Studies Diploma, summa cum laude</i>	June 2018

PUBLICATIONS

- Mahoney J., Thompon-Lake D., **Johnson L.**, Ait-Daoud N., Lynch W., Otaitan G., Finomore V., Ranjan M., Rezai A., (2026). Focused Ultrasound Neuromodulation for Substance Use Disorder, *Biological Psychiatry*
- Thompson-Lake D., Snetkov G., **Johnson L.**, Ait-Daoud N., Mahoney J., (2026). Non-Invasive Vagus Nerve Stimulation for Substance Use Disorder: A Narrative Review, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*

PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

- **Johnson L.**, Larochelle J., Molloy A., Urff J., Talk. (November 2019). Promoting Mental Health Education in Schools Through Legislation. Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health. Austin, TX, USA

VOLUNTEER

Albemarle County Electoral Board, Charlottesville, VA, USA June 2025 – Present
Election Officer

The Trevor Project, West Hollywood, CA, USA August 2024 – Present
Advisor

Coalition for the Common Good, Charlottesville, VA, USA August 2017 – August 2021
Co-Founder and Co-Director

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Mental Health America Virginia Mental Health Advocacy Champion Award 2018
- Bowdoin Economics Exemplary Service Award May 2023
- Bowdoin Grua/O'Connell Research Grant September 2022 – May 2023
- Bowdoin Public Service Fellowship May 2022 – August 2022
- Harry S. Truman Scholarship Nominee 2022
- Bowdoin Thomas McKinley Grant May 2019 – August 2019
- Bowdoin Grua/O'Connell Research Grant September 2019 – May 2020

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
1. https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/these-teens-saw-how-poor-mental-health-hurt-their-peers-so-they-got-a-law-passed/2018/04/23/1c87b0d8-3dc4-11e8-8d53-eba0ed2371cc_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.ccb5fdeea489
 2. https://www.nbcwashington.com/video/news/health/students-work-for-change-in-virginia-mental-health-laws_washington-dc/2055688/
 3. https://c-ville.com/in-brief-7/#.Wp_dymbMyqA
 4. https://dailyprogress.com/news/local/albemarle-students-discuss-mental-health-with-deeds/article_ac957284-d571-11e7-9aa4-7f2e772b3a2e.html
 5. <https://www.cnn.com/2018/07/02/health/mental-health-schools-bn/index.html>
 6. <https://www.npr.org/2018/07/05/626300290/new-virginia-law-mandates-mental-health-education-in-public-schools>
 7. <https://www.bowdoin.edu/news/2019/05/lucas-johnson-22-helps-usher-in-maine-bill-requiring-mental-health-education-in-schools.html>
 8. <https://bowdoinorient.com/2020/04/17/sophomore-champions-mental-health-legislation/>
 9. <https://www.bowdoin.edu/news/2019/05/lucas-johnson-22-helps-usher-in-maine-bill-requiring-mental-health-education-in-schools.html>
 10. <https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/proposed-bill-to-include-mental-health-education-in-maine-schools/97-6da559ea-257e-4a15-b723-1475495bbd35>
 11. <https://www.adn.com/opinions/2020/05/02/pandemic-highlights-the-need-for-better-mental-health-education/>

Sincerely,

Lucas Johnson

Research Specialist, University of Virginia Center for Leading Edge Addiction Research