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AUG 21 2026

Albemarle County
School Board Office

By: MDT



At-Large

School Board Member Application

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

Name David Gilbert Tatman

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 ☐ Owned home here since 2015 ☒

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.

No prior. But Amber Roberts recently invited me to work with the CTE Advisory Board.

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

I believe my educational leadership experience may be of unique value to the 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.

Please see attached sheet, which also helps explain why I am offering my service.

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

- ☒ Attachments are provided
☐ No attachments were necessary

Signature /signed/ David G. Tatman Date 21 August 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

Attachment to At-Large School Board Member Application for David Gilbert Tatman (he, him)

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

During the course of my service career as a commissioned officer in the US Army, I had the good fortune to serve for a total of six years on the educational leadership team of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC), in roles including Associate Dean and then Dean of one of the seven (later eight) language schools under the Institute. (I was also a student there for Mandarin Chinese before my staff service.) That academic leadership was over a period of 10 years, during which I was directly involved in institutional efforts to improve demonstrated student outcomes, both in global language skills, and in about 44 separate professional tasks directly involved with target language use.

We were singularly successful in our efforts, and I wish to help bring similar success to ACPS.

I served on the DLIFLC vision and strategies team at institutional level, and then led implementation of a wide variety of process improvement activities and institutional changes. I primarily worked as Associate Dean, and later Dean, of Asian School I, with about 450 students, 110 faculty and staff (4 non-teaching leadership staff, 7 military language instructors) and 99 civilian educators. With very few exceptions, almost all of our civilian educators were foreign born and raised professional native speakers of the languages they were teaching. The school I was most associated with taught Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Tagalog and Vietnamese – 2 Category IV languages (hardest for a native speaker of English to learn), and 3 Category III languages. But DLIFLC as an institution taught over 20 foreign languages.

During that time window, we were able to bring the institute's demonstrated student outcomes (as measured by the Defense Language Proficiency Tests (DLPTs),) from woefully substandard levels in nearly all languages to fully meeting, and in many cases, far exceeding desired course learning outcome standards. We did so while at the same time, reducing student drop rates significantly, and in some cases, eliminating them altogether, while also boosting instructor satisfaction.

The lessons learned about how we carried out those dramatic changes, and the underlying understandings we came to develop about what, exactly, it takes to make such changes across an accredited academic system went far beyond Response To Intervention (RTI) or even the broader Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) frameworks, although many of the lines of effort in each of those two institutional student outcome improvement tactics were part of our DLIFLC overall efforts.

I believe I may be unique in my knowledge of that process, at least here in Albemarle County. Given the challenges highlighted not just in the Spring 2023 Albemarle County Public Schools Instructional Practices Audit (as summarized in the *Bellwether Report to the Board of Education*), as well as more recent metrics for student success (such as state SOL scores among others), I believe I may be able to assist the board in creating a more successful vision, goal(s), and strategic objectives, to accomplish needed improvements here in the county.

With regard to my education, I have a Bachelor of Education, a Master's in Asian Studies, and at one time began a Doctorate of Educational Management with the University of Leicestershire, although post 9-11 I was unable to continue my Doctoral studies. I also have several years of post-graduate foreign language study abroad. I am a 70% disabled retired Army veteran with former wartime service in the Middle East and extensive Asian service. My children are both Fluvanna County High School graduates.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Teacher Essentials

David Tatman

The certificate holder has completed the Teacher Essentials course, which is the equivalent to 1 hour of training.



Issue Date

August 21, 2026

Credential ID

65bb1e

Presented by

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