

# 2019 General Assembly End of Session Legislative Report March 4, 2019

## Adjourned!

The General Assembly adjourned the 2019 Regular Session one day late on February 24, 2019 after coming to agreement on revisions to the 2-year state budget. During what was a historic and tumultuous session for the history books, RPS has focused on the obligation of the Commonwealth to properly fund our schools.

## Legislative Report

This legislative report provides an overview of the final status of the state budget and all legislation tracked by RPS during the General Assembly session. It is broken into three sections:

1. **State Budget Actions** - A summary of the major budget actions affecting public education.
2. **Passed Legislation** - Broken into categories by subject matter, a summary of passed legislation that has an impact on RPS, our teachers, and our students.
3. **Failed Legislation** - A brief summary of notable pieces of legislation that failed to pass.

## Advocacy and Engagement

RPS was actively engaged during this year's legislative session. Our team hosted advocacy trainings, testified on legislation, hosted press conferences, and participated in advocacy events like the March for More and the #Red4Ed march and rally. With this year's session now adjourned, the Office of Engagement will be continuing to build momentum throughout the year to empower our community to advocate for more when the General Assembly returns next year. Expect more advocacy trainings, policy discussions, and other events starting this spring.

RPS would like to thank the legislative delegation that represents the City of Richmond. Their unity and advocacy for our students and teachers was steadfast throughout the session and their voices helped raise awareness of the funding challenges faced by at-risk students and school divisions.

**Delegate Dawn M. Adams**  
**Delegate Lamont Bagby**  
**Delegate Jeffrey M. Bourne**  
**Delegate Betsy B. Carr**  
**Delegate Delores L. McQuinn**  
**Senator Rosalyn R. Dance**  
**Senator Jennifer L. McClellan**  
**Senator Glen H. Sturtevant**

Find the Delegate and Senator that represents you at <https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/> and send them a note of gratitude for their efforts!



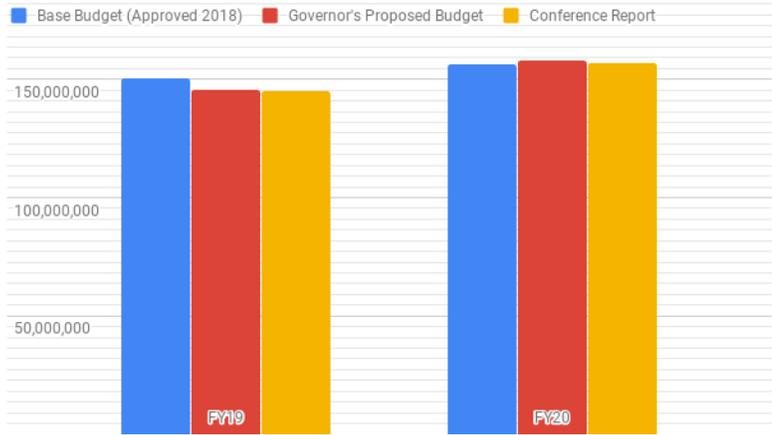
## The State Budget

The final state budget agreed on by the House and Senate was a mixed bag. It demonstrated prioritization of equity-based funding for at-risk school districts and made progress on fair compensation for our teacher workforce. But it still failed to make the meaningful investments in public education needed to restore the deep cuts made during the Great Recession starting with the 2009 budget cycle.

### Funding for RPS Remains Flat Due to Enrollment Decline

The total amount of state education funding going to RPS based on the new budget barely improved compared to what was already in place based on the original 2-year state budget adopted in 2018. Declining enrollment in RPS is a major factor that affects our funding and means that RPS will be receiving \$5.3 million less funding for our current FY19 school year. For the upcoming FY20 school year, we are due to receive \$385,000 more than originally anticipated. The chart shows the how the total funding changed in FY19 and FY20 from the base budget to the Governor's proposed budget to the final conference report.

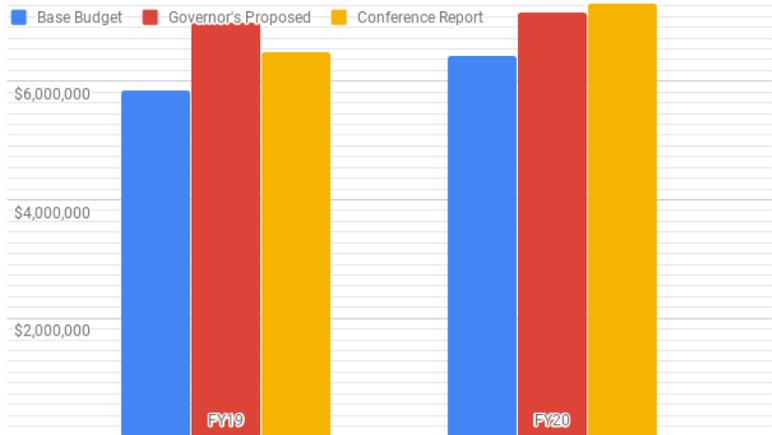
RPS Distribution Comparison



### Progress in At-Risk Add-On Funding

The General Assembly responded to calls for greater equity in public education funding to help at-risk school divisions. Thanks to their efforts, Richmond will receive about \$1.5 million more in At-Risk Add-On funds over the remaining 16 months of the Commonwealth's 2-year budget. These additional funds help soften the funding losses we will incur because of declining enrollment.

At-Risk Add-On Analysis



### Lottery Per-Pupil Allocation

The proposal to increase extra per-pupil funding through the proceeds from the Virginia Lottery was approved in the final conference report. In this current fiscal year, the per-pupil allocation was increased from \$336.08 per pupil to \$364.15 per pupil and for the upcoming year FY20, the per-pupil allocation was increased from \$341.96 per pupil to \$367.44 per pupil. Over the two-years of the budget cycle, this represents a statewide increase of \$34.7 million in unrestricted funds that school divisions can use however they feel best to serve students.



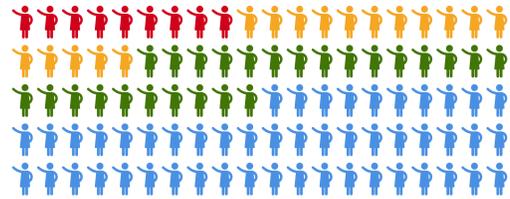
### 5% Teacher Salary Increase Approved

The General Assembly compromised on funding an additional teacher salary raise of 2% on top of the 3% they had already approved last year. They are funding the initial 3% raise starting July 1, 2019 and the additional 2% starting September 1, 2019. These teacher raises require school divisions to match the state funds and is contingent on such funding being included in the RPS FY20 budget.

### Small Reduction in School Counselor Ratios

There will be more school counselors funded by the Commonwealth with an additional \$12 million going towards lowering the student to counselor ratios. Unfortunately, the funding level is far short of the Governor proposed \$36 million funding increase to lower ratios to 1:250. The new funding will lower ratios to:

- 1:455 students in elementary schools (currently 500),
- 1:370 students in middle schools (currently 400)
- 1:325 students in high schools (currently 350)



More work is needed in this area to eventually lower ratios to the nationally recommended best practice of 1:250 students in all schools.

*Each person represents 5 students showing a total of 500 elementary students.  
 The blue students represent a counselor ratio of 1:250 - the national standard.  
 Add the green students for a ratio of 1:375 - the ratio proposed by the Governor.  
 Add the yellow students a ratio of 1:455 - the new approved ratio.  
 Add the red students for a ratio of 1:500 - the current ratio.*

### Early Childhood Education Programs

VPI+ classrooms will continue to receive partial funding of \$6.1 million in funding for 13 communities (including Richmond) that was slated to lose \$9.1 million from expiring federal grant funds. The remaining difference will be made up through a new requirement that localities cover a 40% local match.

Other early childhood measures that would have helped make quality improvements in the Virginia Preschool Initiative program did NOT make the final budget. These measures would have provided additional classroom observations, professional development for teachers, and curriculum enhancements. While the General Assembly did not provide any state funding for these programs, some of the work will continue through a \$9.9 million Federal Preschool Development Grant that the state received in December 2018. This grant will provide funding to include producing a statewide needs assessment and strategic plan, aligning early learning standards, and developing kindergarten-readiness tools for teachers and families.

### School Construction Interest Rate Subsidy Program

The Governor had proposed allocating \$80 million from the Literary Fund for school construction projects through a school construction loan program. The final conference report includes \$35 million to be made available for school construction loans and a new interest rate subsidy program.

### School Security Grants Program Doubles in Size

The School Security Equipment Grant Program was bolstered this year bringing the total annual fund amount from \$6 million to \$12 million. Additionally, the annual school division award cap amount was increased from \$100,000 to \$250,000. School divisions can receive these grants when they make eligible improvements to schools including communications and security systems, entrance enhancements (door locks, entrance vestibules), and other technologies.



### **More School Safety Trainings and School Resource Officers**

Following the year-long efforts in 2018 to examine Virginia's school safety policies and programs, the General Assembly allocated \$5.7 million in new funding for the Virginia Center for School Safety. The new funds will:

- Increase funding for School Resource Officer Incentive Grant program (\$3 million)
- Provide school safety training to all Virginia public schools (\$872,000)
- Develop case management tool for threat assessment teams; expand threat assessment team training (\$721,000)
- Provide basic training to all school resource officers (\$428,000)
- Continue administration of School Climate Survey (\$400,000)
- Provide active shooter training to schools and communities (\$280,000)

### **Support Position Cap Remains**

Support positions in public schools (school counselors, school nurses, school social workers, school psychologists, and others) will continue to be subject to the support position cap that limits state funding for non-instructional staff to about 1 support position for every 4 instructional positions. Removing this cap would restore more than \$369 million in statewide public education funding. Having been in place since 2009, the cap continues to be a major hindrance to funding all the necessary positions needed to support our students.

### **Teacher Residency Programs Grows But No Other New Incentives**

While a \$250,000 increase to the Master Teacher Residency Program was approved, no new funding was provided for other existing or proposed teacher incentive programs. Richmond legislators had proposed additional funding for several existing programs like the Virginia Teacher Scholarship Loan Program and STEM Teacher Incentive Program to provide additional support for teachers in at-risk school divisions like Richmond. The Governor had proposed a Grow Your Own Teacher Pilot Program to encourage high school graduates to become teachers and return to teach in the school division they graduated from. These measures were all left out of the final budget.



## Legislation

Of the 2000+ pieces of legislation that were introduced this year, 883 bills were passed in addition to numerous House and Senate resolutions that were mostly in commemoration or memoriam of individuals and organizations having made great accomplishments. After legislation is passed by the General Assembly, the Governor has three options for each bill. He can:



**Approve the bill** and the new law will go into effect on July 1 (unless otherwise specified).



**Veto the bill**, which the General Assembly can override with a 2/3 majority vote from each chamber.



**Propose amendments to the bill**, which the legislature must approve with a simple (50%) majority in each chamber.

The General Assembly will have the chance to review the Governor's actions when they reconvene for a one-day 'veto' session on April 3, 2019. To find out more details about any piece of legislation, we encourage you to visit the [Legislative Information System \(http://lis.virginia.gov\)](http://lis.virginia.gov). You can look up the status, full bill text, fiscal impact statements, and vote records. Just type in the bill number!

### School Safety to be Considered During School Construction Planning

- **Compliance with Building and Fire Codes** - HB1725 passed and will require school procurement plans to ensure that all security enhancements to public school buildings are in compliance with the Uniform Statewide Building Code and Statewide Fire Prevention Code.
- **Crime Prevention Review of School Building Plans** - HB1738 passed and will require that plans for new or remodeled school construction be reviewed by a crime prevention specialist to look at school corridors, open spaces, and floor plans to ensure learning environments are as safe as possible.
- **School Security Equipment Grants for Building Modifications** - HB2720 passed and will expand the eligibility for grants for security equipment through the Public School Security Equipment Grant Act, to include security equipment including building modifications and fixtures, such as security vestibules.

### School Counselor Ratios Reduced and Responsibilities Modified

- **School Counselor Ratio Reduction** - HB2053 and SB1406 passed as the enabling legislation changing the school counselor ratios to the levels referenced above.
- **School Counselor Responsibilities** - HB1729 passed and requires school counselors to spend at least 80% of their time in direct counseling of students. It also formally changes the name of counselors from guidance counselors to school counselors.
- **Licensed Behavior Analysts and Testing Coordinators** - In the state budget, a language amendment was passed which adds additional flexibility language for school divisions to hire testing coordinators and licensed behavior analysts with At-Risk Add-on funds to help reduce workloads of school counselors and free-up the counselors time which then can be dedicated to supporting students' non-academic related needs.



### **Additional Safety Training and Planning Requirements**

- **Annual Emergency Preparedness Training** - HB1732 and SB1215 passed and requires school boards to develop training on safety procedures in for emergency situations on school property and to deliver the training to students and employees annually.
- **Local Collaboration on Emergency Response Plans** - HB1737 passed and requires school boards to include the local police chief, fire chief, emergency medical services chief, and other local emergency management officials in the development and review of school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans.
- **School Bus Driver Safety Training** - SB1713 passed and requires the Board of Education to include in its training program for school bus operators safety protocols for responding to adverse weather conditions, unsafe conditions during loading and unloading of students, students on the wrong bus, and other circumstances, as determined by the Board, where student safety is at risk.

### **Responsibilities, Training, and Oversight of School Resource Officers, School Security Officers, and School Protection Officers**

- **SRO Training** - HB2609 and SB1130 passed and will require all School Resource Officers (SROs) to complete training through the Dept. of Criminal Justice Services that is specific to the role and responsibility of SROs working with students. The legislation also includes a requirement that at least one administrator in every public school complete school safety training through the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety.
- **MOUs with Local Law Enforcement on SRO Responsibilities** - HB1733 and SB1214 passed and will require school boards that employ SROs to enter in a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement agencies based on a model MOU developed by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety. The MOU will include the powers and responsibilities of the SROs.
- **School Security Officers from Other Jurisdictions** - HB2721 passed and will allow a School Security Officers (SSOs) to carry a firearm if within 10 years prior to being hired, they were employed by a US or other state government law enforcement agency (currently restricted to active law-enforcement officers in the Commonwealth).
- **School Protection Officers** - HB2142 passed and will create a new position called School Protection Officers. These SPOs would be retired law-enforcement officers hired on a part-time basis to provide law-enforcement and security services to Virginia public elementary and secondary schools. The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) will establish minimum training standards for such individuals. This bill passed on votes of 53-45 in the House and 26-13 in the Senate and would not withstand a veto from the Governor.

### **Threat Assessments and Sharing of Student Information**

- **Threat Assessment Case Management Tool** - HB1734 and SB1213 passed and will require the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety to develop a case management tool for use by threat assessment teams to collect and report to the Center quantitative data on its activities that can be further analyzed for insights that can be used to improve school safety across the Commonwealth.



- **Student Information Sharing** - SB1591 passed and will require the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety to develop guidelines and best practices for the sharing of information with law enforcement regarding a student whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of a school or institution or the community.
- **Notice of Student's Protective Orders** - HB1997 passed and will require any court or magistrate that issues a protective order for the protection of any child who is enrolled at a public school to notify the relevant school principal that such protective order has been issued and each such school principal to subsequently notify certain school personnel. The Board of Education will establish guidelines and model policies to aid school boards in implementation of this requirement.
- **Communication of Threats to Superintendents** - HB1787 passed and will add threats of death or bodily injury to another person communicated in writing to such person or member of such person's family and threats to commit serious bodily harm to persons on school property to the listing of offenses that a juvenile intake officer is required to report to the school division superintendent.

### **Student Learning Opportunities and Graduation Requirements**

- **Energy Career Cluster** - HB2008 and SB1348 passed and will establish an energy career cluster through the Department of Education. The bill requires VDOE to base the knowledge and skill sets contained in such energy career cluster on the energy industry competency and credential models developed by the Center for Energy Workforce Development in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor.
- **Career and Technical Education Work-Based Learning Guide** - HB2018 and SB1434 passed and will require the Board of Education to revise its Career and Technical Education Work-Based Learning Guide to expand the opportunities available for students to earn credit for graduation through high-quality work-based learning experiences such as job shadowing, mentorships, internships, and externships.
- **College and Career Access Pathway Partnerships** - HB2123 passed and will allow school boards to enter in partnerships with community colleges and universities that offer career and technical education curriculums. The bill requires any such Partnership to (i) specify the options for students to take courses as part of the career and technical education curriculum that lead to course credit or an industry-recognized credential, certification, or license concurrent with a high school diploma, (ii) specify the credit, credentials, certifications, or licenses available for such courses, and (iii) specify available options for students to participate in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs at comprehensive community colleges concurrent with the pursuit of a high school diploma and receive college credit and high school credit for successful completion of any such program. Current law allows local school boards to enter into agreements with such institutions but does not specify course credit as being part of the agreements.
- **Work-Based Learning Experience and Capstone Project Graduation Requirement** - HB2662 passed and will require the Board of Education to amend graduation requirements to require students to complete (i) a work experience such as an internship, an externship, or another work-based or service-based learning experience during eleventh or twelfth grade and (ii) a capstone project that aligns with and further develops the knowledge and skills attained through such work experience.



- **National Math and Science Initiative Partnerships** - SB1747 passed and encourages school divisions with a significant number of enrolled military-connected students to partner with the National Math and Science Initiative to provide such students with the tools and resources necessary to advance science, technology, engineering, and mathematics learning opportunities and career readiness.

#### **Prohibitions and Instruction on the Use of Nicotine Products**

- **Age Restriction for Tobacco and Nicotine Products to 21** - HB2748 and SB1727 passed and raise the minimum age for purchasing or possessing tobacco products, nicotine vapor products, and alternative nicotine products from 18 years to 21 years.
- **Instruction on the Hazards of Nicotine Vapor Products** - HB1881 passed and requires schools to provide instruction concerning the health and safety risks of using nicotine vapor products.
- **Policies on Prohibition of Tobacco and Nicotine Products** - HB2384 and SB1295 passed and require school boards to (i) implement a policy to prohibit the use and distribution of tobacco products and nicotine vapor products and (ii) include in its code of student conduct a prohibition against possessing tobacco products or nicotine vapor products on a school bus, on school property, or at an on-site or off-site school-sponsored activity. The bill requires such policy to include adequate provisions for enforcement among students, employees, and visitors, including the enumeration of possible sanctions or disciplinary action consistent with state or federal law, and referrals to resources to help staff and students overcome tobacco addiction.

#### **Student Health and Safety**

- **Children's Cabinet to Study School-Based Health Centers** - SB1195 passed and will require the Virginia Children's Cabinet to establish a school-based health centers joint task force that is tasked with (i) assessing the current landscape of school-based services and mental health screening, evaluation, and treatment in school settings; (ii) in coordination with ongoing behavioral health transformation efforts of DMAS and DBHDS, developing best practice recommendations for trauma-informed school-based health centers as a vehicle for the provision of both medical and behavioral health delivered in school settings; (iii) evaluating options for billing public and private insurance for school-based health services; and (iv) developing a plan for establishing a Virginia affiliate member organization, recognized by the national School-Based Health Alliance, to provide technical assistance and guidance for localities interested in bolstering or implementing current and future school-based health centers.
- **Biennial Updating of Concussion Policies** - HB1930 passed and will require the Board of Education and school divisions to biennially update policies regarding concussions in student-athletes.
- **Use of Cannabidiol Oil by Students** - HB1720 and SB1632 passed and permit certified students to use cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil that is issued by a licensed practitioner of medicine or osteopathy to possess and use cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored activity. The bill prohibits a school board from suspending or expelling from school attendance any such student who possesses or uses cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil on school property.



- **School Nurses Ability to Administer Naloxone** - HB2318 passed and adds school nurses and local health department employees that are assigned to a public school to the list of individuals who may possess and administer naloxone or other opioid antagonist, provided that they have completed a training program.
- **Acellular Pertussis Booster Immunization Requirement** - HB2215 passed and extends the time by which an acellular pertussis booster shall be administered from prior to entry into the sixth grade to prior to entry into the seventh grade.

### Teacher Licensure, Education, and Discipline

- **Diversifying Teacher Workforce Act** - HB2037 and SB1397 passed and is aimed at increasing the number of minority teachers in our schools. The bill eliminates the requirement that all teachers seeking entry into a traditional teacher education program pass the PRAXIS exam, which shows significant pass rate gaps between white teacher candidates and minority teacher candidates. It grants the Board of Education the authority to develop and administer an alternative evaluation to demonstrate proficiency. It also allows for a local Superintendent to request a waiver from the Virginia Board of Education of the professional assessment requirement of a provisionally licensed teacher who has met all of the other requirements for full licensure and has also received a rating of proficient or above on the performance standards each year of their provisional license.
- **Licensure of Higher Education Instructors for Dual Enrollment Teachers** - SB1575 passed and requires the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure to make recommendations relating to licensure qualifications for individuals (i) employed by an institution of higher education to teach career and technical education courses in a high school setting and (ii) to teach dual enrollment courses in a high school setting. The bill also requires the Board of Education to provide for the issuance of a three-year license to solely teach career and technical education courses or dual enrollment courses at public high schools to any individual who is employed as an instructor by an institution of higher education that is teaching in the specific career and technical education or dual enrollment subject area at such institution in which the individual seeks to teach at a public school.
- **Microcredential Program** - HB2217 and SB 1419 passed and will establish a microcredential program through VDOE for teachers to complete additional in-person or blended coursework and earn microcredentials in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) endorsement areas, including computer science, for which there is a high need for additional qualified teachers.
- **Alternate Route to Teacher Licensure for Graduates of Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation Accredited Programs** - HB2486 passed and requires the Board of Education, in its regulations providing for licensure by reciprocity, to grant special consideration to individuals who have successfully completed a program offered by a provider that is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. The bill also requires the Board of Education to develop guidelines that establish a process to permit a school board or any organization sponsored by a school board to petition the Board for approval of an alternate route to licensure that may be used to meet the requirements for a provisional or renewable license or any endorsement.



- **Private Reprimand of Employees** - HB2325 passed and will allow the Virginia Board of Education to issue a private reprimand to teachers who knowingly and willfully commits a certain enumerated act relating to secure mandatory tests administered to students. The bill also permits a school board or division superintendent to issue written reprimand to a teacher who breaches his employment contract after the school board or division superintendent declines to grant such teacher's request for release from such contract on the grounds of insufficient or unjustifiable cause.

### School Operations

- **Pre-Labor Day School Opening** - HB1652 and SB1005 passed and eliminate the post-Labor day school calendar law by allowing school board to set the school calendar so that the first day students are required to attend school is no earlier than 14 days before Labor Day unless the Board of Education waives such requirement for good cause. The bill provides that if the first day of school is before Labor Day, such school board shall close each school in the school division from the Friday immediately preceding Labor Day through Labor Day.
- **Reporting Lead Testing and Remediation Plans to VDH** - SB1629 passed and requires each local school board to submit its plan to test and remediate certain potable water sources and report the results of any such test to the Department of Health.
- **Public-Private Solar Electricity Projects for Schools** - HB2192 and SB1331 provide for school boards to enter into public-private lease agreements through local industrial development authorities to install solar electricity projects that generate more than enough electricity to operate the school. The private entities that contract with local school boards may receive financing from the Virginia Small Business Financing Authority.
- **Length of School Term Waiver for Evacuations** - HB2124 and SB1269 passed and requires the Board of Education to waive the requirement that school divisions provide additional teaching days or teaching hours to compensate for school closings resulting from an evacuation directed and compelled by the Governor for up to five teaching days. The bill provides that there shall be no proportionate reduction in the amount paid by the Commonwealth from the Basic School Aid Fund or the amount paid by a local governing body.

### Family Life Education

- **Family Life Education Curriculum to Include Meaning of Consent** - HB2205 passed and requires any high school family life education curriculum to incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the law and meaning of consent.
- **Family Life Education Curriculum to Include Prevention of Human Trafficking** - SB1141 passed and requires the Board of Education, in its curriculum guidelines for family life education, to include instruction on the prevention of human trafficking. High school programs must incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of human trafficking.
- **Family Life Education Curriculum to Include Female Genital Mutilation** - SB1159 passed and requires any family life education curriculum offered in any elementary school, middle school, or high school to incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the harmful physical and emotional effects of female genital mutilation, associated criminal penalties, and the rights of the victim including any civil action.



- **Parental Review of Anti-Bullying and Suicide Prevention Materials** - HB2107 passed and requires school boards to implement policies that ensure parents the right to review any audio-visual materials that contain graphic sexual or violent content used in any anti-bullying or suicide prevention program. Such policies shall require that prior to using any such material, the parent of the child participating in such a program shall be provided written notice of his right to review the material and his right to excuse his child from participating in the part of such program utilizing such material.

### School Choice

- **Pre-K Eligibility for Education Improvement Scholarships** - SB1015 passed and expands the Education Improvement Scholarships tax credits program by including, as eligible scholarship recipients, children enrolled in or attending nonpublic pre-kindergarten programs whose parents or guardians were unable to obtain services for the children through the Virginia Preschool Initiative. This bill passed 23-15 in the Senate and 56-42 in the House and would be unlikely to survive a gubernatorial veto.
- **Education Improvement Scholarships for Students with Disabilities** - SB1365 passed and increases the scholarship amount available for an eligible student with a disability from 100 percent to 300 percent of the per pupil amount distributed to the local school division as the state's share of the standards of quality costs, or the actual qualified educational expenses of the student, whichever is less.
- **Military Family Enrollment in Charter Schools** - SB1249 passed and permits any student whose service member parent is relocated to the Commonwealth pursuant to orders received to register for courses and other academic programs and participate in the lottery process for charter schools and college partnership laboratory schools at the same time and in the same manner as students who reside in the local school division.

### Other

- **Elementary Reading Diagnostic Tools** - SB1718 passed and requires the Department of Education develop a plan to implement a pilot program to incorporate additional diagnostic tools into reading diagnostic tests used for screening students in kindergarten through grade three.
- **Elimination of the Standards of Learning Innovation Committee** - SB1728 passed and repeals the Standards of Learning Innovation Committee that was established in 2014 as part of that year's diploma redesign efforts.



### **What Didn't Pass?**

A number of bills that were considered this year, several which looked poised to pass, ultimately failed. Below is a quick look at some of the policies which failed, but we may expect to see resurface next year.

- **Alternative Student Discipline Process** - SB1545 would have allowed school boards to develop their own alternative accountability processes to keep students from being referred to law enforcement.
- **Disorderly Conduct by Students** - HB1685 and SB1107 would have profited students from being charged with disorderly conduct.
- **City of Richmond STEM Internship Tax Credit / Grant Program** - SB1532 would have established a grant program to provide business with a grant to host a Richmond Public Schools student as an intern in a STEM or high-demand field.
- **Advertising on School Buses** - HB2222 would have allowed school boards to display advertisements on school buses.
- **Revenue from Gaming** - SB1574 would have created a new law to direct proceeds from gaming to various funding streams, including public education.
- **Early Childhood Success Act** - HB2458 and SB1095 would have created the Early Childhood Success Act to unify the Commonwealth's early childhood programs under the Department of Education (instead of the Department of Social Services).
- **Commission on School Innovation, Modernization, and Competitiveness** - HB2168 would have created a legislative Commission on School Innovation, Modernization, and Competitiveness to develop and oversee the implementation of a goal and strategic plan for (i) promoting and increasing public high school student participation in dual enrollment courses, industry certifications, and state licensure examinations, (ii) modernizing public elementary and secondary school buildings throughout the Commonwealth, and (iii) achieving the Commonwealth's teacher compensation goal.
- **Commission on Student Behavioral Health** - HB1735 would have created a new Commission on Student Behavioral Health to be tasked with the ongoing study of student behavioral health matters.
- **State School Health Advisory Committee** - SB1142 would have required the Board of Education to establish the State School Health Advisory Committee to advise the Board, the Governor, and the General Assembly on (i) the role of employees in public elementary or secondary schools in providing health care services at such schools and (ii) the need for any training associated with delivery of health care services.
- **Unexpended Funds for Capital Projects** - HB1921 would have allowed school boards to finance capital projects with any funds appropriated to it by the local governing body that are unexpended by the school board in any year.
- **Fee-Based Access for Virginia Preschool Initiative** - HB1646 would have allowed higher income families to enroll their students in the Virginia Preschool Initiative on a fee-based access system.
- **Voter Referendum for School Modernization** - SB1330 would have authorized a referendum question on the fall election ballot asking voters to approve a \$3 billion bond issuance for the purpose of modernizing Virginia's private schools.
- **Public School Assistance Fund for School Roofs** - SB1702 would have created a new grant program to assist schools in replacing failing school building roofs.
- **Home School Students** - SB1275 would have allowed home school students to participate in public school JROTC programs. Before this bill failed on a House Education Committee vote, RPS had it amended so it would not impact Franklin Military Academy. HB2102 would have allowed home school students to participate in public school athletic and other extracurricular programs.