

2022 Legislative Advocacy Update

Update for the Richmond Education Compact

Presented by: Matthew Stanley, Director, Advocacy & Outreach

Venue: Richmond Education Compact

Date: February 1, 2022

Governor Northam's PK-12 Education Budget Highlights

Provision	FY23 (millions)	FY24 (millions)
Rebenchmarking	\$154.1	\$177.5
Rebenchmarking - COVID-19 Impacts Hold Harmless	\$177.1	\$177.4
Teacher Salaries - 5% each year	\$245.5	\$505.5
School Construction - Grants	\$500	\$0
School Construction - Literary Fund Loans & Subsidies	\$200	\$200
At-Risk Add-On	\$194.2	\$74.2
English Learner Teacher Ratios	\$9.7	\$10.5
Early Reading Intervention Expansion to Grades 4-5	\$31.5	\$31.5
Grocery Tax Hold Harmless	\$45.5	\$112.5

For more information on the budget process and Governor Northam's proposals, see [this presentation from the House Appropriations Committee](#).

Additional Introduced Budget Highlights

What is not included?

- Hold Harmless for ADM Loss - approximately \$33 million per year
- Hold Harmless for LCI Changes
- LCI Reform
- Removal of Support Staff Cap
- SOQ Recommendations & The Equity Fund
- Proficiency-Based English Learner Ratios

What is included?

- Expansion of VPI for 3-year-olds - \$19,399,862
- Expansion of Mixed Delivery Grants (w/pilot for infants and toddlers) - \$6,707,915
- Early Childhood Educator Higher Ed Pipeline Grant Program - \$2,100,000
- Early Childhood Educator Grant Program - \$10,000,000
- Community Schools Fund - \$10,000,000
- Communities in Schools Expansion - \$1,520,000
- Computer Science Teacher Workforce Diversity - \$3,000,000
- K-8 Robotics and Coding Programs - \$500,000
- Richmond Teacher Residency Program - \$500,000

2022 State Legislative Advocacy Priorities & Legislation

Priority Area	Recommended Action	Legislation
Enrollment/ADM Loss & LCI Changes	Hold divisions harmless from enrollment/ADM losses and LCI changes that have occurred since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.	Item 137 #3s Item 137 #4s
Standards of Quality & Equity-Based Funding	Implement the equity-based recommendations for Virginia’s Standards of Quality from the Virginia Board of Education, also known as the School Equity & Staffing Act, that call for the Equity Fund, more counselors and other support staff, and investments in teacher leader and mentor programs.	SB 490 HB 1135
English Language Learners	Implement the 2019 BOE recommendation to amend the staffing requirements for English Learner teachers to differentiate the distribution of positions based upon the proficiency level of students – ratios vary from 1:25 to 1:58 (teacher to ESL students in the division).	HB 1184 SB 156
Staff Compensation	Continue investing in teacher salaries to bring them in line with the national average.	HB 535
Support Staff	Eliminate the Support Staff Cap that arbitrarily limits the number of state-funded support positions such as nurses and social workers.	Item 137 #6h Item 137 #15s
School Construction	Support continued efforts to fund school construction through legislation, the budget, and the newly created Commission on School Construction & Modernization.	Multiple

Local Composite Index & Enrollment Loss

Local Composite Index

- Richmond's LCI increased more from 20-22 to 22-24 than any other locality. This change has the effect of reducing Richmond's state education funding by approximately \$7 million. More information is available on slides [86-89 of this presentation](#) and in this article from the [Richmond Times Dispatch](#).
- Broader LCI reform has not been addressed in any legislation or budget amendments and [a study from JLARC](#) is expected later in 2022.
- Senator McClellan introduced budget amendment 137 #4s to hold Richmond and other localities with large LCI variances harmless from decreases in Basic Aid funding.
- **Advocacy Action** - Visit, email or call members of the [Senate Finance & Appropriations Committee](#) and ask them to support Senator McClellan's [budget amendment 137 #4s](#) to hold divisions harmless from unfair Local Composite Index changes.

ADM/Enrollment Loss

- Divisions face continued enrollment fluctuations due to COVID-19 impacts ([see slide 75](#)), with many divisions seeing significantly decreased average daily membership (ADM) - the driver of state funding. Richmond's projected ADM is lower than expected and depending on actual average daily membership, Richmond could see up to \$8 million in further state funding loss.
- **Advocacy Action** - Visit, email or call members of the [Senate Finance & Appropriations Committee](#) and ask them to support Senator Hashmi's [budget amendment 137 #3s](#) to hold divisions harmless from fluctuations in enrollment and attendance during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Other Legislation

Student & School Safety

- Disorderly Conduct - [HB 89](#)
- Incident Reports - [HB 4](#), [SB 2](#), [SB 36](#), [SB 287](#), [SB 613](#)
- School Resource Officers - [HB 37](#), [HB 873](#), [SB 415](#)
- Treatment of Transgender Students - [HB 988](#) & [SB 20](#)
- Driver Education Programs - [SB 78](#)

School Choice

- Laboratory Partnerships - [HB 346](#) & [SB 598](#)
- Charter School Approval - [HB 344](#) & [SB 608](#)
- Regional Charter School Divisions - [HB 356](#) & [SB 125](#)
- Education Savings Accounts - [HB 1024](#) & [HB 1025](#),
- Education Improvement Scholarships [HB 294](#), [HB 788](#), [HB 982](#), [SB 16](#), [SB 27](#), [SB 709](#)

Other

- Virginia Literacy Act - [HB 319](#) & [SB616](#)
- No Child Left Inside - [HB 636](#)
- Vision Screenings - [Item 136 #9s](#), [Item 136 #25h](#), [Item 304 #40s](#), [Item 304 #21h](#)
- School Health Advisory Board - [HB 215](#) & [SB 62](#)

How to Get Involved & What To Expect

Visit Our Advocacy Website

The new Advocacy Hub has launched on our website to inform and empower the RPS community to advocate at the local, state, and federal levels. The hub is our advocacy portal with the RPS advocacy toolkit and resources like form letters and advocacy opportunities from partner organizations. Visit the Hub to learn how to get involved and advocate at www.rvaschools.net/advocacy

Get Involved

- Contact [Your Legislator](#) and Budget Committees ([House & Senate](#)) - form letters coming soon!
- [General Assembly Visits](#) and Testimony
- Watch Floor Sessions, daily at 12pm ([House & Senate](#))
- Social Media & Letters to the Editor
- Use a [Virtual Advocacy Zoom Background](#)

General Assembly Calendar

- Now - February 11 - Committees are meeting and budget amendments being considered
- February 16 - Crossover, each chamber completes legislative work
- February 20 - House and Senate release budgets
- February 25 - March 8 - Conferees negotiate final budget
- March 12 - Regular session adjourns Sine Die