

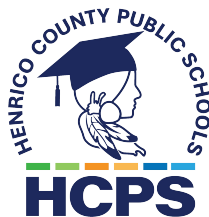
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**GET THE
KNOWLEDGE
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Join the regional conversation on Virginia's 2026 legislative and public education landscape — what's ahead, and how you can shape it.



Chesterfield
County
Public Schools



Introductions



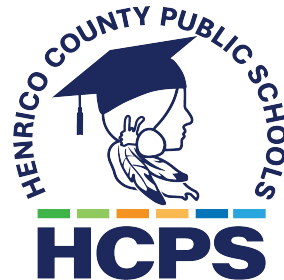
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JLARC Study and Recommendations

JLARC Study Findings

The Virginia General Assembly (SJR 294) directed JLARC to study the cost of education in Virginia and make an accurate assessment of the costs of the Standards of Quality.

Key findings included:

- Virginia school divisions receive less K–12 funding per student than divisions in other states and several key funding benchmarks
- Many of the Standards of Quality (SOQ) formula inputs and assumptions lack a clear rationale and do not reflect prevailing practice in school divisions
- SOQ formula does not adequately account for higher needs students, regional labor costs, and division size
- Local composite index used to apportion funding obligations between the state and each locality is a reasonably accurate measure of ability to pay
- Most states use a student-based K–12 funding formula, which is simpler than Virginia’s complex staffing-based formula

JLARC Study and Recommendations

Recommendations

If all recommendations are implemented, JLARC estimates \$200-\$300M incremental funding to Chesterfield County Public Schools. While initial progress was made last Session, important funding priorities for Chesterfield County Public Schools in the 2025 General Assembly Session include:

- The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act that directs the following changes to the Standards of Quality formula: (i) eliminate the support cap, (ii) re-instate the non-personal cost categories removed in FY09 FY10, and (iii) re-instate the federal fund deduction methodology used prior to FY09. (JLARC Recommendation 4)
- The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act directing the Virginia Department of Education to update the cost assumptions for school division employee salaries used in the biennial Standards of Quality re-benchmarking process to better reflect current salaries paid by school divisions. (JLARC Recommendation 5)
- The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act directing the Virginia Department of Education to calculate salary and other Standards of Quality formula cost assumptions using the division average, rather than the linear weighted average. (JLARC Recommendation 5)
- The General Assembly may wish to consider amending the Code of Virginia and including language in the Appropriation Act to direct use of the federally approved Identified Student Percentage measure to calculate funding for all at-risk programs that currently rely on the outdated free lunch estimates. (JLARC Recommendation 9)
- The General Assembly may wish to consider amending the Code of Virginia and including language in the Appropriation Act to replace the current cost of competing adjustment with a more accurate adjustment based on a Virginia cost of labor index that better accounts for differing labor costs across school divisions in calculating compensation funding through the Standards of Quality formula. (JLARC Recommendation 12)

School Construction & Modernization

School facilities and infrastructure funding is an issue across the state of Virginia.

More than half of all school buildings in Virginia are more than 50 years old and it would cost \$25 billion to replace or rebuild all of those schools.

- In Central Virginia, the average age of a school building is over 50 years.
- In RPS, the average age of a school building is 63 years.
 - 36 are more than 50 years old, including 15 that are more than 95 years old.
 - In the last 50 years, we have built 14 new buildings.

RPS [currently needs over \\$40 million to address immediate repairs](#) for our aging infrastructure.

- RPS cannot levy tax funds independently, so we rely on what the City and State can provide.

In 2022, the General Assembly created the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP); a new, reliable and equitably competitive stream of state support for school construction and modernization.

- Thanks to a Governor Northam budget amendment, this program will continue to receive a reliable source of funding from Virginia casino tax revenues.
- In 2023, I published [this law review article](#) with the University of Richmond’s Public Interest Law Review that reviews the impetus, development, and early outcomes of the Commission.

Year	School	Amount
2023	Maury Street CTE High School	\$20 million
2023	JL Francis Elementary School	\$1 million
2023	Henderson Middle School	\$1 million
2023	William Fox Elementary School	\$5.6 million
2024	John Marshall High School	\$0.6 million
2024	Richmond Alternative School	\$0.375 million
2025	Woodville Elementary School	\$12.4 million
TOTAL		\$40,975,000

School Construction & Modernization Priorities

Renew the Commission on School Construction and Modernization.

The Commission, created to assess school facility needs and recommend funding solutions, is set to expire in 2026. The General Assembly should reauthorize it to continue its work supporting localities with data, technical assistance, and equitable funding recommendations. Reauthorizing the Commission will ensure Virginia continues to make progress in addressing its \$25+ billion backlog in school infrastructure needs.

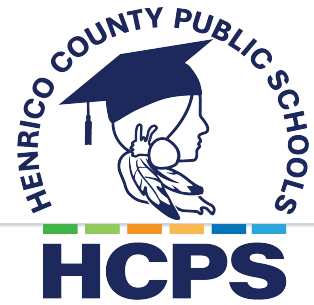
Let voters fund modern facilities.

The General Assembly should once again approve legislation allowing localities to hold referenda for a 1% local sales tax dedicated solely to school construction and modernization. This measure, which passed twice with bipartisan support before being vetoed, gives communities a local tool to fund urgently needed school improvements while maintaining voter oversight and accountability.

Fund per-pupil infrastructure grants.

The 2022 school construction package provided a one-time per-pupil allocation for infrastructure improvements across Virginia. This approach helped local divisions like Richmond make critical repairs and upgrades. We ask the General Assembly to reinstate this program with a minimum statewide appropriation of \$500 million, ensuring that every student learns in a safe, modern, and well-equipped school.

Mental Health



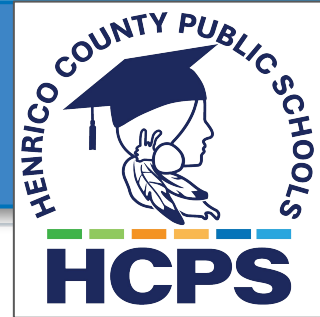
Mental Health and Other Wrap-Around Services Continue to be a Priority for Lawmakers

Bills From Last Session

- Allow students to schedule telehealth services, including mental health services, during the school day. (HB1945/SB1037)
- Model MOU for school-based telehealth providers. (HB2543/SB1370)
- Survey of available school-based mental and behavioral health services to improve community resources that provide mental and behavioral health services. (HB1947/SB768)



Supporting the Mental Health and Wellness of Henrico's Youth and Families Together



Mental Health Care Coordinators/Navigators

154
individuals
successfully
utilized service
into care!

7/1/2025- 11/26/2025

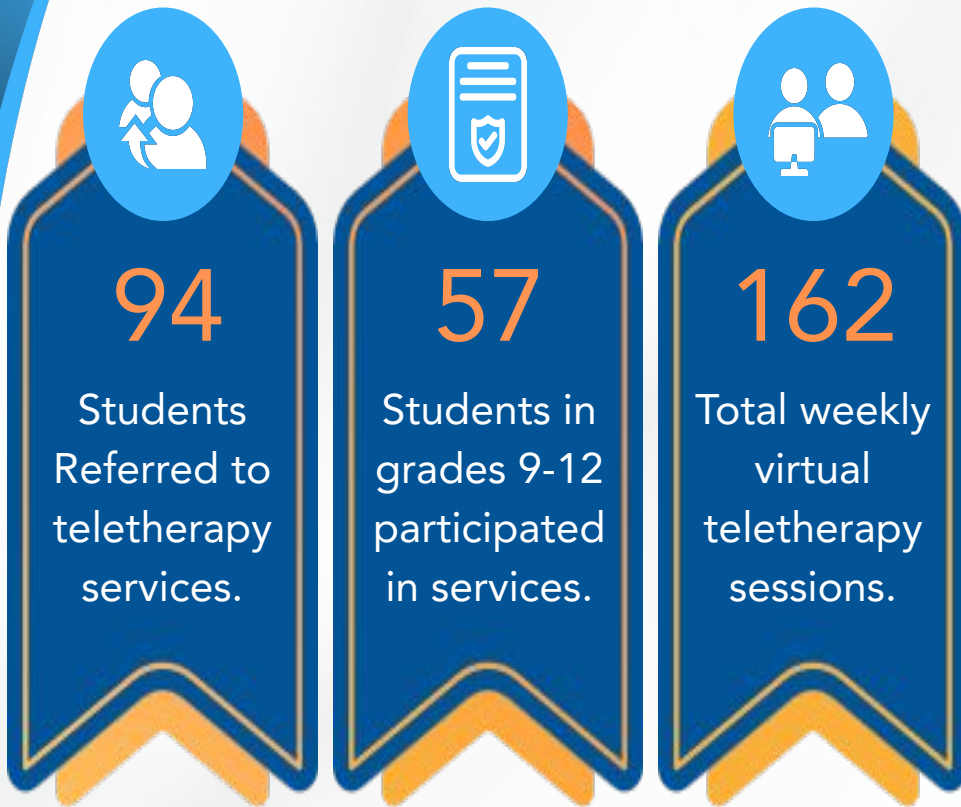
42% Children (3-11 yrs)
33% Adolescents
(12-17)
25% Adults(18-64)
1% Seniors (65+)

Top 5 Reason Reported for Seeking Support:

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Trauma
- ADHD
- Disruptive Behaviors

care/solace

Teletherapy/Weekly Virtual Therapy Sessions



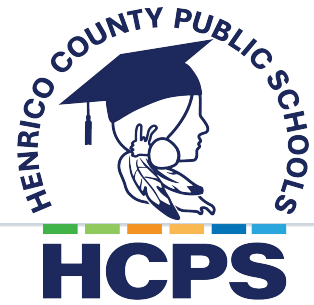
Top 5 Reason Reported for Seeking Support:



- Sadness
- Anxiety
- Grief/Loss
- Attendance
- Academics

6/29/2025- 10/8/2025

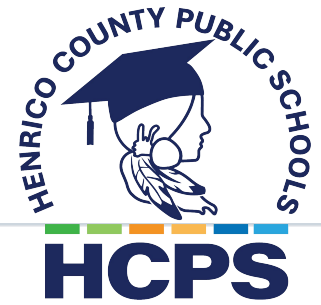
Physical, Social, Emotional and Mental Health



2026 HCPS Legislative Priorities Include:

- The expansion of funding for school-based mental health professionals, wellness programs, and community-based services that support families before, during, and after the school day.
- Removal of unnecessary, and often unfunded, classroom and administrative burdens on staff time. This allows our teachers and administrators to focus on what is most important - engaging and supporting students in meaningful, relevant learning.
- Also: Creating Safe, Modern and Supportive Learning Environments.
 - Supporting legislation that strengthens school safety, supports school modernization and construction, and ensures equitable access to technology and connectivity.

Contact Information



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Know who represents you!

Who's My Legislator?

This tool helps you identify your legislator and the following information:

- Names
- Length of time in office
- Full-time profession
- Committee assignments
- Areas of interest
- Prior legislation



www.virginiageneralassembly.gov

Advocacy Partners & Resources

- [Virginia Public Access Project](#) (and VaNews)
- [Fund Our Schools](#)
- [Virginia Education Association](#)
- [Virginia PTA](#)
- [The Commonwealth Institute](#)
- [Voices for Virginia's Children](#)
- [Legal Aid Justice Center](#)
- [Virginia School Boards Association](#)
- [Virginia Association of School Superintendents](#)
- [Virginia Council of Administrators of Special Education \(VCASE\)](#)
- [Lobbyist In a Box & Legislative Information System](#)
- [RPS Email Updates Sign Up Form](#)

