

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

OCTOBER 2, 2026, 9:30 A.M.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, SCHOOL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM

Public seating is available. Public comment is not taken at Legislative Committee Meetings.

Members of the public will also be able to observe the Legislative Committee at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@VirginiaBeachSchools>

1. **Attendance:** Dr. Alveta Green, Rose Dwyer, Melinda Rogers, Joel Andrus, Cheryl Woodhouse, Laura Beth Mattson, and Kamala Lannetti.
2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Motion:
3. **Approval of September 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes**
4. **Old Business**
4. **New Business**
 - A. 2026 VBCPS Legislative Agenda Updates by Joel.
 - B. Discuss items for 2027 Legislative Agenda.
 - C. Legislative Breakfast updated.
5. **New Matters**

7. **Next Meeting Dates- 11/6/26**

8. **Adjourn Meeting:**

This meeting is open to the public. Public comments are not taken at School Board Committee Meetings. Agenda materials will be available at the Meeting or can be obtained by contacting laurabeth.mattson@vbschools.com prior to the Meeting. Please note that persons requiring accommodations to attend the Meeting should contact Laura Beth Mattson, Specialist Intergovernmental Affairs Constituent Services (757) 263-1007 by 8:30 am the day of the meeting.

Legislative Committee Meeting Notes

September 8, 2026

1. Attendance

Meeting began at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Present:

- Dr. Alveta Green
- Rose Dwyer
- Melinda Rogers
- Joel Andrus
- Cheryl Woodhouse
- Laura Beth Mattson
- Anna Cleveland
- Kamala Lannetti participated virtually.

2. Adoption of Agenda

- Motion made by Melinda Rogers
- Seconded by Rose Dwyer
- Motion approved, 3–0

3. Approval of July 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes

- No changes were requested.
- Motion made by Melinda Rogers
- Seconded by Rose Dwyer
- Motion approved, 3–0

4. Old Business – Legislative Breakfast

The Committee discussed the date and location for the annual Legislative Breakfast.

- Date: December 3, 2026
- Time: 8:30–11:30 a.m.
- Location: Renaissance Academy

- Backup location: Plaza Middle School

The Committee discussed potential student/program presentations at the event, including the Renaissance Academy welding lab and Plaza Middle School planetarium

5. New Business

A. 2027 VBCPS Legislative Package

The Committee discussed the timeline for developing the 2027 legislative package.

- An email had previously been sent requesting proposed legislative priorities; no submissions had been received as of the meeting.
- A reminder will be sent requesting input.
- Proposed legislative priorities/package information will be presented to the School Board on November 10.
- Final approval of the legislative package is scheduled for November 23.
- The Committee discussed the need to update/refine the package at its upcoming meetings before it is presented to the School Board.
- The Committee's next meeting is October 2.

B. Meeting with the Legislative Delegation

The Committee discussed planning for the meeting with the Virginia Beach legislative delegation.

- The agenda for the delegation meeting will focus on the legislative package.
- The delegation meeting is planned for December 3 in conjunction with the Legislative Breakfast.
- Additional details and the agenda will be finalized as planning continues.

6. New Matters

Immigration/Law Enforcement Issues

Dr. Green asked whether there were any additional questions following the information previously provided.

Rose Dwyer raised concerns/questions regarding:

- Policies and procedures related to immigration matters;
- Procedures involving law enforcement;

- How schools should respond if ICE comes onto school property;
- Policies regarding discrimination and citizenship status; and
- The relationship between federal requirements and state/local policy.

Kamala Lannetti discussed existing procedures involving law enforcement and policies related to discrimination and citizenship status. The discussion also touched on the roles of the Governor, police/sheriff, and federal authorities/ICE and the need to distinguish between federal law and state/local policy.

The Committee indicated that guidance should be more specific regarding what schools should do if ICE comes to a school.

VSBA Legislative Update

Melinda Rogers reported that the VSBA legislative delegation/package update had not yet been received. There was discussion about whether there would be enough time for the Legislative Committee to review the information before taking recommendations to the School Board. The VSBA delegation/conference is scheduled for approximately October 17. The legislative conference is expected to include a virtual participation option. The VSBA legislative package remains open for proposed legislation/input.

Cheryl Woodhouse will follow up with R. Tornetto regarding legislative information from the VSBA conference.

7. Next Meeting Dates

- October 2, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.
- November 6, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

There was also discussion of an October 17 legislative conference/VSBA event, with a virtual option anticipated.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:49 a.m.

Virginia Beach City Public Schools 2026 Legislative Agenda

BUDGET AND FUNDING

Support Full Funding of Biennial Re-Benchmarking

In each odd year, the Department of Education (DOE) provides the Governor and the General Assembly with an estimate of the “rebenchmarked” cost of continuing the existing Direct Aid to Public Education programs for the next biennium. This rebenchmarking is part of the biennial budget development process and includes updates in the input data to determine the current cost of the programs. The cost projections should not reflect any changes in policy or technical methodology. The Standards of Quality (SOQ) provide 60% of the state funds for public schools in Virginia.

Since rebenchmarking is a process to update the state funding formulas to reflect the current costs facing Local Education Agencies (LEA) (e.g. increases in fuel costs, health care costs, teacher salaries, etc.), failure to fully fund rebenchmarking would signify a decrease in the state’s commitment to funding K-12 education. VBCPS supports full-funding of the biennial rebenchmarking of the Standards of Quality funding formulas. VBCPS opposes any formula changes to the rebenchmarking methodology that would artificially decrease the actual costs to fund K-12 education. Finally, VBCPS opposes any measure that would shift SOQ and other recurring cost programs into the Lottery Fund.

Teacher Salary Increase and Recruitment and Retention

Nearly every school division across Virginia is experiencing extensive teacher shortages. While filling all positions has at times always been challenging for school divisions, the last several years have proven to be particularly difficult for school divisions. The current teacher shortage problem is at a crisis a point, as schools are not able to fill needed positions.

While Virginia has provided resources for teacher salaries in recent years, earnings for Virginia teachers continue to lag the national average. Virginia teacher salaries have one of the widest gaps between their pay levels and those of comparable professionals in the country and with continued pressure on wages from persistent inflation this disparity has become increasingly acute. In order to bring the Virginia’s average teacher salary up to the national average, Virginia must continue to take significant steps to invest in its teacher workforce.

The General Assembly should also consider additional pathways for retired teachers to return to the profession, including allowing fully licensed retired teachers to return to the profession without having to go through the licensure process again, as long as they are able to demonstrate competency in the subject they are teaching.

Increase behavior and mental health staff available to students to aid in early identification and support of students exhibiting mental health needs.

VBCPS requests the General Assembly continue to provide additional resources for mental health clinicians, attendance interventionists, and behavior specialists. These staff members should have specialized training to target students' complex behavioral needs and have the experience to assess the mental health status of students, recommend an appropriate level of care, implement/assist with implementing appropriate interventions, and respond to crisis situations.

However, VBCPS support retaining local authority and flexibility to best determine the resources and programs required to meet the student health and school health. VBCPS requests that any state mandated program designed to increase mental health services available to students be fully funded by the state and not result in an additional unfunded mandate.

Delivering Quality Special Education Services

VBCPS has approximately X,000 students who qualify for special education services. VBCPS spends in excess of \$XX million per year, or approximately \$XX,000 per qualified student, on special education programs and services, of which approximately XX% is funded locally. VBCPS is opposed to any change in the delivery of special education services or special education funding that would shift even a larger portion of the funding responsibility to the locality. This includes changes to the regional special education programs that either reduce the overall state allotment or reduces the funding to an individual regional program. Such reductions in funding will not reduce VBCPS's obligations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), but rather shift a larger portion to the locality.

Dedicated State Funding for Capital Improvements

VBCPS supports the reinstatement of dedicated state funds for capital improvements. Since 2010, local governments and school boards have carried the full burden of capital improvements for public schools.

Continued Authorization and Funding for Regional Recovery School

Unlike other recovery schools in Virginia, VBCPS adopted a fully regional approach. While VBCPS remains the fiscal agent and program developer, the recovery school is housed in Chesapeake, and each participating school division has a signed MOU and is an active participant in the program's development and success.

As recovery schools are not specifically enumerated as an option under the "Joint and regional schools" statute, VBCPS requests that regional recovery schools be added to the list of authorized regional schools. Currently, VBCPS is using startup funds and authorization through the appropriations act to develop the regional recovery school.

VBCPS also supports ongoing, sustained operational state funding for the Hampton Roads regional recovery school.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

School Bus Driver Shortage

VBCPS, like many school divisions across the state and country, is experiencing an extreme shortage of school bus drivers, resulting in delays in getting students to and from school, field trips and after school activities. Virginia needs to take immediate steps to increase the number of qualified school bus drivers on a statewide basis. As initial steps, Virginia should provide designated funding sources for the training of potential new school bus drivers, as well as address the licensing requirements and expediting the licensure timeline. Additionally, Virginia should work closely with our federal delegation to create a specific school bus commercial driver's license for those individuals who are exclusively interested in becoming bus drivers.

Eliminate or Fund Currently Unfunded Mandates

The total impact of state and federal unfunded mandates to VBCPS was \$44 million in 2023. Of the \$44 million, approximately \$16 million are mandates that originated from either the General Assembly or the Virginia Department of Education. These mandates range from new reporting requirements, to new policies and procedures, to unfunded equipment requirements. VBCPS is opposed to any state mandates requiring local school divisions to assume additional responsibilities or provide additional services without the state's share of funding for such mandates. VBCPS supports the elimination of or funding for existing unfunded mandates.

VBCPS opposes any legislation that would remove local school board authority to negotiate employment contracts between the school district and its employees. VBCPS believes local school boards are best positioned to manage employee agreements that reflect community needs, uphold fiscal responsibility, and support a stable, high-quality educational workforce. Previous legislation that would remove or reduce local authority often lead to an unfunded fiscal impact.

Assessment Reform

VBCPS supports recent efforts to update the SOL assessments to be more performance-based, mimic real-life situations, and better prepare students for success in higher education and in the workplace. While VBCPS also supports recent legislation to update and modernize the assessment process, VBCPS requests several changes to the recently passed legislation prior to the legislation going into effect, including additional flexibility for end-of-course testing windows (specifically for students who require additional accommodations under an IEP or 504 plan), clarifying how many assessments can be administered throughout the year, and delaying counting the mandatory end-of-course assessment until a new SOL assessment contract is awarded and implemented.

VBCPS supported recent efforts to expand the use of growth measures by the General Assembly; however, the implementation of those efforts did not achieve the objectives of the original intent. Given the staff resources required to implement the assessments as required by VDOE, the data garnered from the reports was not as impactful as the student data VBCPS was already acquiring through previous assessments. VBCPS continues to support the use of growth measures and through year assessments, but requests continued local flexibility and control over how the assessments are implemented.

POTENTIAL ITEMS

Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding

Virginia Beach City Public Schools supports the work of the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding to strengthen Virginia's school funding formula. Any changes must reflect the actual cost of educating students and account for their needs, including students with disabilities, English learners, economically disadvantaged students, and students who need additional academic support.

Funding reform must also ensure school divisions are made whole as student populations shift. Declining enrollment does not result in an equivalent reduction in the cost of staffing, facilities, transportation, and essential services, while growing divisions need timely funding to serve additional students.

Dual Enrollment

Virginia Beach City Public Schools supports legislation and state funding to establish a sustainable funding model for dual enrollment courses offered through the Virginia Community College System. As participation grows, the Commonwealth must ensure that school divisions and community colleges have the resources to maintain high-quality courses and expand opportunities for students.

State funding should be predictable, reflect the costs of providing instruction, and grow with enrollment. It should also make community colleges whole for tuition and fee revenue lost as a result of state requirements to provide dual enrollment courses at no cost. This support should extend to academic and career and technical education courses, whether taught at a high school, on a community college campus, or online, without shifting additional costs to local school divisions or families.

New Accountability System and School Support Framework

TBD

Artificial Intelligence and Electronic Device Usage in the Classroom and Educational Learning Environments

Virginia Beach City Public Schools supports state policies that establish clear guardrails for artificial intelligence in public education and keep pace with rapidly changing technology. AI should provide supplemental learning opportunities and support instruction without replacing teachers or the work students must do to learn. Its use should strengthen critical thinking, encourage independent problem-solving, and help students evaluate information rather than simply generate answers. Teachers should remain responsible for instruction and assessment,

with appropriate safeguards to protect student data. State guidance should be regularly reviewed as technology evolves.

The Commonwealth should also support responsible device management that keeps student learning at the center of technology use and adapts to the rapid pace of technological change. State guidance should promote purposeful use of devices for classroom instruction and supplemental learning, limit distractions, and preserve direct instruction, discussion, and collaboration. School divisions should retain flexibility to update age-appropriate expectations as devices and applications evolve, with state support for teacher training and implementation.

2026-2027 Unfunded and Underfunded Mandates

Unfunded mandates are requirements imposed by higher levels of government (federal or state) on lower levels (local governments or school districts) without providing sufficient funding to cover the costs. Underfunded mandates are those where the funding provided is insufficient to cover all associated costs.

Department/ Senior Staff	Topic	Unfunded Mandates Summary	Annual Cost to VBCPS	Mandate Origin	
School Division Services / Oakes	Lead Testing of Potable Water in School	According to Code of Virginia § 22.1-135.1, each local school board shall develop and implement a plan to test and, if necessary, remediate potable water from sources identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a high priority for testing, including bubbler-style and cooler-style drinking fountains, cafeteria or kitchen taps, classroom combination sinks and drinking fountains, and sinks known to be or visibly used for consumption. The local burden of compliance with this mandate includes the cost of contracted services for testing and retesting, fixture inventory, and other related services.	\$123,000	State	Code of Virginia § 22.1-135.1
School Division Services / Oakes	Legionella Water Management Plan (WMP) Validation	As written, the legislation mandates that each school division shall have a water management program (WMP) to prevent Legionnaires' disease at each school building. The WMP requires annual validation and maintenance of files regarding validation and remediation activities. As part of our required validation of the Legionella WMP, we have implemented a monthly testing initiative to measure and document residual chlorine disinfectant levels in our domestic cold-water systems. This monthly residual chlorine disinfectant testing activity is performed at designated sample points at all school buildings at an estimated annual cost of \$90,000. Additionally, HVAC system-associated cooling towers must be tested for the presence of Legionella bacteria twice a year at an estimated annual cost of \$16,800. The \$106,8000 annual cost to complete this mandated testing is funded locally and not subsidized by the state.	\$106,800	State	Code of Virginia § 22.1-138c
School Division Services / Oakes	Indoor Air Quality Assessment Cycle	Public school building indoor air quality inspection and evaluations. Establishes several enumerated requirements for local school divisions to provide for an industry-recognized uniform inspection and evaluation of indoor air quality in each public school building in the local school division at least once every four years. Actual costs are yet to be determined; a minimum of \$2.08 million will be required per four-year cycle to inspect and evaluate all buildings.	Estimated \$520,000 annually	State	Code of Virginia § 22.1-141.5

Communications and Community Engagement / Livas	ADA Digital Accessibility	Federal ADA Title II requirements require public entities, including school divisions, to ensure that web content and documents made available online are accessible to individuals with disabilities. The U.S. Department of Justice's 2024 Title II rule establishes Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA as the technical standard for web content and mobile applications. This applies broadly to digital content, including websites, applications, electronic communications, newsletters, flyers, forms, documents, learning management system content, and all resources shared electronically. For public entities with populations of 50,000 or more, the federal compliance deadline is April 26, 2027. Compliance requires resources to create and remediate accessible documents and digital content, conduct accessibility testing, provide staff training, and maintain accessibility on an ongoing basis. These requirements create additional costs for school divisions without dedicated federal or state funding to support implementation and compliance. The estimate will be refined as implementation progresses and ongoing compliance requirements are further defined. Current estimates include staffing and digital resource needs.	\$467,196	Federal	ADA Title II - Digital Accessibility Requirements
School Division Services / Oakes	Menstrual Supplies in School Buildings	Requires each school board to make tampons or pads available, at all times and at no cost to students, (i) in such accessible locations as it deems appropriate in each elementary school in the local school division and (ii) in the bathrooms of each middle school and high school in the local school division. Fiscal year 2026 expenditures were \$6,679 and were locally funded.	\$6,679	State	Code of Virginia § 22.1-6.1
School Leadership / Delaney	Albuterol	By state mandate, each school is required to have undesignated stock and chambers available for all students, and no state funding is provided to support this mandate.	\$5,700	State	Code of Virginia § 22.1-274.2
School Leadership/ Delaney	Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs)	The placement of AEDs for Cardiac Emergency Response Plans (CERP). AEDs are not funded, and meeting new requirements may require additional units in some schools, potentially creating a significant financial impact. The cost is approximately \$1,900 per device. Of the existing 82 devices, 18 devices will age out this year and require replacement, and an additional 32 devices will age out over the next two years.	\$40,000	State	Code of Virginia § 22.1-271.9
School Leadership/ Delaney	Stop the Bleed Kits	State legislation requires each school to maintain a bleeding control program, including readily accessible bleeding control kits containing bandages, tourniquets, and other supplies. Kits must be inspected annually, and VBCPS provides six kits per school. The initial purchase of bleeding control kits was supported with grant funding;	\$36,312	State	Code of Virginia § 22.1-274.8

		however, ongoing replacement and replenishment costs must be funded locally. While kits and supplies do not necessarily require replacement annually, costs will vary based on usage and the replacement needs of individual supplies. The estimated annualized replacement cost is \$408.00 per school, based on the cost to replace six kits.			
School Leadership / Delaney	Title IX	On August 14, 2020, the Final Rule of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 mandated school division response to sexual harassment (US DOE). These stringent and demanding guidelines dramatically increased the role and legal obligation of the school division. VBCPS employs one FTE assigned to this role (\$179,968) in addition to part-time wages for five Title IX decision makers (\$64,590). An additional office associate supports the screening and logging of cases.	\$244,558	Federal	
School Leadership / Delaney	ImPACT Testing and Concussion Management	School divisions are required to have a concussion management program (legislation effective July 1, 2011). The school system has purchased online access to the ImPACT Program for each middle and high school athletic department to comply with the mandate. To manage all of the issues related to concussions at the middle school level, the school division must employ an athletic trainer at each middle school instead of sharing athletic trainers as it has in the past. Costs escalate annually.	\$1,007,000	State	Code of Virginia § 22.1-271.5
Teaching and Learning / Miani	Regulations Governing the Use of Seclusion and Restraint in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools in Virginia	School divisions must provide advanced training in the use of physical restraint and seclusion for at least one administrator in every school building and for school personnel assigned to work with any student whose IEP or Section 504 team determines the student is likely to be physically restrained or secluded. Regional grant funding of approximately \$9,000 may be available to VBCPS to help cover the costs of trainer recertifications and materials; however, this funding is not guaranteed. The estimated annual cost is approximately \$55,000.	\$55,000	State	Virginia Administrative Code § 22.1-16 8VAC20-750
Teaching and Learning / Miani	VLA Expansion	All In Virginia grant funds were provided to support the initial implementation of the Virginia Literacy Act (VLA), including textbook adoption and instructional materials. Separately, the VLA requires the administration of VALLSS and specific intervention services for students in grades 4–8. All In Virginia grant funding ended June 30, 2026; however, the legal requirements of the VLA remain in effect. School divisions are still required to provide intervention, individual reading plans, and diagnostic testing for students in grades 4–8 who do not meet established benchmark thresholds. These ongoing requirements remain in effect without dedicated funding to support the additional costs associated with implementation and compliance.	\$2,000,000	State	HB319 Chapter 550/SB616 Chapter 549

Teaching and Learning / Miani	Virtual Graduation Requirement	VDOE has an additional graduation requirement that students must complete an online course or module as part of a course within their high school career. The associated costs and figures include: • Regular school year teacher stipends for those teachers who teach online courses beyond the limit of sections: \$59,472 • Licensing costs for online course delivery platform: \$37,053 • Summer school costs that exceed tuition: \$32,895 • Course module for high school government module used as part of the online offerings to students: \$5,000 • Total = \$134,420	\$134,420	State	Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:451
Teaching and Learning / Miani	3E	Dual Enrollment Expansion (CTE) to support work-based learning requirements under the new 3E framework. Examples of how VBCPS is approaching this requirement include the following locally funded items: • Aviation Maintenance Technician and Medical Assisting programs (\$218,500) • Dual enrollment fees for courses taught by TCC (approximately \$100,000)	\$318,500	State	2025 Uncodified Act - Chapter 681 3E Readiness High School Virginia Department of Education
Teaching and Learning / Miani	EBLI Training	Substitute classroom coverage and pay for supporting teachers in completing the Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction (EBLI) VDOE-mandated modules. State funding is not provided to support this initiative.	\$100,000	State	
Teaching and Learning / Miani	Section 504	In the past 4 years (post-pandemic), the needs of students eligible under Section 504 have increased. The need to ensure Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) is paramount to providing support and accommodations to students. Items/services such as large screen devices (14-inch Chromebooks), noise reduction headphones, driver's education support, and hearing officers for impartial hearings are examples of support needed at various times during the school year. Additionally, funds are needed to support professional learning for the Director/VBCPS Coordinator of Section 504 & Instructional Specialists in this area. Estimated costs to support this unfunded mandate include both personnel and non-personnel resources.	\$1,220,247	Federal	Rehabilitation Act of 1973 at 29 U.S.C. § 794 Code of Virginia § 8VA20-81-330
Planning, Innovation, and Accountability / Banicky	WIDA ACCESS	All English learner (EL) students must take an annual English language proficiency (ELP) assessment, Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (WIDA ACCESS), in Virginia. This is a requirement under Title III of the Every Student Succeeds Act and is an unfunded federal mandate for localities.	\$95,000.00	Federal	WIDA ACCESS Virginia Administrative Code 8VAC20-543-300 English as a second language preK-12

Teaching and Learning / Miani	McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act	The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires the school division to provide transportation to homeless youth who may live outside VBCPS attendance zones. The cost to the division exceeds funding from the state, and the number of identified VBCPS homeless students who qualify for transportation services continues to increase. The budget for these services increased from \$1.7 million in FY26 to \$2.2 million for FY27. The FY27 cost to VBCPS reflects estimated FY27 locally funded expenditures under this mandate, which exceed the budgeted amount.	\$3,836,141	Federal	42 USC Chapter 119, Subchapter VI, Part B — Education for Homeless Children and Youths
Teaching and Learning / Miani	Presidential Fitness Testing	Students are required to participate in the Presidential Fitness Assessment annually. All VA school divisions are required to report this data in SSWS by June 30 of each school year. To collect the required data, we subscribe to Welnet (the recommended VDOE platform), where teachers enter this fitness data. The cost of the data platform, required assessment equipment, and the required printed certificates for the students is estimated at \$27,300 annually.	\$27,300	State	Federal Executive Order 14327 State Executive Order Code of Virginia § 22.1-16.4
Planning, Innovation, and Accountability / Banicky	VAAP Scoring	Scoring of history and writing VAAP collections of evidence. Students are required to participate in the state testing program. For students with significant cognitive disabilities, their IEPs indicate that the VAAP is the appropriate assessment (over the SOL). Unlike the SOL, the VAAP involves collecting samples of student work throughout the year and hiring individuals on temporary contracts to score the samples of student work using rubrics. The unfunded local obligation to comply with this mandate is the cost of temporary employment contracts and training.	\$5,000	State	
Teaching and Learning / Miani	VDOE Standard Change	Resources needed to update the curriculum for Science, Social Studies, Math, and Computer Science to include substitutes, curriculum pay, materials, and professional learning. The cost estimate includes \$933,669 for math and \$50,000 for computer science development and professional learning. Other costs are not yet determined.	\$983,669	State	
UNFUNDED MANDATES SUBTOTAL			\$11,332,522		

Department/ Senior Staff	Topic	Underfunded Mandates Summary	Annual Cost to VBCPS	Mandate Origin	
Teaching and Learning / Miani	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	VBCPS currently serves approximately 9,000 students with disabilities and has allocated approximately 14% of its FY27 operating budget to special education services. VBCPS spends approximately \$16,000 per student with an individualized education program (IEP), a cost above and beyond the costs of general education students. Thus, VBCPS requests a funding level for special education that would meet the federal commitment to fund 40 percent of the “excess costs” of special education, as promised by the Education for All Handicapped Children Act in 1975 (IDEA 2004).	\$32,095,719	Federal	
Teaching and Learning / Miani	Textbook Expenditures	The school division spends more money on textbooks than what is allotted by state funds. The cost to maintain and update textbooks is significantly more than the state's provision, and textbook costs will vary from year to year. Due to changes in the standards of learning timeline and the lack of approved textbooks posted by the VDOE, textbook adoption schedules are not following the typical timeline. We will need to implement multiple textbook adoptions based on the VDOE timeline. This may range between \$4,000,000 and \$10,000,000 without considering the normal textbook renewals.	\$9,000,000	State	Code of Virginia § 22.1-243
Teaching and Learning / Miani	Expansion of Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) slots	VDOE annually allocates more VPI slots to VBCPS than the division is able to accept due to local funding constraints. Under the current funding model, continued expansion of VBCPS Pre-K requires additional local funding as well as Title I support. For the 2026–2027 school year, VBCPS was eligible for 1,448 VPI slots, but only 889 slots were funded due to the required local match. Funding 889 slots required a local contribution of \$3,976,691. Utilizing all 1,448 available slots would have required approximately \$6,477,220 in local funding, based on VBCPS's current Local Composite Index (LCI) of .4172 and the state's \$10,722 per-pupil funding amount. Title I funds currently supplement state and local funding to support the implementation of the Pre-K program. These funds support start-up resources for each new classroom (one new classroom was added for 2026–2027 (costing approximately \$20,000), as well as teacher PL and substitute costs, instructional and family engagement resources, field trips and transportation, staffing costs, CLASS observation training, and other program supports.	\$2,500,529	State	

Budget and Finance / Crystal Pate	Staffing requirements exceeding SOQ	This value represents the cost of VBCPS staffing above SOQ necessary to ensure the division meets individual student needs; provides critical support to staff; supports school safety and supervision; provides for a welcoming, productive, and positive learning environment; and supports multiple pathways. The cost figure represents the value of staffing above the state standard for the following positions: assistant principals, librarians, library media assistants, clerical positions, school counselors, technology support, elementary resource teachers, and reading specialists. These resources are currently underfunded.	\$47,239,627	State	
Budget and Finance / Crystal Pate	Federal Impact Aid	VBCPS serves approximately 15,791 federally connected students. Federal Impact Aid is intended to offset lost local tax revenue and certain additional costs associated with the presence of nontaxable federal property, including military installations and other federal facilities. However, Impact Aid has not been fully funded since 1969. As a result, while school divisions are responsible for educating federally connected students, federal payments do not fully offset the costs associated with the loss of local tax revenue and other eligible costs, leaving local resources to cover the difference. VBCPS supports full federal funding of Impact Aid to reduce the local fiscal burden associated with serving federally connected students. VBCPS was underfunded by \$23,865,625 in FY26 and is projected to be underfunded by \$24,066,020 for FY27	\$24,066,020	Federal	
UNDERFUNDED MANDATES SUBTOTAL			\$114,901,895		
TOTAL 2026-2027 UNFUNDED AND UNDERFUNDED MANDATES			\$126,234,417		

Updated 9/23/26

The following proposals were recommended by the Committee for submission to the VSBA Board of Directors. The Board of Directors approved the proposals to be brought before the VSBA Delegate Assembly in November. For the items on the following pages, the underlined language is a new position or amendment that is proposed to be added to the VSBA Legislative Positions Handbook. Strike through language is proposed for removal from the VSBA Legislative Positions Handbook. The title of each proposed legislative position has been marked to identify whether the proposal is an entirely new position (PROPOSED NEW POSITION) or is an amendment to an existing position (PROPOSED AMENDMENT).

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL #1

NEW Binding Arbitration (Proposed New VSBA Legislative Position)

In accordance with Article VIII, Section 7 of the Virginia Constitution and the Virginia Supreme Court's decision in School Bd. of City of Richmond v. Parham, school boards must be entrusted to supervise school divisions, and their decision-making authority must not be transferred to any other officials. Arbitrators may be used to recommend a resolution to an impasse, but school boards must retain the authority to approve or reject any recommendations.

Motion to Recommend Proposed New Position: Troy Andersen (Gloucester County)

Motion Seconded: Judy Le (Albemarle County)

LPC Vote: 6-1

Motion Carried

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL #2

3.2 Educational Technological Equipment and Grants Programs (Proposed Amendment to Existing Legislative Position)

The VSBA recognizes the significant instructional improvements and gains in student achievement that can result from the appropriate use of educational technology. Many school divisions are striving to provide students with instruction in the use of technological equipment as computer-assisted instruction is a viable teaching tool. However, school systems are often unable financially to equip their schools with the necessary equipment.

The VSBA supports legislation which would provide incentives to companies donating computers, other state-of-the-art technological equipment, training programs and maintenance services to elementary and secondary schools, including programs for students with disabilities, preschool through age 22.

The VSBA requests the Governor and the General Assembly continue the Educational Technology Grants Program and initiate other programs of assistance so that all local school divisions in the Commonwealth are able to develop and sustain adequate and equitable educational technology plans. Funding for the Educational Technology Grants Program should be tied to the Consumer Price Index inflation rate to account for inflation.

VSBA supports the usage of Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA) funds to lease technology refresh equipment. The usage of these funds should not be limited to only the purchase of such devices. The VSBA supports identifying a consistent source of revenue for such programs, and that they not rely on a limited and non-recurring source such as

bond proceeds.

The VSBA supports such programs that are structured so as to place minimal restrictions on local school divisions related to the use of educational technology assistance, thus allowing the divisions to follow their locally developed, individualized technology plans in meeting specific school and program needs, and that they also be structured so as to prohibit the supplanting of these funds dedicated to the improvement of educational technology.

The VSBA supports codification into law of a requirement to fully fund and provide a statewide student learning management system.

Motion to Recommend Proposed Amendment: Troy Andersen (Gloucester County)

Motion Seconded: Kristin Siegel (Staunton City)

LPC Vote: 7-0

Motion Carried

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL #3

NEW Regional CTE center funding (Proposed New VSBA Legislative Position)

The Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) supports the establishment of a dedicated and sustainable state funding model for regional Career and Technical Education (CTE) centers, equivalent to the funding structures provided to other jointly operated regional programs such as Academic Year Governor's Schools (AYGS) and regional Alternative Education programs. Regional CTE centers serve a critical workforce development function, preparing students for high-demand, high-wage careers in healthcare, information technology, manufacturing, and the skilled trades. Like other regional programs, they are jointly operated and governed by multiple school divisions and localities; yet unlike those programs, they currently receive no dedicated state operational funding. The Association urges the General Assembly to close this inequitable funding gap to ensure regional CTE centers can sustain modern equipment, facility infrastructure, High-Quality Work-Based Learning (HQWBL) standards, and the performance requirements of Virginia's 3E framework.

Motion to Recommend Proposed New Position: Clay Campbell (Fauquier County)

Motion Seconded: Troy Andersen (Gloucester County)

LPC Vote: 7-0

Motion Carried

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL #4

NEW Support Modernizing Virginia's School Funding Formula (Proposed New VSBA Legislative Position)

Support reforming Virginia's School Funding Formula to reflect the costs of providing services to different student populations by switching to a student-based funding formula.

Motion to Recommend Proposed New Position: Judy Le (Albemarle County)

Motion Seconded: Kristin Siegel (Staunton City)

LPC Vote: 7-0

Motion Carried

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL #5

NEW Statewide Health Insurance Access for Public School Employees (Proposed New VSBA Legislative Position)

The Virginia School Boards Association supports the research and potential creation and implementation of a statewide health insurance program or an insurance pool for public school employees.

Motion to Accept as Amended: Judy Le (Albemarle County)

Motion Seconded: Melanie Currin

LPC Vote: 7-0

Motion Carried

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL #6

12.3 Alternative Education Programs (Proposed Amendment to Existing Legislative Position)

The General Assembly has established and provided a measure of state funding for several regional programs that provide alternative education options for students who have violated school board policies relating to weapons, alcohol or drugs, or intentional injury to another person; who have been expelled or long-term suspended; or who have been released from a correctional center. The number of students meeting the state terms for placement in such programs far exceeds the capacity of the regional alternative programs throughout the state.

It is essential that, in addition to the state's regional programs, school boards be permitted to provide a continuum of alternative education services, rather than a single-service option, because students in need of such services exhibit wide differences in age, grade level and educational achievement, nature and seriousness of school board policy violation, court status, degree of danger they represent to the school community, need for treatment for substance abuse, eligibility for special education services, English language proficiency, and place of residence.

The school boards supply the local share of the funding the state considers sufficient for the regional alternative programs, and in most cases, they also supply the additional funding actually required for these programs and for numerous other alternative programs operated solely within the divisions.

The VSBA supports offering alternative programs and conditioned reentry provisions to students who have been suspended or expelled.

The VSBA supports:

- Changes to the current federal law to permit the local school board, knowledgeable of the individual case, to determine whether a student is suspended or expelled without services, and whether a student is offered placement in a suitable alternative education program or provided an option for reentry to the regular program;

- A compulsory school age of 18 for youth committed to the custody of juvenile or adult correctional centers;
- State significantly increase funding for local alternative 95 education programs provided by a school board, as well as for collaborative programs among school divisions that provide programs and services for students expelled or long-term suspended;
- No state action be taken that in any way abrogates the authority of local school boards by mandating the categorical placement of students in regional alternative programs or by mandating the provision of educational services to students whom the local school board has suspended or expelled; ~~and~~
- The Virginia Board of Education develop individual school accreditation plans to recognize alternative schools that, with creativity, skill, and exceptional dedication, provide individualized educational programs to small and transient populations of students who are struggling to overcome significant personal, school, and behavior problems; and
- The Virginia Board of Education is encouraged to provide the Regional Alternative Education Funding using a three-year LCI average to ensure school divisions can continue providing equitable and appropriate services for students with increasing intervention needs.

Motion to Recommend Proposed Amendment: Kristin Siegel

Motion Seconded: Clay Campbell

LPC Vote: 6-1

Motion Carried

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL #7

NEW Expanding Statewide School-Based Telehealth and Teletherapy Access (Proposed New VSBA Legislative Position)

The Virginia School Boards Association supports that the General Assembly provides the full funding for school-based online health services as a core student support.

Motion to Accept as Amended: Judy Le

Motion Seconded: Kristin Siegel

LPC Vote: 6-1

Motion Carried