

Roanoke City PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Key Positions for 2027 General Assembly

Roanoke City Public Schools (RCPS) is committed to ensuring every student has access to a high-quality education and the opportunity to thrive. This includes advocating for our students, families, and staff. Each year, the Virginia General Assembly considers numerous bills that directly impact public education.

The Priorities presented here are the Board's primary areas of legislative focus and advocacy. RCPS also publishes Position Papers that provide local context and recommendations on select topics. RCPS encourages legislators to engage with the School Board or Superintendent when local insight can inform policy decisions.

NO UNFUNDED MANDATES

RCPS expects the General Assembly to fully fund directives or expectations placed on school divisions.

LOCAL CONTROL

Teaching and learning are inherently complex and deeply rooted in the local context. While public education is a national priority and a state responsibility, it is fundamentally a local function. RCPS urges elected officials to empower local School Boards to innovate and respond to the unique needs of their communities by preserving and strengthening local authority.

SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY

Safe schools are essential for learning. RCPS supports policies that promote shared responsibility for maintaining secure environments and funding to modernize facilities.

COMMITMENT TO SERVING ALL STUDENTS

RCPS believes in putting students first, celebrating diversity, and tailoring instruction to individual needs. We urge lawmakers to share in this commitment to improving outcomes for all students, understanding the diverse families that make up our community, and the efforts necessary to improve outcomes for all learners.

GOVERNANCE AND BUDGET

RCPS supports ongoing, thoughtful implementation of findings of the 2023 JLARC Report on Virginia's K-12 Funding Formula, including that the Local Composite Index (LCI), "despite being 50 years old ... remains a reasonable measure of local ability to pay." In 2027, RCPS recommends that changes to the K-12 funding methodology be thoughtfully developed to accurately reflect the needs of today's students, the services and supports needed to help them succeed, and the comprehensive services for children and families that schools are expected to provide.

EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

RCPS appreciates the General Assembly's efforts to invest in PK-12 employee compensation. However, without the aforementioned changes to more accurately fund the positions actually needed to meet the expectations placed on public schools today, more and more localities will find it difficult, if not impossible, to come up with the local funding needed to provide the percentage raise that the state partially funds. In 2026-27, Roanoke City does not qualify for full state funding because we do not have enough local funding to truly provide and sustain an average 4% raise for all employees, even with our city providing well above the minimum required by the Virginia Standards of Quality. We urge continued and targeted investment to address these disparities.

ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY MODERNIZATION

RCPS appreciates the General Assembly's initiation of a necessary RFP process in 2025 to modernize the assessment system. RCPS has representation on the Assessment Task Force and is committed to assisting in efforts to modernize assessments and to refine and improve the School Performance and Support Framework (SPSF).

For more information, please contact:

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