



DRAFT: 2018 Legislative Agenda

Priorities & Position Statements

2018 Draft Legislative Priorities

Funding for Public Education

The Albemarle County School Board applauds the General Assembly for increasing their investment in Virginia's public schools in the 2017 budget. However, only recently has public education seen investments that even begin to top 2008 levels. Adjusted for inflation, this translates to an approximately \$60 million underfunding of Albemarle County Public Schools over the last eight years.

- We support increases in state funding, with emphasis on differentiated funding for individual schools with populations of economically-disadvantaged students that exceed the state average.
- We support a comprehensive review of SOQ guidelines, with an eye toward raising benchmarks to levels that reflect the needs of contemporary education.
- The Commonwealth is a partner in education, and as such should fully reflect in all of its calculations of SOQ and other costs the full costs of inflation.

High School Redesign

We are actively planning for the redesign of the high school experience to better prepare students for higher education and the workforce, and we are confident that many of the innovative adjustments we are planning can be replicated to benefit students throughout Virginia. We thank the General Assembly, Board of Education, and Governor for their efforts in moving the high school experience forward.

- We support targeted pilot funding in for school divisions that are leading the work of developing and implementing substantive programmatic changes encouraged under the *Profile of a Graduate*.
- We support graduation requirements that provide students with opportunities to develop and demonstrate adaptable skills in non-traditional classroom environments like internships, mentorships, and job shadowing.
- We support affording local school divisions the ability to offer alternatives to the amount of "seat time" required in order to earn verified credit for a course that counts toward graduation.
- We support

Assessment & Accreditation Reform

We believe in assessing students using a variety of measures, and we would welcome the inclusion of additional measures of student learning and growth, especially locally-developed assessments. For example, the use of portfolios allow students to think critically and creatively, to reflect and reason, to problem-solve, and ultimately to communicate their new understanding of the world around them.

- We support efforts to assess student growth throughout the year, and to recognize individual schools and teachers who demonstrate significant results in student academic gains.
- We support legislation that would (1) make all SOL tests end-of-year tests, rather than cumulative tests, and (2) establish a reasonable amount of time that a student must be enrolled in a Virginia public school before his or her test scores count toward accreditation.
- We support a review of the total number of SOL tests our 3rd grade students take, as well as the length of those tests.

Virginia Retirement System

We support a full review of payments made into the Virginia Retirement System during the last 10 years. While Albemarle County Public Schools experienced a savings in FY10/11, we are concerned that employee match rate increases in recent years has translated to taxpayers paying for a solvent VRS for a second time.

FY	VRS Rate	Employee Match
07/08	16.46%	N/A
08/09	15.47%	N/A
09/10	14.89%	N/A
10/11	9.53%	N/A
11/12	12.76%	N/A
12/13	12.77%	5%
13/14	12.77%	5%
14/15	15.68%	5%
15/16	15.12%	5%
16/17	15.77%	5%
17/18	17.55%	5%

2018 Positions & Policy Statements

Afterschool Program Regulation

We support legislation from the General Assembly that (i) distinguishes afterschool enrichment programs that are housed in and operated by public schools, as well as the facilities that support those programs, from private or in-home daycare facilities, and (ii) returns extended day enrichment programs that are housed in and operated by public schools, as well as the facilities that support those programs, to the purview of the Virginia Department of Education.

Broadband Infrastructure

We support legislation that would assist communities in their efforts to deploy broadband to rural and underserved areas that do not have the density to attract the private sector.

Charter Schools

We oppose a Constitutional Amendment that would permit external authorities to establish a charter school in a community without local school board approval, as doing so usurps local control of public education.

We believe that the ability [HB2218](#) extends to the Virginia Board of Education to communicate its findings regarding the denial, revocation, or closure of a charter school provides charter school applicants the flexibility they seek, while upholding the authority of locally-elected school boards.

Fair & Equitable Composite Index

We support reform of the composite index that would include a real property assessment component to reflect the real property tax monies actually received by the locality.

School Bus Video-Monitoring Systems

We request that the General Assembly amend Virginia Code subsection B of § 46.2-844 to allow the Department of Motor Vehicles to release, in the event of a driver unlawfully passing a stopped school bus, the pertinent vehicle ownership information to third party vendors. This change would be similar to the provisions contained in Virginia Code subsection 21 of § 15.2-968.1.

School Health Advisory Board

We support legislation that would approve the creation of the School Health Advisory Board. The formation of such an advisory group would allow the General Assembly to consult with education and health policy professionals regarding the appropriateness and scope of legislation that would impact student health. As a result, many school divisions could see potential reductions in the costs of implementing state mandates that are health related.

Special Education

We support legislation that will provide school divisions with greater flexibility in the use of Children's Services Act funding in order to promote students remaining in their neighborhood schools.

We support future efforts to accompany Special Education state mandates with funding to support the implementation of those mandates.

We support efforts to study and revise the funding/staffing formula for Special Education to better meet student needs.

Teacher Licensure

We praise the General Assembly's passage of HB279 (3-year CTE licensure), and we support increased local flexibility for school divisions to license CTE teachers who have applied work experience in STEM and entrepreneurship fields.

Virtual Learning

We oppose the formation of a virtual public high school that would fall under the jurisdiction of an entity other than the Virginia Board of Education.