




REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SENATE FINANCE &
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 2, 2025





Report of the Education Subcommittee
The Honorable Mamie E. Locke, Chair
February 2, 2025

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Education Subcommittee has reviewed the Governor's introduced budget. As we developed our recommendations, we focused on how to best support our students, our teachers and faculty, and our schools.

Our proposal for public education provides an additional \$208.8 million from the general fund over the biennium. When combined with amounts in the introduced budget, our total state investment is over \$758.1 million. These investments prioritize funding based on the recommendations of the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding, provide additional support to address gaps in student learning, and recognize the work of teachers and staff in our schools.

Last fall, the Joint Subcommittee identified two primary funding priorities. The first was to address a cap that was placed on funding for support positions during the Great Recession, and the second was to ensure resources to support special education. To address these recommendations, we propose \$222.9 million GF to fully fund the current ratio of support positions and \$52.8 million GF for special education students.

Our goal with these investments is to provide additional resources to support our schools so that teachers are able to spend more time on instruction and less time on other administrative responsibilities. We also want to recognize the work of our teachers and instructional staff and provide for a bonus payment of up to \$1,000 by June 1st of this year that requires no additional local match.

To address gaps in learning, we recommend investments that establish a math initiative that includes regional support and grants to schools. In addition, we provide funding for divisions to leverage additional resources for wraparound services through the Community Schools program.

In response to the ongoing need to renovate our schools, we expand to all localities the authorization to impose a local sales tax of up to 1.0 percent to support school renovation and construction once the locality receives approval by a local referendum.

We realize there are additional investments and changes to our funding formula that will need to happen in the future. We will continue to rely on the Joint Subcommittee and the input from education stakeholders to help us prioritize funding and needs.

Additionally, in the area of early childhood, we include \$25.0 million for a pilot program to partner with the business community and address demand for early childhood care and education. We removed the action in the introduced budget that redirected funds from the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) to other early childhood programs and increased costs for some localities.

Based on the recommendations of the Early Childhood Education Commission, the Governor's introduced budget included program adjustments that produced additional child care slots. These changes, along with the pilot investment and the support of the business community, could create somewhere between 6,900 and 7,700 slots for children next year in addition to the 2,440 new slots included in Chapter 2. This will support our hardworking families and could all but eliminate the current waitlist if we get full utilization from our community partners.

In the area of higher education, we provide \$99.0 million in additional general fund support to focus on our students, institutions, and our

communities. When combined with the amounts in the introduced budget, we provide \$241.1 million in general fund investments.

To support our students, we provide \$15.0 million in need-based financial aid, \$9.0 million for the tuition assistance grant (TAG) program to meet expected demand, \$15.0 million for the workforce credential grant program that provides noncredit, industry-based training, grants to address student hunger on campuses, and funding to continue to support tuition waivers, including military survivors and dependents.

For our institutions, we provide \$55.0 million in operational support to help mitigate the rising costs to get a degree and help institutions invest in programs with identified workforce shortages, such as nursing and healthcare. These amounts also include \$20.0 million to support innovative partnerships between our public and private Historically Black Colleges and Universities to continue to increase access and opportunity for students, support for minority small businesses, and improve health outcomes for marginalized populations. In addition, we provide \$15.0 million to support IT infrastructure and upgrades through a collaborative institutional partnership to ensure our systems are secure and customer-focused.

I would like to thank the members of the Subcommittee for their hard work and dedication to supporting education in the Commonwealth.

I hope it will be the pleasure of the Committee to adopt these amendments. This completes the report of the Education Subcommittee.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Honorable Mamie E. Locke, Chair

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas

The Honorable Mark D. Obenshain

The Honorable Richard H. Stuart

The Honorable Ghazala F. Hashmi

Report of the Subcommittee on Education

(Proposed Amendments to SB 800, as Introduced, 2025 Session)

Amendment	General Fund		
	FY 2025	FY 2026	Biennium
1 EDUCATION			
2 Direct Aid to Public Education			
3 Raise Support Cap to Prevailing Ratio of 27.89 per 1,000 Students	\$ -	\$ 222,915,021	\$ 222,915,021
4 Special Education Add-On	\$ -	\$ 52,782,732	\$ 52,782,732
5 \$1,000 Teacher Bonus for SOQ Funded Instructional and Support Positions	\$ 134,399,957	\$ -	\$ 134,399,957
6 Recognize Additional Lottery Proceeds (supplant GF)	\$ -	\$ (23,999,995)	\$ (23,999,995)
7 Provide Literary Fund to Support Teacher Retirement (supplant GF)	\$ -	\$ (35,000,000)	\$ (35,000,000)
8 Technical - Update School Breakfast	\$ 2,454,974	\$ 2,704,111	\$ 5,159,085
9 Technical - Update Early Reading Data	\$ 2,664,007	\$ 2,669,076	\$ 5,333,083
10 Technical - Update Final FY 2025 Enrollment for Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)	\$ (3,001,447)	\$ -	\$ (3,001,447)
11 Redirect New Laboratory Schools Money	\$ (25,000,000)	\$ -	\$ (25,000,000)
12 Redirect Virginia Opportunity Scholarships	\$ -	\$ (50,000,000)	\$ (50,000,000)
13 Community Schools	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000
14 Troops to Teachers	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000
15 Opportunity Scholars	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000
16 Greater Peninsula C.A.R.E.S.	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000
17 eMedia VA	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000
18 Blue Ridge PBS	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ 250,000
19 Cardiac Emergency Response/Emergency Action Plan Grants	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ 250,000
20 Virginia Leads Innovation Network (VaLIN)	\$ -	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
21 Early Childhood Ed: Employer Cost-Share Pilot Program	\$ 25,000,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000,000
22 Early Childhood Ed: Maintain Cap on Local Composite Index for VPI			
23 Various Language Amendments			
24			
25 Subtotal, Direct Aid to Public Education	\$ 140,017,491	\$ 172,320,945	\$ 312,338,436
26			
27 Department of Education, Central Office Operations			
28 Math Initiative and Grant Program	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 13,000,000

Report of the Subcommittee on Education

(Proposed Amendments to SB 800, as Introduced, 2025 Session)

Amendment		General Fund		
		FY 2025	FY 2026	Biennium
29	Learning Management System	\$ 5,138,000	\$ -	\$ 5,138,000
30	Redirect School Performance and Support Framework Resource Hub	\$ (50,000,000)	\$ -	\$ (50,000,000)
31	Redirect Regional Support Specialist Positions	\$ (250,000)	\$ (1,000,000)	\$ (1,250,000)
32	Redirect Virginia's Visualization and Analytics Solution Funding	\$ (1,900,000)	\$ (3,100,000)	\$ (5,000,000)
33	Redirect Funding for New State Assessment Contract, Retain Funding for Workgroup	\$ (60,500,000)	\$ (5,000,000)	\$ (65,500,000)
34	Various Language Amendments			
35				
36	Subtotal, Department of Education, Central Office Operations	\$ (95,512,000)	\$ (8,100,000)	\$ (103,612,000)
37				
38	Secretary of Education			
39	Campus Police - Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind	\$ -	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
40				
41	Subtotal, Secretary of Education	\$ -	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
42				
43	Subtotal, All Public Education	\$ 44,505,491	\$ 164,295,945	\$ 208,801,436
44				
45	Other Education			
46	Library of Virginia - State Aid to Local Libraries	\$ -	\$ 632,142	\$ 632,142
47	Science Museum of Virginia - Operating Support	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
48	VA Commission for the Arts - Grants for the Arts	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000
49	VA Commission for the Arts - Virginia Repertory Theatre	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ 250,000
50				
51	Subtotal, Other Education	\$ 750,000	\$ 782,142	\$ 1,532,142
52				
53	Higher Education			
55	Institutions - Support for Operations and High Demand Programs	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 35,000,000	\$ 55,000,000
56	Institutions - Undergraduate Need-Based Aid	\$ -	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 15,000,000
54	Adjust Fund Source for Tuition Waiver Assistance (No Changes to Waiver Eligibility)	\$ 30,000,000	\$ -	\$ 30,000,000

Report of the Subcommittee on Education

(Proposed Amendments to SB 800, as Introduced, 2025 Session)

	Amendment	General Fund		
		FY 2025	FY 2026	Biennium
57	SCHEV - Collaborative IT Enhancements (CNU, W&M, NSU, and UMW)	\$ 15,000,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000,000
58	SCHEV - Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) Funding to Meet Expected Growth	\$ -	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 9,000,000
59	SCHEV - Workforce Credential Grant Funding	\$ 15,000,000	\$ (3,500,000)	\$ 11,500,000
60	SCHEV - Redirect Tuition Assistance at Hispanic Serving Institutions	\$ -	\$ (1,500,000)	\$ (1,500,000)
61	SCHEV - Redirect Nursing Grant Program	\$ -	\$ (12,000,000)	\$ (12,000,000)
62	SCHEV - Redirect Operational Support	\$ -	\$ (360,000)	\$ (360,000)
63	SCHEV - Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000
64	ODU - Redirect Student Lifecycle Pathways Initiative	\$ (5,000,000)	\$ -	\$ (5,000,000)
65	SVHEC - Redirect Regional Allied Health Simulation Lab	\$ (200,000)	\$ (200,000)	\$ (400,000)
66	VCU - Redirect Massey Cancer Center Research	\$ (4,000,000)	\$ -	\$ (4,000,000)
67	VCCS - Redirect College and Career Ready Virginia	\$ -	\$ (15,000,000)	\$ (15,000,000)
68	VIMS - Adjust Funding for Advanced Breeding for Shellfish Program	\$ -	\$ (100,000)	\$ (100,000)
69	VIMS - Water Quality Study	\$ 880,000	\$ -	\$ 880,000
70	W&M - Community Law Clinic	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000
71	Various Language Amendments			
72				
73	Subtotal, Higher Education	\$ 72,680,000	\$ 26,340,000	\$ 99,020,000
74				
75				
76	Total Education	\$ 117,935,491	\$ 191,418,087	\$ 309,353,578

Item 125 #3s

Education: Elementary and Secondary	FY24-25	FY25-26	
Direct Aid to Public Education	\$0	\$222,915,021	GF

Language:

Page 165, line 28, strike "\$10,555,596,888" and insert "\$10,778,511,909".
 Page 179, line 45, after "and" insert:
 "27.89 support positions per 1,000 ADM to funded SOQ instructional positions".

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$222.9 million GF the second year to raise the support cap to the prevailing ratio of 27.89 positions per 1,000 students in FY 2026 based on the recommendation of the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding.)

Item 125 #4s

Education: Elementary and Secondary	FY24-25	FY25-26	
Direct Aid to Public Education	\$0	\$52,782,732	GF

Language:

Page 165, line 28, strike "\$10,555,596,888" and insert "\$10,608,379,620".
 Page 201, after line 26, insert:
 "46. Special Education Add-On
 Out of this appropriation, \$52,782,732 the second year from the general fund is provided to support an add-on to the basic aid for special education students based on a calculation of 4.75 percent for students identified as requiring Level I Services and 5.25 percent for students identified as requiring Level II Services."

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$52.8 million GF the second year for additional support to special education students based on the recommendation of the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding.)

Item 125 #5s

Education: Elementary and Secondary	FY24-25	FY25-26	
Direct Aid to Public Education	\$134,399,957	\$0	GF

Language:

Page 165, line 28, strike "\$10,567,091,936" and insert "\$10,701,491,893".

Page 201, after line 26, insert:

"46. Bonus Payment

a. Out of this appropriation, \$134,399,957 the first year from the general fund is provided for a one-time bonus payment of \$1,000 by no later than June 1, 2025, per funded SOQ instructional position and support position employed in academic year 2024-2025, including Academic Year Governor's Schools and Regional Alternative Education Programs.

b. Sufficient funding is provided for the entire cost of an average \$1,000 bonus per funded SOQ instructional and support position in the first year of this act. School divisions shall have discretion to determine the amount of bonuses per employee to maximize the use of these funds to promote retention among instructional and support positions in this act. The funds shall require no match by the local government."

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$134.4 million GF the first year to fund the cost of up to a \$1,000 bonus per funded SOQ instructional and support position. There is no required local match.)

	Item 136 #1s	
Education: Higher Education	FY24-25	FY25-26
Christopher Newport University	\$0	\$1,090,000 GF

Language:

Page 223, line 40, strike "\$109,137,716" and insert "\$110,227,716".

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$1.1 million GF the second year in operational support to help mitigate inflationary costs and invest in programs with identified workforce shortages.)

	Item 137 #1s	
Education: Higher Education	FY24-25	FY25-26
Christopher Newport University	\$0	\$330,000 GF

Language:

Page 224, line 35, strike "\$12,419,360" and insert "\$12,749,360".

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$330,000 GF the second year to support undergraduate need-based

financial aid.)

Item 240.10 #1s

Education: Higher Education

Maintain Affordable Access

Language

Language:

Page 299, delete lines 45-48.

Page 300, delete lines 1-10.

Explanation:

(This amendment removes language included in the introduced budget that required institutions to freeze tuition in the second year and to limit tuition increases thereafter by no more than the lower of 2.5 percent or inflation.)
