



REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SENATE FINANCE &
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 22, 2026





Report of the Education Subcommittee
The Honorable Mamie E. Locke, Chair
February 22, 2026

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 strategies for continued investments in our students, teachers and faculty, and schools.

Our public education proposal provides an additional \$627.0 million from the general fund over the biennium. When combined with the introduced budget, including rebenchmarking, new general fund investments total over \$1.3 billion.

The Subcommittee proposes an additional \$118.7 million to increase the At-Risk Add-On for our highest need students and an additional \$60.0 million to increase the Infrastructure and Operations Per Pupil amount to enhance investment in all of our students. We propose \$12.8 million each year to increase the special education add-on. We remain dedicated to affordability – which is why we are proposing an additional \$17.6 million over the biennium for school breakfast programs, providing school divisions with additional state funding to reduce costs for families and improve nutrition services.

We continue to recognize the dedication of our teachers – and those who aspire to be teachers – in our Commonwealth. To that end, we propose \$193.3 million from the general fund to increase teacher salaries by an additional one percent each year, bringing the total salary increase to three percent each year when combined with the funding provided in the Governor's introduced budget. We also recommend increasing funding for teaching scholarship loans and teacher residency programs to support the teacher recruitment pipeline.

Additionally, 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 one percent to support school renovation and construction once the locality receives approval by a local referendum. This has been a request from localities that we hope to deliver on this year.

We recognize that additional K-12 investments are needed, including changes to our funding formula. To that end, we propose an investment of \$1.3 million from the general fund to support the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding's work to review JLARC recommendations and bring forward workable solutions, including a contract to facilitate the development of a new formula.

In the area of early childhood, we include \$50.0 million across the biennium for a pilot program to partner with the business community and address demand for early childhood care and education, in line with legislation that the Senate passed this Session.

In the area of higher education, we are recommending \$159.4 million in additional funding. When combined with the amounts in the introduced budget, this provides \$285.6 million in focused investments in our students, institutions, and our communities.

To support our students and to keep college affordable, we provide a total of \$65.0 million for need-based financial aid, an additional \$17.3 million for the tuition assistance grant (TAG) program to meet expected demand, and \$32.5 million for the workforce credential grant program that provides noncredit, industry-based training.

For our institutions, we provide \$100.0 million in operational support to help keep college affordable by mitigating the rising costs to get a degree and we recommend additional investments in programs with identified workforce shortages, such as nursing and healthcare.

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 Aaron R. Rouse

Report of the Subcommittee on Education (Proposed Amendments to SB 30, as Introduced, 2026 Session)

		General Fund			Nongeneral Fund		
		Amendment		FY 2027	FY 2028	Biennium	Biennium
1	EDUCATION						
2	Direct Aid to Public Education						
3	Direct Aid - Increase Teacher Salaries by One Percent (3% total increase)		\$	63,612,903	\$	129,711,030	\$ 193,323,933
4	Direct Aid - Increase At-Risk Add-On			49,384,715		49,346,731	98,731,446
5	Direct Aid - Increase Infrastructure and Operations Per-Pupil Amount						\$ 20,000,000
6	Direct Aid - K-12 Sales Tax Adjustment			46,728,709		114,677,450	\$ 60,000,005
7	Direct Aid - Increase Special Education Add-On			12,819,492		12,760,192	
8	Direct Aid - Increase Breakfast Reimbursement Rate by \$0.22			8,613,643		8,971,315	17,584,958
9	Direct Aid - Literary Fund Teacher Retirement			50,000,000		50,000,000	\$ (50,000,000)
10	Community Schools Development and Implementation Planning Grants			2,500,000		2,500,000	5,000,000
11	Teaching Scholarship Loans			1,500,000		1,500,000	3,000,000
12	Rockingham CTE			4,100,000			4,100,000
13	AI Pilot Program (SB 394)			2,000,000		2,000,000	
14	Excel Center			900,000		900,000	1,800,000
15	Richmond Teacher Residency			750,000		750,000	1,500,000
16	DonorsChoose			500,000			500,000
17	AED/CERP Grant Program			500,000			500,000
18	Virginia Museum of History and Culture Civics Connects Program			300,000		300,000	600,000
19	Blue Ridge Partnership for Health Sciences Feasibility Study			250,000			250,000
20	Virginia Alliance of YMCAs			250,000			250,000
21	Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Neck			250,000			250,000
22	Reck League			100,000		100,000	200,000
23	Girl Scout Youth Mental Wellness Program			193,000			193,000
24	ECCE - Employee Child Care Assistance Program (SB 3)			25,000,000		25,000,000	50,000,000
25	ECCE - Phased Reduction Model (SB 20)					3,000,000	3,000,000
26	Various Language Amendments						
27							
28	Subtotal, Direct Aid to Public Education		\$	270,252,462	\$	349,516,718	\$ 619,769,180
29						\$ (50,000,000)	\$ 80,000,005
							\$ 30,000,005

Report of the Subcommittee on Education

(Proposed Amendments to SB 30, as Introduced, 2026 Session)

		General Fund		
		FY 2027	FY 2028	Biennium
Amendment				
30	Department of Education, Central Office Operations			
31	Redirect Child Care Accounts to Other Early Child Care Initiatives	\$ (1,500,000)	\$ (500,000)	\$ (2,000,000)
32	Support Impact of Passed Legislation	1,500,000	750,000	2,250,000
33	Support for Jt. Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding	1,000,000	250,000	1,250,000
34	Develop Phased Reduction Model (SB 20)	600,000		600,000
35	Learning Management System	5,138,000		5,138,000
36	Various Language Amendments			
37				
38	Subtotal, Department of Education, Central Office Operations	\$ 6,738,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 7,238,000
39				
40	Subtotal, All Public Education	\$ 276,990,462	\$ 350,016,718	\$ 627,007,180
41				
42	Other Education			
43	Library of Virginia - State Aid to Local Libraries	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
44	Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation - Operating Support	480,000	480,000	960,000
45	Frontier Culture Museum - Operating Support	250,000	250,000	500,000
46	Science Museum of Virginia - Operating Support	200,000	200,000	400,000
47	Gunston Hall - Operating Support	200,000	200,000	400,000
48				
49	Subtotal, Other Education	\$ 2,130,000	\$ 2,130,000	\$ 4,260,000
50				
51	Higher Education			
52	CWM - Community Law Clinic	\$ 327,000	\$ 327,000	654,000
53	JMU - Nursing Program Expansion		1,000,000	1,000,000
54	NSU - Enterprise Resource Planning	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
55	VT-Ext - Agribusiness Innovation	761,475	761,475	1,522,950
56	CNU - Science and Engineering Research Center	1,059,252	1,226,994	2,286,246
57	SCHEV - Tuition Assistance Grant Program	7,700,000	9,600,000	17,300,000
58	SCHEV - Medical Education Grant for Service	3,330,000		3,330,000
59	SCHEV - Workforce Credential Grant Program	9,450,000	2,650,000	12,100,000
60	SCHEV - International Student Enrollment Impact Study		Language	

Report of the Subcommittee on Education

(Proposed Amendments to SB 30, as Introduced, 2026 Session)

		General Fund		
	Amendment	FY 2027	FY 2028	Biennium
61	UVA-W - Enrollment and Retention	750,000	750,000	1,500,000
62	GMU - Civics Education Pilot Program	50,000	50,000	100,000
63	VIMS - Defer Algal Blooms Study	(402,400)	(314,209)	(716,609)
64	IALR - GO TEC Administrative Support	(4,670,000)	(4,670,000)	(9,340,000)
65	RHEA - Operations Support	300,000	300,000	600,000
66	SVHEC - Expand Instructional Capacity	472,000	472,000	944,000
67	NCI - Sustain Operations		3,185,419	3,185,419
68	SWVHC - Simulation Laboratory Staff	230,000	230,000	460,000
69	Maintain Affordable Access - Undergraduate Financial Aid		50,000,000	50,000,000
70	Maintain Affordable Access - Maintain Affordability	27,500,000	45,000,000	72,500,000
71	Remove Higher Education Tuition Cap		Language	
72				
73	Various Language Amendments			
74				
75	Subtotal, Higher Education	\$ 48,857,327	\$ 110,568,679	\$ 159,426,006
76				
77				
78	Total, Education	\$ 327,977,789	\$ 462,715,397	\$ 790,693,186

Item 123 #2s

Education: Elementary and Secondary

FY26-27

FY27-28

Department of Education, Central Office Operations

\$1,000,000

\$250,000 GF

Language:

Page 137, line 41, strike "\$31,040,859" and insert "\$32,040,859".

Page 137, line 41, strike "\$30,040,859" and insert "\$30,290,859".

Page 139, after line 28, insert:

"N. Out of this appropriation, \$1,000,000 the first year and \$250,000 the second year from the general fund is provided to support the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a contractor to support the development of a new funding formula. The RFP shall be subject to the approval of a majority of the House members and a majority of the Senate members of the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding. The Superintendent shall ensure continued collaboration between the contractor, the Joint Subcommittee, and the Department of Planning and Budget."

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$1.0 million GF the first year and \$250,000 GF the second year for the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding's continued work on JLARC recommendations. Language allows the funding to be used for a contractor to support the work of the Joint Subcommittee.)

Item 125 #3s

Education: Elementary and Secondary

FY26-27

FY27-28

Direct Aid to Public Education

\$12,819,492

\$12,760,192 GF

Language:

Page 152, line 33, strike "\$11,395,866,095" and insert "\$11,408,685,587".

Page 152, line 33, strike "\$11,253,671,960" and insert "\$11,266,432,152".

Page 166, line 42, strike "4.75" and insert "5.75".

Page 166, line 42, strike "5.25" and insert "6.25".

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$12.8 million GF each year to increase the special education add-on by one percent for each level of services. This brings the total add-on to 5.75 percent for level 1 students and 6.25 percent for level 2 students.)

Item 125 #5s

Education: Elementary and Secondary	FY26-27	FY27-28	
Direct Aid to Public Education	\$49,384,715	\$49,346,731	GF
	\$0	\$20,000,000	NGF

Language:

Page 152, line 33, strike "\$11,395,866,095" and insert "\$11,445,250,810".

Page 152, line 33, strike "\$11,253,671,960" and insert "\$11,323,018,691".

Page 166, line 45, strike "\$785,857,850" and insert "\$835,242,565".

Page 166, line 45, strike "\$792,497,223" and insert "\$841,843,954".

Page 166, line 46, strike "\$194,690,377" and insert "\$214,690,377".

Page 167, line 3, strike "37.0" and insert "39.9".

Page 167, line 4, after "student" insert " the first year, and a payment equal to a 0.0 to 52.1 percent basic-aid add-on per estimated At-Risk student the second year".

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$49.4 million GF the first year, \$49.3 million GF the second year, and \$20.0 million NGF the second year from the Lottery Proceeds Fund to increase the At-Risk Add-On to a maximum percentage of 39.9 in the first year and 52.1 in the second year. NGF in the second year reflects revenues from Senate Bill 661, and a companion amendment in Part 3 transfers such funds to the Lottery Proceeds Fund to be distributed for K-12 initiatives.)

Item 125 #6s

Education: Elementary and Secondary	FY26-27	FY27-28	
Direct Aid to Public Education	\$0	\$60,000,005	NGF

Language:

Page 152, line 33, strike "\$11,253,671,960" and insert "\$11,313,671,965".

Page 183, line 14, strike "\$276,361,277" and insert "\$336,361,282".

Page 183, line 16, strike "\$422.56" and insert "\$514.30".

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$60.0 million NGF the second year from the Lottery Proceeds Fund to increase the Infrastructure and Operations per pupil amount. Funds reflect revenues from Senate Bill 661, and a companion amendment in Part 3 transfers such funds into the Lottery Proceeds Fund to support K-12 initiatives.)

Item 219 #1s

Education: Higher Education

FY26-27

FY27-28

Virginia Cooperative Extension and
Agricultural Experiment Station

\$761,475

\$761,475 GF

Language:

Page 266, line 28, strike "\$116,561,722" and insert "\$117,323,197".

Page 266, line 28, strike "\$116,561,722" and insert "\$117,323,197".

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$761,475 GF each year to support the establishment of an agricultural business innovation cohort including Area Specialized Agents and a state specialist in Agricultural Business Innovation. The team will have expertise in economics and business with backgrounds in precision agriculture, automation and connectivity, data analytics, workforce training, or controlled environment agriculture, and it will facilitate innovative agricultural approaches through the implementation of technologies such as smart sensors, autonomous systems for crop and animal management, precision farm equipment, and other analytical tools.)

Item 243 #3s

Education: Higher Education

Maintain Affordable Access

Language

Language:

Page 280, strike lines 3 through 12.

Explanation:

(This amendment removes language related to a tuition cap included in the introduced budget.)
