

LOGO  
Albemarle County Public Schools  
Legislative Priorities  
**DRAFT** October 7, 2011

STATE Issues

- *Draft* Resolution in Support of Funding for Public Education by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Developed in response to Governor McDonnell's report to the State Board of Education September 22, 2011. (attached)
- Unfunded Mandates: Oppose revisions to Standards of Quality (SOQ) which have additional cost implications for local school divisions.
- Rebenchmarking and the State Budget :
  - o Oppose changes in the SOQ Funding Formula which reduce funds to local school divisions.
  - o Oppose inclusion of AARA funds in the federal deduct calculations.
  - o Support restoring State money for BASIC Aid and Categorical funding.
  - o Oppose unfunded mandates.
- Composite Index: Support local composite index to reflect "Taxable Value of Property" rather than current "Local True Value of Property." Composite index to be recalculated November 2011.
- 65% Solution: Oppose use of federal census and/or USDOE definition of instructional spending in the implementation of the 65% solution.
- SOQ Media Specialists staffing (information to be provided by Dr. Billy Haun).
- National Board Certified Teacher Stipends: Request VDOE provide funds to cover the employer share of FICA.
- VRS: Support restoring funds to VRS.
- Carry-over Funds: Support mandatory re-appropriation of carry-over funds by the governing body.
- Flexibility: Support local school board flexibility in establishing their school calendar.
- Mandate increased Physical Education: Ensure legislative recognition of increased costs associated with any mandate to increase physical education instruction in schools.
- Accountability and Student Growth Measures: Consider support for state study to identify and secure state-wide pricing for assessments that measure student growth. See attached detail.
- Governor McDonnell to release budget recommendations December 19, 2011, 9:30am, Richmond.
- Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) legislative priorities to be considered at VSBA Annual Convention November 16-18, 2011.

FEDERAL Issues

- Reauthorization of ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act "No Child Left Behind"): Support based upon inclusion of changes recommended by VSBA, VASS, and AASA.  
See attached ACPS School Board Resolution June 23, 2011.
- IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act): Support full funding of IDEA and support allowing school divisions to seek a direct waiver from VDOE to reduce maintenance of effort for special education and related services due to "exceptional or uncontrollable circumstances."

Attachments:

1. Draft resolution in support of public education funding by the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. ACPS Resolution Concerning Regulatory Relief for America's Schools (ESEA), June 23, 2011.
3. Virginia Department of Education, Calendar of Reports for 2011-2012.
4. Accountability and Student Growth Measures (developed by Salem City Public Schools and supported by Region VI of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, Spring 2011)

**DRAFT Resolution In Support Of Funding For Public Education By The Commonwealth Of Virginia**

WHEREAS, per pupil state funding for public education has been reduced by more than 13% since 2009; and

WHEREAS, neither the requirements of the Standards of Learning and of No Child Left Behind, nor the overall costs of operating the public schools have been reduced; and

WHEREAS, state funding for public education does not reflect the true cost of constructing, staffing, equipping, operating and maintaining schools that perform at the level needed to meet the requirements of the Standards of Quality and the Standards of Learning; and

WHEREAS, none of the \$544.8 million FY2011 budget surplus has been proposed to be allocated to K-12 public education.

THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED,

The School Board of Albemarle County Public Schools respectfully requests the Governor to allocate a fair share of the \$544.8 million FY2011 budget surplus to K-12 public education and to begin to restore funds cuts from K-12 public education in Fiscal Years 2009, 2010, and 2011.

**Accountability and Student Growth Measures (developed by Salem City Public Schools and supported by Region VI of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, Spring 2011):**

The benefits of established standards and criterion-referenced assessments (SOL tests) as a means to raise student achievement are significant. Standards and the associated measures of student achievement will remain essential components of accountability and reform, but if left unchanged, an incomplete picture of student learning exists.

Authentic and objective measures of Student Growth are necessary. All parents want to know how much their child has progressed each year or over a specific course. Teachers celebrate the students' success.

Legislative Recommendation: Consider a State study to identify and secure state-wide pricing for assessments to measure student growth. Similarly, small and rural divisions need access to statistical analysis and reporting tools that meet the capacity of all but the largest divisions. By identifying and approving assessment and analysis providers and permitting interested school divisions to pilot student growth models as an additional means of demonstrating success, Virginia may develop the "full picture" of student learning without seeking to establish a new, state-wide testing system.