



Dear Senators and Delegates:

On behalf of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors and our School Board, we would like to express our appreciation for the consistent and valuable support you have provided to us on behalf of our mission to maintain a high quality of life for our residents. This would not be possible without the delivery of a world class education and we are proud to note that our students continue to rank within Virginia's top performance tiers.

Thank you for helping to provide the resources that enable us to prepare our students for college and workforce success. While there are many important issues facing the General Assembly in the upcoming session, we would like to ask for your support in three areas that are crucial to our ability to preserve educational excellence in an increasingly more challenging competitive environment.

- *Standards of Quality*-We urge the State to fully fund its share of the realistic costs of the Standards of Quality without making policy changes that reduce funding or shift funding responsibility to localities.
- *Composite Index*- We support legislation to correctly identify a locality's "ability to pay" by amending the Composite Index Funding Formula by (1) redefining the local true values component of the formula to include the land use taxation value of real property rather than the fair market assessed value for those properties that have qualified and are being taxed under a land use value taxation program and (2) adjusting the funding formula for Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville which does not currently reflect the revenue sharing agreement that exists between the County and the City. The revenue sharing agreement results in our ability to pay being overstated, and brings approximately \$2 million fewer state dollars to support our schools.
- *Virginia Retirement System Funding*-We support the restoration of funds to the Virginia Retirement System without shifting additional burdens to localities. One change that would be particularly helpful is to provide a multi-year projection of locality contributions to the system to allow for a planned, thoughtful budgetary approach, one that avoids the need for last-minute programmatic reductions that harm the classroom.

Sincerely,

Ann Mallek
Chair, Albemarle County Board of Supervisors

Steve Koleszar
Chair, Albemarle County School Board

