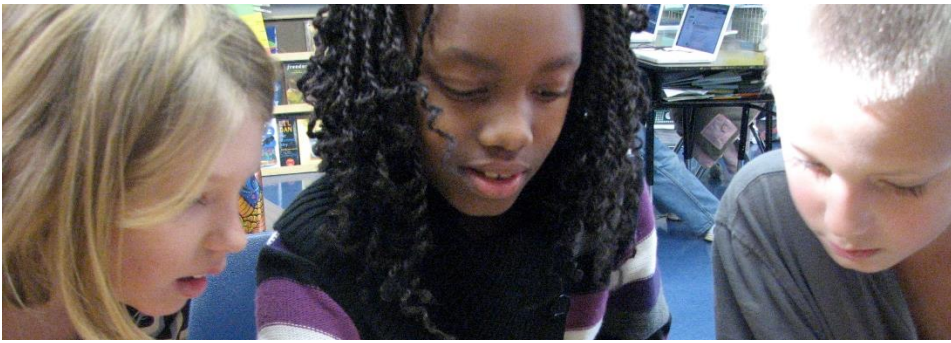




Legislative Agenda

VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2015

The Cost of Educational Accountability

We applaud the efforts of the General Assembly in the 2014 session to replace five Standards of Learning assessments with locally developed, authentic measures of student performance.

We support rigorous standards for our young people, but know that tests like these capture only a slice of what young people need to know in order to achieve lifelong success. In addition to doing well on SOL tests, students should be developing outstanding communications skills, working effectively in teams, and thinking critically and creatively to solve problems.

Reforms to our accountability system alone will not ensure that Virginia continues to provide students with a high-quality, world-class education. Rigorous college and career standards must be met with a commitment to funding 21st century learners.

The percentage of schools meeting accreditation standards in Virginia has declined for a second consecutive year as a consequence of the growing impact of more rigorous reading, writing, science and mathematics SOL tests introduced since 2011.

Declines in state accreditation are accompanied by inadequate funding from the state. Per pupil funding for K-12 education in 2014 remains well below 2009 levels, unadjusted for inflation, and does not accurately reflect the costs of rapidly changing technology, growing numbers of economically disadvantaged students who require may require additional support and services, or the increasing diversity of our state.

Accountability reform must be accompanied by adequate funding to meet the state's aspirations for all students in Virginia to receive a world-class education. We urge the General Assembly to carefully consider the recommendations put forward by the SOL Innovation Committee and find creative ways to increase funding for K12 education.



Our Mission

The core purpose of Albemarle County Public Schools is to establish a community of learners and learning, through relationships, relevance and rigor, one student at a time.

Our Vision

All learners believe in their power to embrace learning, to excel, and to own their future.

Our Core Values

Excellence
Young People
Community
Respect

Our Student-Centered Goal

All Albemarle County Public Schools students will graduate having actively mastered the lifelong-learning standards they need to succeed as 21st century learners, workers and citizens.

Our Objectives

1. We will engage every student.
2. We will implement balanced assessments.
3. We will improve opportunity and achievement.
4. We will create and expand partnerships.
5. We will optimize resources.

Our Priorities

Public Education Funding

It is essential that the state provide the funding necessary to support educating students in the 21st century.

The gap between Standards of Quality funding and the actual local costs of providing a high quality education continues to grow. In FY 2009, Direct Aid to Public Education received 35.2% of the General Fund revenues; in FY 2015, this has decreased to 29.7%. Structural policy changes in this time period have significantly altered the state's funding obligations to public education going forward, such as the introduction of a cap on funding for support staff and the elimination of inflationary updates for non-personal costs, like utilities. Per pupil spending remains well below FY 2009 levels, unadjusted for inflation.

→ We support legislation to amend the Composite Index Funding Formula by redefining the local true value of real property 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.

→ We support the restoration of funds to the Virginia Retirement System to maintain the long-term solvency of the plan without further devolving the funding responsibility to localities.

→ We oppose any mandates on local school divisions without full funding methods provided.



Assessments & Accountability

Albemarle County Public Schools supports a rigorous curriculum accompanied by a meaningful system of accountability.

→ We support further reductions in Standards of Learning tests that allow for balanced assessments that measure the development of lifelong-learning competencies, such as critical and creative thinking and problem solving.

→ We support opportunities for local school divisions to improve upon and innovate the development and delivery of assessments.

→ We support the use of statistically valid sampling techniques in student assessments.

→ We support the availability of waivers to high performing school divisions to implement alternative performance-based assessments.

→ We support increased access to expedited retakes of the Standards of Learning assessments.

Flexibility

- We support legislation that provides increased flexibility for school divisions to improve effectiveness, efficiency, and to better meet the needs of local communities.
- We support additional flexibility in the use of State Technology Grant funds that will enable school divisions to provide expanded access to electronic devices to students. The guidelines for funding available under the technology grant do not reflect the vast changes and improvements to available educational technology over the last ten years.

Equalized Revenue Authority

- We support legislation that will equalize the revenue-raising authority of counties with that of cities. This initiative, supported by the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors and the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, will provide counties with additional tools to address inadequate state funding for public education and increased state mandates that put significant pressure on local budgets.



Our Legislative Positions & Policy Statements

Blood Borne Disease Testing

We support legislation to that will require parental consent for a school division to test a minor for blood borne diseases by amending Virginia Code Section 32.1-45.1.

Discipline Policies

We oppose any restrictions on the local school board authority to develop student disciplinary policies.

Non-Public Student Participation in VHSL Activities

We support a JLARC study on the issue of participation by non-public school students in VHSL activities.

Primary Elections

We support legislation to move the date of June primary elections to the third Tuesday of the month to avoid conflicts with local school calendars.

Redistricting

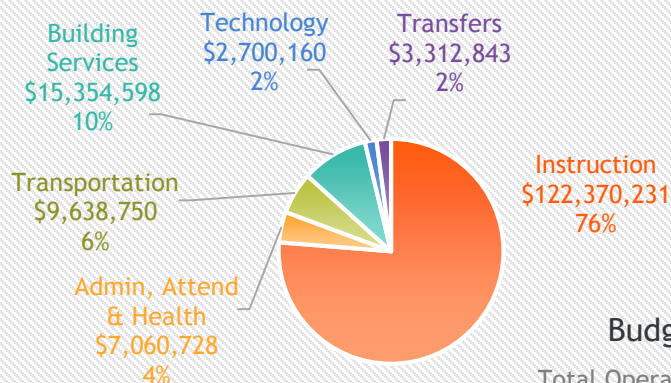
We support a redistricting process that is fair, transparent and accountable to the citizens of the Commonwealth. Virginia's state and congressional districts belong to its citizens and not to any legislator, interest group or political party. Districts should be drawn with citizen's interests in mind, encouraging healthy debate and public participation in the process.

School Bus Video-Monitoring Systems

We request that the General Assembly amend Virginia Code Section 46.2-844 to allow for service by mail similar to the provisions contained in Virginia Code Section 15.2-968.1's traffic signal enforcement program.

School Grading

We support efforts to eliminate the A-F grading of schools as well as any efforts that will further delay the implementation of the A-F grading system passed during the 2013 General Assembly session.



2014-15
Budget Appropriation

Total Operating Budget: \$160.4M

2014 Division Snapshot

Our Facilities

27 schools, all accredited by the Virginia Department of Education:

- 16 elementary schools (PK-5)
- 5 middle schools (6-8)
- 1 charter middle school (6-8)
- 3 comprehensive high schools (9-12)
- 1 charter high school (9-12)
- 1 Vocational-Technical Center

1 Alternative Education Center

3 STEM/STEM-H Academies (9-12):

- Environmental Studies Academy
- Health and Medical Sciences Academy
- Math, Engineering & Science Academy

Our Employees

1,232 classroom teachers*

1,230 other school division employees

Our Students

13,677 students (PK-12)**

- 8.7% are identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP)
- 28.4% are eligible for free/reduced meals
- 10.2% are served by Special Education
- 9.5% are identified as Gifted

Other Statistics

Our students were born in 60 countries and speak 80 languages.

2:1 student-to-computer ratio

Over 9,000 meals served daily

14,005 school bus miles traveled daily

290 homeless students served last year

**including speech pathologists, school counselors, and instructional coaches*

***as of September 30, 2014*

HOW DO WE COMPARE?

	ACPS	State
On-time Graduation Rate	94.8%	89.9%
Drop-out Rate	2.3%	5.4%
Graduates Who Earned an Advanced Studies Diploma	65.8%	50.6%
Average SAT Scores	Verbal	563
	Math	566
	Writing	539
Students Earning a Passing Score (3, 4 or 5) on AP Exams	76.7%	61.2%
National Board Certified Teachers	3.3%	2.0%

SCHOOL BOARD

Ned Gallaway, Ed.D., Chair
Barbara Massie Mouly, Vice-Chair
Katherine Acuff, Ph.D.

Jason Buyaki
Steve Koleszar
Pamela Moynihan
Eric Strucko

Email the School Board at:
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