

Resolution Prescribing the Standards of Quality for Public Schools in Virginia

WHEREAS, Section 2, of Article VIII of the *Constitution of Virginia* provides that standards of quality for the several school divisions shall be determined and prescribed from time to time by the Board of Education, subject to revision only by the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, between 1972 and 1982, the Board of Education prescribed the Standards of Quality for each biennium, which were subsequently adopted by the General Assembly with revisions; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, the General Assembly established Chapter 13.1 of Title 22.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, codifying the Standards of Quality, significantly infringing upon the Board of Education's ability to fulfill its constitutional duty to prescribe such standards for the previous ten years; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the General Assembly replaced Chapter 13.1 of Title 22.1 of the *Code* with Chapter 13.2, recodifying the Standards of Quality into their current form; and

WHEREAS, since the 1988 action, the General Assembly has passed 197 bills amending the Standards of Quality, the overwhelming majority of which were unrelated to the Standards of Quality as prescribed by Board of Education pursuant to its constitutional authority; and

WHEREAS, Section 22.1-18 of the *Code* requires the Board of Education to indicate in its annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly whether it recommends any change or addition to the Standards of Quality; and

WHEREAS, Section 22.1-18.01 of the *Code* requires the Board of Education, in odd-numbered years, to review the Standards of Quality and either determine that no changes are necessary or propose amendments, in which case the biennial budget estimates state agencies are required to report to the Governor shall take into consideration the Board's proposed Standards of Quality; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education's 2018-2023 Comprehensive Plan, establishes three priorities for public education in Virginia:

- Priority 1: Provide high-quality, effective learning environments for all students;
- Priority 2: Advance policies that increase the number of candidates entering the teaching profession and encourage and support the recruitment, development, and retention of well-prepared and skilled teachers and school leaders; and
- Priority 3: Ensure successful implementation of the Profile of a Virginia Graduate and the accountability system for school quality as embodied in the revisions to the Standards of Accreditation.

WHEREAS, since the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, the Board of Education has undertaken a two-year process, reviewing and researching evidence-based best practices and engaging in significant public engagement to make data-driven policy decisions to revise the Standards of Quality to provide support for Virginia educators and better ensure equity of opportunity and outcome for Virginia's students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education prescribes the attached Standards of Quality by motion unanimously adopted at its regular business meeting on October 17, 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education requests the General Assembly remove paragraphs A.17 and C.5.k of Item 136 of the 2019 Appropriation Act from future Appropriation Acts, as these measures were added during the Great Recession to provide temporary relief from provisions in the Standards of Quality, resulting in \$371.6 million in state aid that school divisions would have otherwise received in Fiscal Year 2019-2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education requests the Superintendent of Public Instruction seek to enhance the information reported by local school divisions about staffing practices to help better inform the Board of Education's future reviews of the Standards of Quality.