

Revision: Page 13, Modify Criteria to Earn a Verified Credit in History and Social Science

Summary of Budget Amendments Affecting K-12 Education in the Introduced Budget for the 2020-2022 Biennium (House Bill 30/Senate Bill 30)

This document summarizes the budget proposals introduced by Governor Northam for the 2020-2022 biennium impacting the Direct Aid to Public Education and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Central Office budgets. Recommended funding changes are made for the 2020-2022 biennium using fiscal year (FY) 2020 from the Chapter 854 budget, which was adopted at the 2019 General Assembly session, as the base budget. The proposed budget for the 2020-2022 biennium is introduced as House Bill (HB) 30/Senate Bill (SB) 30.

Information related to the Governor's proposals for the Direct Aid to Public Education and the VDOE Central Office budgets for 2020-2022 is organized in the following sections:

Section A: Amendments to the Direct Aid to Public Education Budget

[Technical Updates to Existing Direct Aid Programs Included in HB 30/SB 30](#)

[Direct Aid Budget Policy Changes Included in HB 30/SB 30](#)

[Direct Aid Budget Language Changes Included in HB 30/SB 30](#)

Section B: Amendments to the VDOE Central Office Budget

[Amendments to VDOE Central Office Budget Included in HB 30/SB 30](#)

A. 2020-2022 DIRECT AID TO PUBLIC EDUCATION BUDGET

1. Technical Updates to Existing Direct Aid Programs Included in HB 30/SB 30

Rebenchmark Direct Aid Costs for 2020-2022 (as presented to the Board of Education in September 2019)

Governor - The introduced budget includes the state's share of routine rebenchmarking of costs for all Standards of Quality (SOQ) and other Direct Aid programs. These technical adjustments include updates for factors such as funded salaries, Annual School Report data used to calculate prevailing costs, inflation factors, Standards of Learning (SOL) test score updates, enrollment updates, and projected caseloads for Lottery, incentive and categorical programs. The [2020-2022 Board of Education rebenchmarking presentation](#), dated September 18, 2019, provides additional information used to make these technical updates. These adjustments reflect the cost of continuing current programs with the required biennial data updates used in the funding formulas, and do not reflect any changes in policy. For FY 2021, routine rebasing of costs for the

SOQ and other Direct Aid programs results in an increase in state cost of \$289.6 million. For FY 2022, the increase in state cost is \$306.1 million.

Technical Updates to Direct Aid Accounts for 2020-2022 Subsequent to the Rebenchmarking Budget Presented to the Board of Education in September 2019

Governor – The introduced budget includes the state's share of cost for additional technical updates related to the rebenchmarking process that occurred after the Board of Education presentation in September 2019. These technical adjustments include updates to factors such as enrollment projections, inflation factors, SOL test failure rate data, and caseloads for Lottery, incentive and categorical programs. These adjustments reflect the cost of continuing current programs with the required data updates used in the funding formulas, and are not reflective of any changes in policy. These updates decrease the state's share of cost by \$29.0 million in FY 2021 and by \$41.6 million in FY 2022.

Updates for the Recalculation of the Local Composite Index (LCI) for 2020-2022

Governor - The [2020-2022 Composite Index of Local Ability-to-Pay](#) was recalculated using 2017 base-year data provided by the Department of Taxation for adjusted gross income, taxable retail sales, and the true value of real property. The estimates of local population for 2017 are provided by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia, and the March 31, 2018, Average Daily Membership (ADM) is based on data reported by school divisions to VDOE. Updating Direct Aid accounts based on the recalculated 2020-2022 LCI increases the state's share of Direct Aid funding by \$7.3 million in FY 2021 and \$7.5 million in FY 2022. The funding impact on school divisions varies depending on whether a school division's LCI increased or decreased compared to its 2018-2020 LCI.

Update Sales Tax Projections

Governor - The introduced budget reflects the most recent estimates of sales tax revenue dedicated to public education for FY 2021 and 2022, as computed by the Department of Taxation. The revised sales tax estimates include both the one percent portion and the one-eighth percent portion that are appropriated for distribution to school divisions based on school-age population. The projected sales tax entitlement contained in the Excel template reflects the revised estimates for these two sales tax sources combined as a single revenue line item.

The Department of Taxation's latest estimate of the one percent and one-eighth percent sales tax revenue is \$1,540,200,000 for FY 2021 and \$1,566,200,000 for FY 2022. These revised sales tax estimates are approximately \$53.9 million higher in FY 2021 and \$79.9 million higher in FY 2022 than the FY 2020 estimate. As required by the Basic Aid funding formula, estimated payments have been adjusted to reflect the decrease in the state's share of cost resulting from the projected increase in sales tax revenues.

The amount of the Basic Aid offset depends on each division's LCI. The state's share of Basic Aid decreases approximately \$30.1 million in FY 2021 and \$44.6 million in FY 2022 due to the revised sales tax estimates. The net change in state funding to school divisions (due to both the

estimated sales tax revenue increase and the Basic Aid offset) is an increase of \$23.8 million in FY 2021 and an increase of \$35.3 million in FY 2022.

Update Driver's Education Funding in Basic Aid

Governor - The introduced budget decreases non-general fund revenues received from the Department of Motor Vehicles for driver's education costs by \$630,000 in FY 2022. These non-general fund revenue decreases are replaced by like amounts of general fund increases within the Basic Aid formula. This change does not impact the funded per pupil amounts for Basic Aid or projected payments for Basic Aid in FY 2022, but is only a fund source change within the Basic Aid formula.

Update Lottery Revenue Estimate

Governor - Total Lottery proceeds are projected to decrease by \$12.7 million to \$616.2 million in FY 2021 and by \$6.5 million to \$622.3 million in FY 2022, compared to the FY 2020 Lottery estimate. The total projected Lottery amounts in FY 2021 and 2022 are being used to fund the state share of the cost of various programs, such as the Supplemental Lottery Per Pupil Amount, Early Reading Intervention, K-3 Primary Class Size Reduction, Special Education Regional Tuition, and SOL Algebra Readiness.

2. Direct Aid Budget Policy Changes Included in HB 30/SB 30

Update Employer Contribution Rates for Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Fringe Benefits

Governor - The introduced budget proposes higher employer contribution rates for instructional retirement benefits in 2020-2022 (16.62 percent for FY 2021 and 2022) than was funded for FY 2020 (15.68 percent). The prevailing non-professional VRS rate has been updated and is funded at 6.52 percent for both years of the biennium. This prevailing rate is used for state funding purposes only; the actual non-professional rate charged to school divisions by VRS will vary by school division. For the retiree health care credit, the rates proposed for 2020-2022 reflect a rate change from FY 2020 for FY 2021 and 2022 (1.20 percent to 1.21 percent). These rate changes increase state funding by \$31.9 million in FY 2021 and \$32.0 million in FY 2022 compared to costs based on the FY 2020 rates used in the Chapter 854 budget.

FUNDED FRINGE BENEFIT RATES	FY 2020	Proposed FY 2021	Proposed FY 2022
Instructional & Professional Support VRS (<u>Employer</u> Share) (Does not include RHCC - see below)	15.68%	16.62%	16.62%
Instructional & Professional Support VRS (<u>Employee</u> Share)	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Total Instructional & Professional Support VRS Rate	20.68%	21.62%	21.62%
Group Life (<u>Employer</u> Share)	0.52%	0.54%	0.54%
Retiree Health Care Credit (<i>Paid as part of the VRS Instructional retirement per pupil amount</i>)	1.20%	1.21%	1.21%
Non-professional Support VRS	6.28%	6.52%	6.52%
Social Security	7.65%	7.65%	7.65%
Health Care Premium	\$5,086	\$5,504	\$5,504
Total Instructional Benefit Percent (<u>Employer</u> Share)	25.05%	26.02%	26.02%
Total Non-professional Support Benefit Percent (<u>Employer</u> Share)	14.45%	14.71%	14.71%

Fund the State Share of a Compensation Supplement for Funded SOQ Instructional and Support Positions in FY22

Governor - The introduced budget provides a 3.0 percent salary increase in FY 2022 with an effective date of July 1, 2021, for funded SOQ instructional and support positions. The state funding is calculated with an effective date of July 1, 2021, for funded SOQ instructional and support positions, for Academic Year Governor's Schools, and for Regional Alternative Education Programs. Funded SOQ instructional positions include teacher, school counselor, librarian, instructional aide, principal, and assistant principal positions funded through the SOQ staffing standards for each school division. The introduced budget provides \$145.1 million for the state share of a 3.0 percent salary increase effective July 1, 2021, to school divisions which certify to VDOE that salary increases of a minimum average of 3.0 percent have been or will have been provided to instructional and support personnel during the 2020-2022 biennium, either in the first year or in the second year or through a combination of the two years. While the aforementioned minimum average 3.0 percent pay increase must be provided by school divisions in order to receive the state funds, a required local match based on the division LCI formerly required under the Compensation Supplement formula is not specifically required in FY 2022 under this action.

Increase Funding in the SOQ for School Counselors

Governor - The introduced budget increases state funding in the SOQ for school counselors in FY 2021 and FY 2022. The funded staffing standards for school counselors in FY 2020 are 455-to-1 in elementary schools, 370-to-1 in middle schools, and 325-to-1 in high schools. This action reduces the staffing ratios to 375-to-1 in elementary schools, 325-to-1 in middle schools, and 300-to-1 in high schools in FY 2021, consistent with Section 22.1-253.13:2, H.4.a., Code of

Virginia. Then in FY 2022, there will be additional reductions of all funded staffing ratios to 250-to-1. This amendment provides an additional \$21.2 million in state funding to school divisions in FY 2021 and \$78.1 million in FY 2022.

Increase Staffing Ratios for English as a Second Language Program

Governor - The introduced budget increases the staffing ratio for the English as a Second Language program in FY 2021 and 2022. This action increases the number of funded positions from 17 per 1,000 students in FY 2020 to 20 per 1,000 students in FY 2021 and 2022. This change increases state funding for the English as a Second Language program by \$13.3 million in FY 2021 and by \$14.3 million in FY 2022.

Update Literary Fund Transfer for VRS Retirement

Governor - The introduced budget updates the transfer from the Literary Fund to support the state's share of cost for teacher retirement. These updates decrease general fund support for teacher retirement by \$25.7 million in FY 2021 and increase general fund support by \$53.3 million in FY 2022. This action does not affect division per pupil amounts or projected entitlements for VRS retirement in FY 2021 or 2022, but is only a change in the source of funding.

Provide Additional Funding for At-Risk Add-on

Governor - The introduced budget proposes an additional \$61.1 million in FY 2021 and \$79.3 million in FY 2022. This action is based on increasing the Basic Aid per pupil add-on range from a maximum of the range of 16.0 percent in FY 2020 to 23.0 percent in FY 2021 and to 25.0 percent in FY 2022. A portion of the increases in funding are offset by a corresponding decrease in the Supplemental Lottery Per Pupil Amount.

Decrease State Funding for the Supplemental Lottery Per Pupil Amount

Governor - The introduced budget proposes a decrease to the Supplemental Lottery Per Pupil Amount in FY 2021 and 2022, from the state's share of \$366.01 per pupil in FY 2020 to \$314.62 per pupil in FY 2021 and the state's share of \$287.96 per pupil in FY 2022. This action decreases state funding to school divisions by \$34.9 million in FY 2021 and by \$52.8 million in FY 2022. The decrease to the Supplemental Lottery Per Pupil Amount program was used to fund increases to the At-Risk Add-on in FY 2021 and 2022. School divisions continue to be permitted to spend these funds on both recurring and non-recurring expenditures with no local match required.

School Meals Expansion

Governor – The introduced budget provides state funding of \$5.3 million in FY 2021 and \$5.3 million in FY 2022 to local school divisions to reduce or eliminate the cost of school breakfast and lunch for students eligible for reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. VDOE is authorized to reduce payments proportionately so as not to exceed the state appropriation.

Games of Skill Per Pupil Amount

Governor – The introduced budget provides state funding of \$50.0 million in FY 2021, or the state's share of \$71.29 per pupil, and \$75.0 million in FY 2022, or the state's share of \$106.55 per pupil, for the Games of Skill Per Pupil Amount. The fund source for this proposal is contingent upon the passage of legislation by the 2020 General Assembly. School divisions are permitted to spend these funds on both recurring and non-recurring expenditures. These funds do not require a local match. VDOE is authorized to reduce payments proportionately to account for shortfalls in Games of Skill revenues. These funds are distributed using a formula that is similar to that used for Supplemental Lottery Per Pupil Amount distribution.

No Loss Funding

Governor – The introduced budget provides No Loss funding for school divisions that experience a decrease in state formula entitlements in FY 2021 and 2022 as compared to FY 2020. This action increases state payments by \$2.6 million in FY 2021 and \$2.3 million in FY 2022 to the affected school divisions.

Funding Actions Related to the Virginia Preschool Initiative

Governor - The introduced budget includes several proposed initiatives related to the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI). These actions are listed below.

- **VPI Non-participation Rate**

In addition to the technical updates to the VPI funding formula, the introduced budget also assumes a projected VPI non-participation rate in FY 2021 and 2022 at 20.0 percent, which is a decrease from the 25.69 percent rate for FY 2020. As a result, state funding for VPI decreases by \$21.6 million in FY 2021 and \$21.7 million in FY 2022 by applying the projected non-participation factor to the total funding. This estimate of VPI non-participation impacts the total state appropriation for the program, but does not change the division-level allocation of student slots or projected entitlement amounts.

- **Increase VPI Per Pupil Amount in FY21 and FY22**

In addition to technical updates to the VPI funding formula, the introduced budget increases the per pupil amount in FY 2021 and 2022 by 10.0 percent each year. This change increases the per pupil amount from \$6,326 in FY 2020 to \$6,959 in FY 2021 and to \$7,655 in FY 2022. This action increases state payments to school divisions by \$8.6 million in FY 2021 and by \$18.2 million in FY 2022.

- **Increase Virginia Preschool Initiative Plus Per Pupil Amount in FY21 and FY22**

The introduced budget increases the per pupil amount for the Virginia Preschool Initiative Plus (VPI+) program in FY 2021 and FY 2022 by 10.0 percent each year. This action increases the per pupil amount from \$6,326 in FY 2020 to \$6,959 in FY 2021 and to \$7,655 in FY 2022. This action increases state payments to school divisions by \$0.6

million in FY 2021 and by \$1.2 million in FY 2022. This action maintains consistency with the funded per pupil amounts in the VPI program.

- **Mixed-Delivery Add-on Grant**

The introduced budget provides state funding of \$5.0 million in FY 2021 and \$5.0 million in FY 2022 for an add-on grant to incentivize mixed-delivery services through private providers. The grant will be \$2,500 per child with the intent to provide services for up to 2,000 children. These grants are intended to reduce the variance between the cost of VPI and the cost to serve a child in a community-based or private setting. Grant recipients are encouraged to support inclusive practices of children with special needs in their classrooms. Localities that wish to participate in the program will be required to indicate the number of slots that will be used in community-based or private provider settings in their May 15 VPI applications. State funds for this initiative are distributed based upon budgeted VPI slots in FY 2021. Please note that this grant is the only new pre-kindergarten initiative that is distributed to school divisions in the Excel calculation template.

- **Pilot Program to Serve At-Risk Three-Year Olds**

The introduced budget provides state funding of \$2.8 million in FY 2021 and \$6.1 million in FY 2022 for a pilot program that serves at-risk three-year olds who are Virginia residents and unserved by Head Start. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. School divisions will apply for grants as a part of the May 15 VPI application. Requirements for pilot program participants include: (i) broad stakeholder support, (ii) tracking outcomes of participating children, (iii) demonstration of how federal and state support will be maximized to preserve existing birth to five slots, (iv) inclusive practices for children with special needs, and (v) collaboration with social services, program accepting child care subsidy payments, Head Start providers, private child care providers, and early childhood special education and early intervention programs. Grant awards will be based on: (i) communities with limited child care options, (ii) programs that provide a mixed-delivery setting, or (iii) communities that demonstrate full support of public and private providers. Grant awards will be equivalent to the funded per pupil amount in the VPI program.

- **Additional Funding for Children on VPI Waitlists**

The introduced budget provides state funding of \$4.0 million in FY 2021 and \$3.3 million in FY 2022 to serve children on VPI waitlists. Guidelines for the distribution of funds will be established by VDOE. The distribution of slots to the VPI waitlists will be completed by July 1 each year.

- **Expansion of Public-Private Delivery of Preschool Programs**

The introduced budget provides additional state funding of \$8.5 million for both FY 2021 and 2022 to expand a pilot initiative to support public-private delivery of pre-kindergarten services for at least 1,000 at-risk three- and four-year-olds each year. This action increases

state support to \$10.0 million for both FY 2021 and 2022. These programs must provide at least school-year services.

VDOE will establish measurable academic standards for student achievement and success so that students will be ready to enter kindergarten. Students will be required to be evaluated in the fall and spring by each participating provider and grantees must certify that the VPI program follows established standards, which must align with the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program, in order to receive the funding for quality preschool education and criteria for the service components. VDOE will ensure quality teacher-child interactions through a research-based observation instrument at least once every two years.

In FY 2021, the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation will begin receiving applications. All applications must be submitted by August 15, 2020. Beginning with FY 2022, applications must be submitted by May 15, 2021. The application shall identify the lead agency for the proposal who is responsible for developing a local plan for the delivery of preschool services in private settings. Each application should outline the coordination of resources and the combination of funding streams in order to serve the greatest number of at-risk three- and four-year-olds. Each proposal must also exhibit coordination of comprehensive services, including schools, child care providers, social services, Head Start, the local health department, and other groups as identified in the proposal. Additionally, the proposal must denote a plan for inclusive services for children with special needs. Local plans must indicate the number of at-risk three- and four-year-olds to be served. Grant recipients will be provided maximum flexibility to fully implement the associated goals and objectives of the pilot.

- **Increase VPI Class Sizes**

The introduced budget provides state funding of \$6.4 million in FY 2021 and \$7.1 million in FY 2022 to increase staffing ratios in VPI classrooms. This will facilitate the use of allocated slots. For VPI classrooms that exceed the benchmarks set by the Board of Education, classrooms may be staffed at one teacher per ten students or less, or at one teacher and one full-time teacher's aide per 20 students or less, with a maximum class size of 20 students.

- **Language Directing Rebenchmarking of the VPI Per Pupil Amount**

VDOE is required to develop a plan to biennially rebenchmark the funded per pupil amount for the VPI program. In developing the plan, VDOE must (i) identify the needs to implement the plan, (ii) include relevant stakeholders, such as local VPI administrators and local finance staff, (iii) identify necessary legislative or appropriation act amendments, and (iv) implement the plan effective with the introduced 2022-2024 biennial budget to the 2022 General Assembly.

- **Local Match for VPI**

The introduced budget amends language related to the local match for the VPI program. Chapter 854, 2019 Acts of Assembly, requires that at least 75.0 percent of local match will be cash and no more than 25.0 percent of local match will be in-kind. The Governor's budget reduces the cash local match to at least 50.0 percent and the in-kind local match can be no greater than 50.0 percent.

Supplemental Education Assistance Programs

Governor - The introduced budget includes new Supplemental Education Assistance Programs in FY 2021 and 2022 and amendments to existing programs.

- **American Civil War Museum**

The introduced budget provides \$1.0 million in both FY 2021 and 2022 to support high-quality, off-site learning experiences for students to engage in educational content, aligned to the SOL, and related to the history of the American Civil War.

- **African American History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia**

The introduced budget provides \$1.2 million in FY 2021 and \$1.3 million in FY 2022 to support high-quality, off-site learning experiences and traveling exhibitions for students to engage in educational content, aligned to the SOL, related to African American History.

- **Western Virginia Public Education Consortium**

The introduced budget provides \$50,000 in both FY 2021 and 2022 to support an annual job fair and professional development conference for teachers and administrators from the consortium's 23-member school divisions.

- **Early Childhood Educator Incentive**

The introduced budget provides \$3.0 million in FY 2021 and \$5.0 million in FY 2022 to strengthen quality and reduce turnover in hard-to-serve preschool classrooms. VDOE is responsible for the development of program guidelines and the distribution of state funds.

- **Increase Funding for Communities in Schools**

The introduced budget provides additional state funding for the Communities in Schools (CIS) program of \$0.8 million in both FY 2021 and 2022. The additional funding is intended to strengthen and sustain existing programming in Hampton Roads, Northern Virginia, Petersburg, Richmond, and Southwest Virginia, and expand programming to new schools.

- **Increase Funding for Greater Richmond Area Scholarship Program**

The introduced budget provides additional state funding of \$0.5 million in both FY 2021 and 2022 for the Greater Richmond Area Scholarship Program (GRASP). GRASP provides financial aid, scholarships, and counseling to students and families in need.

- **Increase Funding for Jobs for Virginia Graduates**

The introduced budget provides additional state funding of \$1.7 million in both FY 2021 and 2022 for Jobs for Virginia Graduates.

- **Eliminate Funding for Robots for Autism**

Elimination of the Robots for Autism program generates a state savings of \$0.2 million in both years of the biennium.

- **Eliminate Funding for Charter School Supplement**

Elimination of the Charter School Supplement generates a state savings of \$0.1 million in both years of the biennium.

3. Language-Only Amendments for Direct Aid Programs Included in HB 30/SB 30

Elimination of Temporary Flexibility Language

Governor – The introduced budget eliminates temporary flexibility, contained in the Chapter 854 budget, for school divisions to increase staffing ratios by an additional student in grades kindergarten through seventh and for English classes in grades six through twelve. The temporary waiver of pupil staffing ratio requirements for Elementary Resource teachers, Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation, English as a Second Language, Gifted and Talented, and certain Career and Technical funded programs has also been eliminated. Temporary flexibility related to the staffing standards for instructional and support technology positions, librarians, and school counselors is also eliminated.

Diversity of Academic Year Governor's Schools

Governor – The introduced budget adds language that requires Academic Year Governor's Schools to set diversity goals for its student body and faculty and to develop a plan to meet its goals in collaboration with community partners at public meetings. Each school is required to report on the status of its goals and plan to the Governor on or before October 1 of each year. The report must include (i) utilization of universal screenings in feeder divisions, (ii) admission processes that promote access for historically underserved students, (iii) outreach to recruit historically underserved students, and (iv) racial/ethnic make-up and socioeconomic diversity of its students, faculty, and applicants.

Supplemental Lottery Per Pupil Amount

Governor – The introduced budget adds language that allows VDOE to temporarily suspend payments out of the Supplemental Lottery Per Pupil Amount to account for any shortfalls in Lottery revenue.

Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program

Governor – The introduced budget adds language related to the Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program (VTSLP) that is intended to increase the applicant pool. The language (i) expands the designated critical shortage areas from the top five to the top ten, (ii) allows recipients to fulfill the loan obligation upon completion of the program and becoming eligible for a renewable license in the assigned endorsement, (iii) allows recipients to teach in a school where 50.0 percent of students eligible for free and reduced price lunch or a school division designated critical shortage subject area, as defined by the Board of Education's *Regulations Governing the Determination of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas*.

STEM Recruitment Grants

Governor – The introduced budget adds language that is intended to increase the amount of STEM recruitment grants awarded to school divisions. VDOE will award grants based on new hires instead of vacancies. Eligibility for teachers will be based on the following: (i) full-time employment in a Virginia school division or school where more than 40 percent of the students eligible for free and reduced price lunch, (ii) one, two, or three years of teaching experience, and (iii) hold a five- or ten-year valid Virginia teaching license with an endorsement in Middle Education 6-8: Mathematics, Mathematics-Algebra-I, Mathematics, Middle Education 6-8: Science, Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, Physics, Engineering, or Technology Education and be assigned to a teaching position in a corresponding STEM subject area. Eligibility for the incentive has changed from a signed contract to a written commitment to return in the same school division for the following school year.

Wolf Trap STEM Model

Governor – The introduced budget expands the Wolf Trap STEM Model program to first grade students. It also requires the model to support the skills identified by the [Profile of a Virginia Graduate](#). The appropriation may also be used to expand the program to Regions 3, 6, and 8.

School Program Innovation

Governor – The introduced budget expands the existing High School Program Innovation to elementary and middle schools.

B. 2020-2022 VDOE CENTRAL OFFICE BUDGET

1. Amendments to VDOE Central Office Budget Included in HB 30/SB 30

Virtual Virginia

Governor - The introduced budget moves the budget for Virtual Virginia under the VDOE's Central Office from the Direct Aid to Public Education budget. This action is intended to improve program administration. School divisions will not be affected by this change.

Virginia Learner Equitable Access Platform

Governor – The introduced budget provides state funding to create the Virginia Learner Equitable Access Platform (VA LEAP), a statewide learning management system. This platform will provide teachers and learners throughout Virginia equitable access to high-quality, standards-aligned, digital media content, and virtual and blended learning opportunities. The introduced budget provides \$7.1 million in FY 2021 and \$6.1 million in FY 2022.

Replace Online Management of Education Grant Awards (OMEGA) System

Governor – The introduced budget proposes \$600,000 in FY 2021 and \$200,000 in FY 2022 to support a new grants management system in VDOE to replace the current OMEGA system, which is at end-of-life. This new application is necessary to take advantage of recent technological enhancements while continuing to provide an efficient web-based portal for school divisions, higher education institutions, and non-profit organizations to submit grant applications and reimbursement claims for timely payment.

Education Equity Summer Institute

Governor – The introduced budget provides \$135,000 in both years of the 2020-2022 biennium to support the statewide annual education equity conference. This two-day conference focuses on the public policies that influence and prepare Virginia educators to advance equitable outcomes for all students. The aim of the conference is to connect practitioners and proven strategies to decrease disproportionately in student outcomes, close achievement gaps, and ensure that all Virginia schools are welcoming learning environments for every Virginia student.

Virginia Preschool Initiative Classroom Observations

Governor - The introduced budget provides an additional \$350,000 in both years of the 2020-2022 biennium to ensure that all VPI and public school-based preschool classroom programs have the quality of teacher-child interactions observed through a rigorous and research-based classroom observation instrument at least once every two years.

Professional Development for Virginia Preschool Initiative Teachers

Governor - The introduced budget provides an additional \$300,000 in both years of the 2020-2022 biennium to ensure that professional development is provided to all VPI classroom

programs and public school-based preschool teachers to support quality teacher-child interactions and effective research-based curriculum implementation.

Consolidate Oversight and Administration of Early Childhood Care and Education Programs

Governor - The introduced budget transfers, in response to Executive Directive Four, include the federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) grant from the Department of Social Services (DSS) to VDOE to support the consolidation for early childhood care and education programs. This transfer also requires DSS and VDOE to develop a plan to transfer the CCDF grant from DSS to VDOE no later than July 1, 2021. The plan must be submitted to the Governor and Chairman of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance no later than August 15, 2020.

Modify Criteria to Earn a Verified Credit in History and Social Science

Governor - Language in the current Chapter 854 budget for 2018-2020 requires students to earn one verified credit in high school history and social science only by (i) the successful completion of a Board developed end-of-course Standards of Learning assessment; (ii) achievement of a passing score on a Board-approved standardized test administered on a statewide, multistate, or international basis that measures content that incorporates or exceeds the Standards of Learning content in the course for which the verified credit is given; or (iii) achievement of criteria for the receipt of a locally awarded verified credit from the local school board in accordance with criteria established in Board guidelines when the student has not passed a corresponding Standards of Learning assessment. Chapter 854 further specifies that "such end-of-course Standards of Learning assessment shall not be a performance-based assessment." The introduced budget eliminates the quoted language in the aforementioned sentence and permits students to also earn a verified credit in history and social science by "demonstrating mastery of the content of the associated course on a Board-developed authentic performance assessment in accordance with Board guidelines establishing rubrics and criteria for division scoring."