



Navigating the Changing Landscape of the Children's Services Act

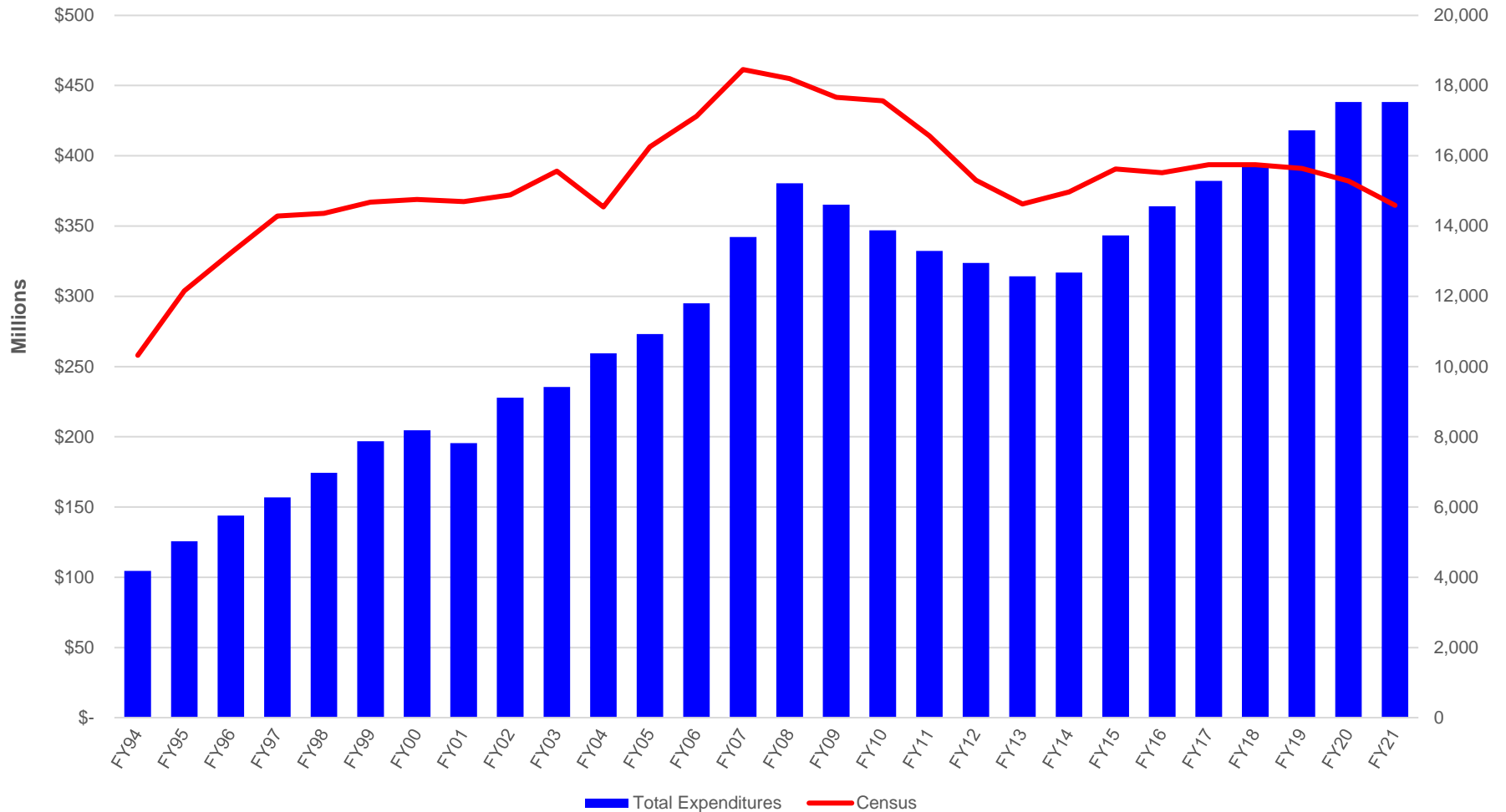
2021 VACo Annual Conference

November 15, 2021

Presenters:

- Scott Reiner, Executive Director
Office of Children's Services
- Honorable T. Montgomery "Monty" Mason
Senate of Virginia, District 1
- Honorable Meg Bohmke
Board of Supervisors, Stafford County
President-Elect, VACo

CSA Expenditures and Utilization, 1994 - 2021



Report to the Governor and the General Assembly of Virginia

Review of the Children's Services Act and Private Special Education Day School Costs

2020



SB1313 / HB2117

- Changed to CSA eligibility to allow for funding of (limited) transitional services for students returning to public schools
- Directed several accountabilities/restrictions on funding for private special education, including standardization of a standard rate reporting template
- Established a workgroup to make recommendations, including for the transfer of private special education funding to DOE (two-year study)



CSA Funding Work Group

Preliminary Report

November 2021



**A state supervised,
locally administered program**

§ 2.2-2649. Office of Children's Services established; powers and duties

19. Provide for the effective implementation of the Children's Services Act (§ 2.2-5200 et seq.) in all localities by (i) regularly monitoring local performance measures and child and family outcomes; (ii) using audit, performance, and outcomes data to identify local programs that need technical assistance; and (iii) working with local programs that are consistently underperforming to develop a corrective action plan for submission to the Office and the Council.

Item 293.

E. The Office of Children's Services shall develop a plan to modify its staffing and operations to ensure effective local implementation of the Children's Services Act. The plan shall include any new or different staff positions required, how those positions will be used to monitor and improve effectiveness, and the estimated cost of implementing these changes.

SEC Strategic Plan: Key Points

- More effective services by cross-partner/cross-system leadership and alignment to support evidence-based programs to:
 - Prevent entry into foster care (FFPSA)
 - Enhance behavioral health services (Project BRAVO)
 - Reduce recidivism (JJ Transformation)
 - Provide school-based supports (VTSS)
- Creation of the Center for Evidence-Based Partnerships in Virginia

SEC Strategic Plan: Key Points

- Supporting local implementation of the CSA and the system of care
 - Core Competencies for CSA Coordinators, CPMTs, and FAPTs
 - Published September 2021
 - Building an enhanced training infrastructure around this document
 - Guide for Youth and Families to the CSA
- Policy Development with a Focus on Alignment, Equity, and being Trauma-Informed

Intersection of the CSA and the FFPSA

- (Foster Care) Prevention Services
 - Three evidence based services fundable through title IV-E
 - No local match required
 - More services to be added in the near future
- Changes for Children in Foster Care
 - Use Qualified Residential Treatment Programs
 - Shift of funding from title IV-E to CSA for group homes
 - Title IV-E “penetration rates” are dropping
 - Many group homes are becoming QRTPs
 - Shift of funding from title IV-E to Medicaid for PRTFs
 - Required by Medicaid



**SENATE
OF VIRGINIA**



Stafford County Public Day School Program

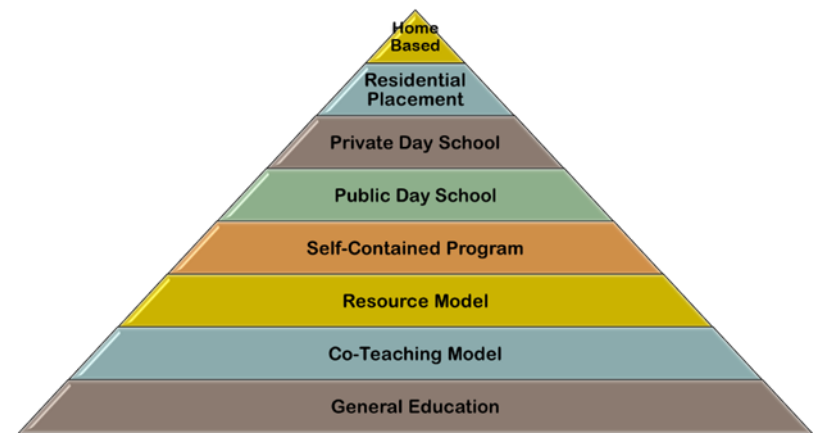
Historical Glance

- **2008**: The State encouraged localities to focus more on community based services throughout the Commonwealth.
- **2008-2009**: Stafford County developed a partnership with Stafford County Public Schools and developed the day school model program.
- **Sept. 2009**: The day school opened with two locations and a total of 15 students.
- **FY 2010**: Initial year costs savings total \$200,000.
- **2011**: Stafford County began advocating for state funding incentives to support the public day school model while continuing to utilize local funds to expand the program to serve additional students within our community.

About the Stafford Model

- Established by a partnership MOA between Stafford County and Stafford County Public Schools (SCPS).
- Provides an additional, local resource within the available continuum for Stafford students who require day placements.
- Model utilized parallels a private day opportunity but is provided by SCPS through a collaborative partnership.
- **Does not** take the place of private day opportunities; this is an addition to the available options on the continuum.
- Stafford BOS is committed to continued investment in the public day school program and has continued to fulfill requests for program funding and staff support. The County is also committed to expanding the program.

Local School Division Continuum



Why Public Day?

Mission: To create high-quality, family centered, community based, and cost-effective educational programs and services for children with significant disabilities

- **Enhances Local Resources for Students:** Creates a resource within local school divisions for students with mental health needs; setting them up for success.
- **Changing Student Population:** The needs and numbers of students whose behaviors are more complex have increased. Several students require more structured settings with additional supports.
- **More Personalized Instruction:** Staff to student ratio is lower than in self-contained special education settings, and related services support is typically greater.
- **Enhances Collaboration & Shared Services:** Model allows for greater involvement of agencies staff and families and provides an opportunity for shared service between local governments and local school divisions.

Why Public Day?

- **Cost Savings:** Stafford’s Public Day School model lowers costs associated with placing youth in alternative educational settings while meeting the needs in a more collaborative community-oriented approach. Example:

Public Day Program (SCPS)	Current Capacity	Average Annual Per Student Cost Public	Average Annual Per Student Cost Private	Average Annual Cost Public	Average Annual Cost Private	Potential State Revenue Public	State Revenue Private	Potential Annual State Cost Savings
Empfield	24	\$40,530	\$90,000	\$972,720	\$2,160,000	\$540,930	\$1,201,176	\$660,246
Stafford High	18	\$37,922	\$60,000	\$682,596	\$1,080,000	\$379,592	\$600,588	\$220,996
Melchers	10	\$11,898	\$70,000	\$118,980	\$700,000	\$66,165	\$389,270	\$323,105
Total Current Capacity	52						Total Cost Savings	\$1,204,348

Funding Structure

- Provided solely by local resources.
- CSA funds are not accessible until a student is placed outside of a community into a private day school placement.
- Stafford has documented a cost savings of over 40% per participant versus private placements outside of the county
- Stafford has long worked with VACO, Legislators, and others on efforts to allow CSA dollars to be used in the public school setting.
- Welcome the opportunity for further collaboration.

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Questions?
