

Commission on School Construction and Modernization

<http://dls.virginia.gov/commissions/scm.htm>

Thursday December 1, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

Senate Committee Room A

Pocahontas Building

900 E. Main St., Richmond, VA 23219

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION:

Recommendation 1 (consistent with BOE appropriation act language recommendation for School Construction Assistance Program): Either (a) use multiple years of composite index and fiscal stress data for determining the 10%, 20%, or 30% grant award amounts to recognize changing local economic conditions or fluctuating data values from a single year, or (b) use the most favorable of the latest or multi-year data. Currently, only the latest composite index and fiscal stress data are used in determining the grant amounts to divisions.

Recommendation 2 (consistent with BOE appropriation act language recommendation for School Construction Assistance Program): Make school projects where construction began July 1, 2022, or after eligible for application, consistent with Board of Education intent for its final guidelines.

Recommendation 3 (consistent with BOE appropriation act language recommendation for School Construction Assistance Program): Make the principal portion of future debt service payments not yet begun on school projects where construction is pending or just begun an allowable cost with grant funding.

Recommendation 4: Authorize up to a 1% new local sales tax for all counties and cities with revenues solely used for school construction and renovation projects. Note: Recommendation #3 from the 2021 Commission Interim Report [SB 472 (McClellan, 2022); HB 1099 (LaRock, 2022)].

Recommendation 5: Include additional funding of \$2.5 billion in the appropriation act for the School Construction Grant and Assistance Program (\$500 million for entitlement/ direct in School Construction Grant Program; \$2 billion for competitive grants in School Construction Assistance Program).

Recommendation 6 (adopted in concept): Require a minimum local effort for capital maintenance programs and require school boards to include in any capital improvement plans a minimum 1.5% capital asset replacement value commitment target to avoid major replacement costs in the future.

Recommendation 7: A Section 1 bill to direct the Board of Education to make recommendations to the General Assembly for revisions to the Standards of Quality to establish standards for operations, maintenance, and new construction of public school buildings. Note: Recommendation #4 from the 2021 Commission Interim Report [SB 603 (Stanley, 2022); HB 1100 (LaRock, 2022)].

Commission Members

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Senator William M. Stanley Jr.
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