

VACo Education Steering Committee

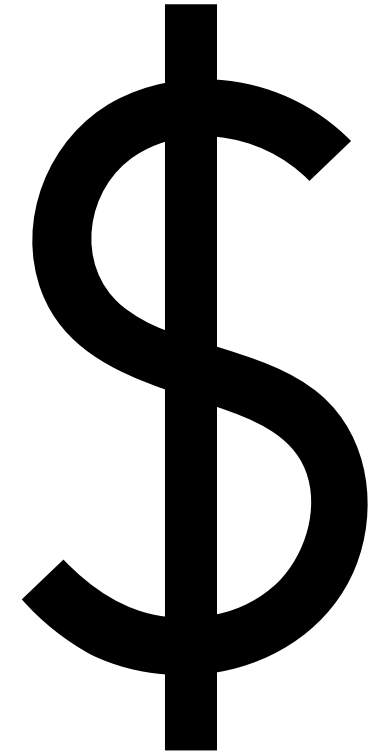
August 14, 2025

2025 General Assembly Session Review of Relevant Issues



Key Provisions of the Amended 2024-2026 Biennial Budget

- **K-12 Education: Support Cap:**
 - Functionally eliminates the cap on recognition of support positions by providing \$222.9 million in FY 2026 to fund positions at a ratio that corresponds with prevailing local practice. This action has been long sought by VACo and its advocacy partners and addresses VACo's top budget priority for this session.
- **K-12 Education: Special Education:**
 - Provides \$52.8 million in FY 2026 as an add-on to basic aid for students receiving special education.
- **K-12 Education: School Capital:**
 - Provides an additional \$150 million over the biennium from expected casino revenues, and deposits an additional \$50 million in FY 2025 from the Literary Fund into the School Construction Fund, for a total of \$360 million for School Construction Assistance Grants over the biennium (when added to amounts in the 2024 Appropriation Act). Replaces an additional \$25 million from the General Fund with Literary Fund revenues for teacher retirement costs.
- **K-12 Education: School-Based Mental Health:**
 - Revises language regarding the existing \$15 million per year provided for school-based health clinics to allow funds to be used for school districts to contract with a telehealth provider and add mobile clinics as an allowable use of funds.
- **K-12: Additional Items:**
 - Includes \$11 million in FY 2025 and \$1 million in FY 2026 for improvements to mathematics instruction.
 - Includes a series of technical amendments that capture updates in average daily membership, categorical and incentive program costs, English language learner data, Lottery proceeds, participation in certain programs, and sales tax distribution. Also captures technical updates to the early reading intervention program and the school breakfast program, and recognizes an additional \$24 million in Lottery proceeds in FY 2026 (freeing up a like amount of General Funds).



Key Provisions of the Amended 2024-2026 Biennial Budget (cont).

- **Compensation: Instructional Positions:**

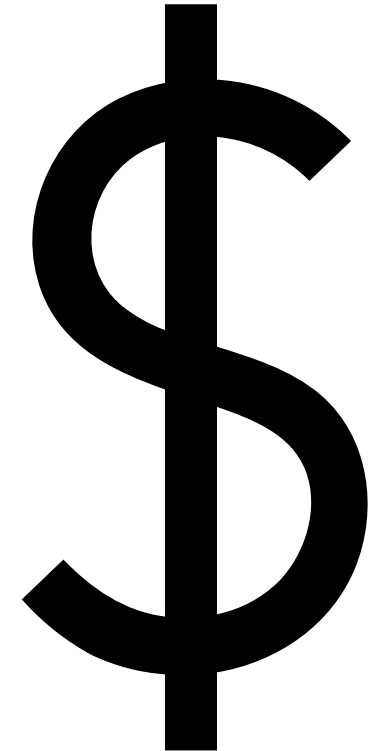
- Retains the 3 percent salary increase in each year of the biennium included in the 2024 Appropriation Act. In addition, provides \$134.4 million in FY 2025 for a one-time bonus payment of \$1,000, to be provided no later than June 1, 2025, for funded SOQ instructional positions (defined to include all teacher, guidance counselor, librarian, instructional aide, principal, and assistant principal positions). No local match is required, and school divisions have the discretion to determine the amount of bonus per employee to maximize the use of these funds to promote retention among instructional and support positions.

- **Child Care/Early Childhood:**

- Maintains the existing 0.5000 cap on the Local Composite Index for the Virginia Preschool Initiative.
- Directs the Department of Education to revise attendance requirements for the Child Care Subsidy Program, the Mixed Delivery Grant Program, and the Virginia Preschool Initiative, subject to review by the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.
- Sets a maximum copayment for FY 2026 Child Care Subsidy and Mixed Delivery slots of 5 percent of household income. Establishes a limit of 90 days for job search as an eligibility category for FY 2026, with one extension for extraordinary circumstances.
- Requires the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission to review adjustments to Child Care Subsidy Program reimbursement rates for school age children and the appropriateness of continuing to provide services through the Program to school age children, to include an update on the current structure of publicly-funded out-of-school time learning and extracurricular programs and approaches to maximize state and federal resources by adjusting income eligibility requirements to reflect regional cost of living variations.

- **Aid to Local Public Libraries:**

- Provides \$632,142 in FY 2026 in additional state aid to local libraries.



2025 Enacted Legislation Related to VACo Education Platform/ Proposed Revisions

- **HB 1626 / SB 822 Public elementary & secondary school teachers; certain training activities, requirements, etc.**
 - Prohibits any public elementary or secondary school teacher from being required to participate in any non-academic training activity, as that term is defined in the bill, more frequently than once within six months of employment with the applicable school board and once every five years thereafter, except in the case of certain training relating to secure mandatory test violations upon determination by the school board or division superintendent that additional training is necessary. The bill also provides that the total frequency and duration of non-academic training activities in which each such teacher is required to participate pursuant to state law or regulation or policy or regulation of the applicable school board shall not exceed 25 hours every five years.
- **HB 1674 Professional education programs; exemption for programs leading to certain endorsements.**
 - Directs the Board of Education to amend its regulations relating to accreditation requirements for professional education programs in the Commonwealth to require the Department of Education to provide an alternative to the requirement to obtain and maintain national accreditation from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation for any professional education program that leads to an endorsement as a school counselor or a school psychologist and has a secured specialty area accreditation from a specialized accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.



2025 Enacted Legislation Related to VACo Education Platform/ Proposed Revisions

- **HB 1936 Teacher training; Department of Education to establish and maintain an index of each training, etc.**
 - Requires the Department of Education (the Department) to establish and maintain an index of each training in which any public elementary and secondary school teacher in the Commonwealth is required to participate pursuant to state or federal law or regulation, including training required as a condition of licensure by the Department, among other provisions.
- **HB 1947 / SB 768 Department of Education; survey of local education agencies on school-based mental and behavioral health services; report.**
 - Requires the Department of Education (the Department) to survey each local education agency (LEA) in the Commonwealth to determine (i) how public schools governed by such LEA currently grant access to local departments of social services and community services boards and other community-based providers of mental and behavioral health services and (ii) what school-based mental and behavioral health services are made available by such LEA, among other provisions.



2025 Enacted Legislation Related to VACo Education Platform/ Proposed Revisions

- **HB 1957 SOL assessments & related student assessment methods; assessment development, etc., reform.**
 - Modifies provisions relating to assessment methods for determining the level of achievement of the Standards of Learning objectives by all students, including (i) requirements relating to assessment administration aimed at maximizing instructional time and optimizing time used for assessment administration; (ii) criteria and guidelines for the structure and content of Standards of Learning assessments and alternative assessments developed by local school boards, including criteria for the types of assessment items that shall be included; (iii) provisions relating to eligibility and timelines for students to retake assessments; and (iv) the scoring of Standards of Learning assessments and related assessments, including a requirement that all such assessments be scored on a 100-point scale, among other provisions.
- **HB 1983 / SB 968 Board of Education; support services personnel; annual collection of certain staffing data required; report.**
 - Requires (i) each school board to, beginning with the 20252026 school year, annually collect and submit to the Department of Education a report on data on the average salaries of support services personnel, as that term is defined in the bill, employed by the school board and (ii) the Department to, beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, annually compile such data, include it in the Annual School Report, and publicly post it on the Department's website, among other provisions.



2025 Enacted Legislation Related to VACo Education Platform/ Proposed Revisions

- **HB 1993 Public school buses; display of advertising, hiring of school bus drivers.**
 - Permits any local school board, notwithstanding any regulation to the contrary, to display decals, posters, and stickers on the sides and rear of school buses advertising the hiring of school bus drivers in the local school division, provided that the local school board is responsible for the cost of such decals, posters, and stickers and that no such decal, poster, or sticker obstructs the name of the school division or the number of the school bus.
- **HB 2018 / SB 879 Teachers; career and technical education, alternative pathway to provisional licensure.**
 - Requires the Board of Education (the Board) to issue a provisional license to any person seeking an initial license in the Commonwealth with an endorsement in the area of career and technical education who has a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate and an industry-recognized credential, certification, or license in the area in which such person seeks an endorsement but has not completed all requirements specified in the Board's regulations for licensure to allow time for such person to complete, in lieu of the outstanding requirements specified in the Board's regulations for licensure, coursework in three areas specified in the bill, among other provisions.



2025 Enacted Legislation Related to VACo Education Platform/ Proposed Revisions

- **HB 2051 Division superintendents, etc.; annual meetings on school grounds with local law enforcement.**
 - Permits each division superintendent or his designee and the school safety audit committee established by the division superintendent to meet annually on the grounds of any public school in the local school division with the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality or a designee from the local law-enforcement agency to discuss the annual school safety audit completed for such school.
- **HB 2103 Regulations Governing Allowable Credit for Teaching Experience; etc.**
 - Requires the Board of Education to amend its Regulations Governing Allowable Credit for Teaching Experience for the purpose of salary placement credit to provide that teachers in the field of career and technical education, where the licensure requirement calls for occupational work experience beyond the apprenticeship level, may be allowed credit for one year of teaching experience for each one or two years of work experience. The bill contains a reenactment clause.



2025 Enacted Legislation Related to VACo Education Platform/ Proposed Revisions

- **HB 2201 / SB 1230 Public schools; temporarily employed teachers, rules and requirements, extension of time limitation.**
 - Extends from 90 to 180 teaching days the maximum period of time during one school year for which a school board may employ a temporarily employed teacher, as defined in relevant law, to fill a teacher vacancy, with certain conditions and restrictions. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2027, among other provisions.
- **HB 2265 Teachers; certain individuals to be licensed with an endorsement in special ed. early childhood.**
 - Provides that any individual who has been employed in the Commonwealth as a preschool special education teacher licensed with an endorsement in special education - general curriculum K-12 for at least 15 school years shall be deemed licensed as a teacher with an endorsement in special education early childhood (birth–age five years) upon the recommendation of the division superintendent in the local school division in which such individual is employed to the Department of Education that such teacher is well-qualified to continue to teach preschool special education in such school division. The bill contains an emergency clause.



2025 Enacted Legislation Related to VACo Education Platform/ Proposed Revisions

- **HB 2606 Special education due process hearings; dismissal of certain vexatious and repetitive complaints.**
 - Permits (i) a special education due process hearing officer, upon determination that a due process hearing complaint filed pursuant to applicable law contains substantively the same issues as a previously adjudicated due process hearing complaint and evidences a clear pattern of initiating vexatious and repetitive litigation, to dismiss the complaint and (ii) any party aggrieved by such a dismissal to bring a civil action pursuant to applicable law, among other provisions.
- **HB 2618 / SB 1413 Public school buildings; indoor air quality, inspection and evaluation.**
 - Establishes several enumerated requirements for local school divisions to ensure indoor air quality in each public school building in the local school division, including providing for an inspection and evaluation program at least once every two years and an industry-recognized uniform inspection and evaluation at least once every four years.
- **HB 2720 Local school divisions, certain; flexibility relating to student transportation, sunset.**
 - Permits certain school boards to pursue certain student transportation alternatives for the next two school years and requires such school boards to report certain data on the implementation of such initiatives, among other provisions.



Failed Legislation Relevant to the Platform

- **SB 1307 Sales and use tax, local; additional tax authorized in all counties and cities to support schools. (Chief Patron: McPike)**
 - Would have authorized all counties and cities to impose an additional local sales and use tax at a rate not to exceed one percent with the revenue used only for public school capital projects, defined in the bill, if such levy is approved in a voter referendum. The bill removed the requirement that such a tax must have an expiration date on either (i) the date of the repayment of any bonds or loans used for such capital projects or (ii) a date chosen by the governing body. Under current law, only Charlotte, Gloucester, Halifax, Henry, Mecklenburg, Northampton, Patrick, and Pittsylvania Counties and the City of Danville are authorized to impose such a tax. (Vetoed) (VACo priority legislation)



Failed Legislation Relevant to the Platform

- **HB 1831 / SB 1236 Public schools; Standards of Quality; certain calculations; support services. (Chief Patron: Simonds and Aird)**
 - Would have effectively ended the support cap in Code and required the Department of Education, (i) in calculating the deduction of federal funds in the Standards of Quality funding formula, to examine actual school division spending on support costs as a percentage of actual school division spending on all public education costs, with certain exceptions such as food service, and (ii) in calculating the costs in the Standards of Quality funding formula beginning with fiscal year 2029, to include all employee benefit costs incurred by a majority of school divisions, including costs related to retirement, health care, life insurance, and payout of earned but unused leave. The bill also required support services positions to be funded based on a calculation of prevailing costs and prohibited such positions from being subject to any method of funding calculation that caps the number of funded support services positions based on a ratio of such positions to students enrolled in the school division, except for certain support services positions enumerated in the bills. These bills were left in Senate Finance and Appropriations, but the provisions of the bills and related funding are included in the General Assembly's budget. Would have required each school board to adopt a policy that requires the school board to approve unpaid educational leave for school board employees who are state employee association officers and for at least two school board employees who are local employee association officers for a maximum of four years per officer, among other provisions. **(Vetoed)**
(Vaco Supported)



Failed Legislation Relevant to the Platform

- **HB 1954 / SB 977 (Chief patrons: Rasoul and Hashmi)**
 - Would have also effectively ended the support cap and codified additional recommendations related to the cost of K-12 salaries, additional funding for special education, at-risk students, and English learners, among other provisions. These bills were left in Senate Finance and Appropriations, but the provisions of the bills and related funding are included in the General Assembly's budget. (VACo Supported)
- **SB 1017 School boards; powers and duties, school meal policies, payment of school meal debt. (Chief Patron: Roem)**
 - Would have required that each school board, at the end of each school year, to pay for the total unpaid school meal balance, resulting from uncollectable school meal debts on any student account, on the nonprofit school food service account for each public elementary or secondary school in the school division using any appropriated nonfederal funds, except that each school board is prohibited from requiring any public elementary or secondary school in the school division from paying for or providing any funds to pay for such school's unpaid school meal balance, among other provisions. (Vetoed)



Failed Legislation Relevant to the Platform

- **HB 1830 School board policies; unpaid educational leave for certain employee association officers. (Chief Patron: Simonds)**
 - Would have required each school board to adopt a policy that requires the school board to approve unpaid educational leave for school board employees who are state employee association officers and for at least two school board employees who are local employee association officers for a maximum of four years per officer, among other provisions. (Vetoed)



Questions?

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