

K-12 Basics & Background in Virginia

From: LWV-VA SCTF

Re: Background for analysis and recommendations for a revised Position on Public Education

I. Rationale for League study and recommendations presented at June 2017 Convention

(See Resolution presented to LWV-VA Board at 2017 Convention.)

LWV-VA Current Position on Education (2003) does not address specific school choice options.

Current LWV-VA Statement in Positions regarding selecting a program or school:

“Support opportunities to select a specific program or school. These opportunities should be based on a system of equity so that all qualified students have equal access.”

II. Virginia Constitution

Article VIII: Education. Sections 1 - 11

Article VIII, Section 2: SOQ; State and local support of public schools

Role of General Assembly; apportionment of the cost between the Commonwealth and local units of government.

Article VIII, Section 3: Compulsory education; free textbooks

Article VIII, Section 5: Powers and duties of VBOE; Reports from VBOE to Gov. and GA

Article VIII, Section 8: The Literary Fund

“...permanent and perpetual school fund; held and administered by VBOE.

Article VIII, Section 10: State appropriations prohibited to schools or institutions of learning not owned or exclusively controlled by the State or some subdivision thereof:...”

Article X, Section 7-A: Lottery Proceeds Fund; distribution for public education

III. Funding for Virginia Public Schools (K-12)

A. **Biennium Budget** from General Assembly and agreed to by the Governor

Direct Public Aid to Education

Based on...

1. Revenue projections

a. Taxes

b. Lottery Proceeds Funds (Article X, Section 7-A)

“...net revenues of any lottery conducted by the Commonwealth.

Lottery proceeds shall be appropriated from the Fund...expended for public education.”

c. Literary Fund (Article VIII, Section 8) Qualified uses, e.g. construction:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/facility_construction/literary_fund_loans/qualifying_uses.pdf

2. Student population projections

3. Virginia Requirement of Balanced Budget

B. **Standards of Quality, Funding source, Amount per pupil**

Formula to determine state share of per pupil funds distributed to local district;

“local ability to pay”: Local Composite Index

C. **Local responsibility**/share to fund public schools

D. **At-Risk Add-On funds**

<http://www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org/2016/06/01/weighing-support-for-virginias-students/>

Additional state funding based on number of students eligible for free & reduced price lunch

1 to 13 percent added to SOQ per pupil amount; possibly raise to 14 or 18%.

Increase would be \$7.1 million in 2018-2020 budget.

[\(VBOE MOU with Richmond City Schools re needed corrective action.\)](#)

At-Risk Add-On funds may be denied if school’s corrective actions not taken.

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter131/section400/>

E. Pre-Kindergarten Funding

Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI); requires local match

State about \$6,125 per pupil; local match at about composite index of 0.500

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/early_childhood/preschool_initiative/guidelines.pdf

IV. Public Schools Defined:

A. Virginia Code.

B. Virginia Department of Education

C. Charter Schools

Authorization, Regulations, Standards, Administration, Reporting

V. Virginia School Administration

A. Secretary of Education

B. Board of Education

C. Department of Education

Curriculum, Assessment, Supervise, Manage

D. General Assembly “oversight” (e.g. Senate Finance Committee)

E. Commissions, JLARC studies & reports

F. Accreditation of public (including Charter schools) and private schools

1. VCPE (Virginia Council for Private Education)

2. Virtual: online learning programs (private and public)

VI. School Choice Options: Administration and Funding

A. Charter Schools= Public School: funded by SOQ and local jurisdiction funds

B. Private Schools

1. Tuition paid by family or via scholarship funds at schools.

2. EISTC (Tuition Tax Credits) Donations to Scholarship Foundations

Foundations approved by DOE; Schools approved by VCPE.

3. “Vouchers” aka Educational Savings Accounts”: not currently allowed in Virginia

C. Online Learning programs (Virtual Schools)

1. Virtual Virginia (public programs)

Multidivision Online Providers (MOP) approved by DOE,

2. Virtual Virginia Academy (VAVA) Private companies

MOP: approved by DOE

VII. Support for additional Funding for public schools

A. Poll (VCU): Public says that the Virginia government does not give K-12 schools enough money

52% would welcome higher taxes for increased public education funding

(64% Democrats, 38% Republicans)

B. Poll (VCU) indicates that less than half would be willing to pay increased taxes for **higher** ed.

C. Lawmakers band together to boost aid for school districts with most at-risk students.

2018 Legislation: Budget amendments by [Del. Aird and Del. O’Quinn](#)

http://www.roanoke.com/news/politics/general_assembly/lawmakers-propose-funding-boost-for-school-districts-with-most-at-risk/article_92e200f5-31ac-5fcd-9174-ee716844530.html

