



Chesapeake Public Schools 2017 Legislative Agenda

*A quick guide to highlight the priorities for
K-12 education for the children in Chesapeake and Virginia*



“Every Child... A Masterpiece”

*Chesapeake Public Schools
312 Cedar Road • Chesapeake, VA 23322*

Revised 1/3/17

Overview

Loss of state revenue over the past seven years, due to both changes in the Local Composite Index (LCI) and overall reductions in state funds due to what was touted to be temporary funding formula changes, has had a detrimental impact on employees, students, and the community. Divisions have had to make difficult budget decisions about student course offerings, student services, staff, and non-personnel costs such as textbook adoptions, equipment, and vehicle replacements. The past years have resulted in a loss of training opportunities for staff at a time when accountability for student performance has never been higher. Increases in funding levels are necessary in order to provide adequate staff, adequate facilities, and adequate course offerings to restore the services and staffing to pre-2008 levels. These funding losses correlate to fewer opportunities for students and greater difficulty in providing the necessary tools and staffing to prepare students for academic and post-academic success.

We thank the General Assembly for an increase in funding during the 2016 session and hope the trend continues towards full restoration; however, in order for K-12 education funding to recover, the formula changes and cuts must be restored.

In light of these comments, Chesapeake Public Schools – the administration and School Board – present the following as our legislative priorities for the 2017 General Assembly Session. We look forward to working closely with our Chesapeake General Assembly Delegation and other members of the General Assembly to continue the restoration of funding to K-12 education across the Commonwealth of Virginia. This economic growth for our public schools will enable our current students and future generations, as well as the teachers and staff who support and educate them, to thrive in successful communities.

CHESAPEAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Focus for 2017

Request the Gradual Restoration of the Prevailing Cost Methodology for the Funding of Support Positions that was used prior to FY 2009-2010. This would replace the “Cap” on Support Positions used since FY 2009-2010.

Prior to FY 2009-2010, K-12 school divisions in Virginia were funded for support positions using a formula that was based on prevailing rates (calculated by looking at the number of support positions and the salary for each in all school divisions). This was a more accurate representation of current educational practice in Virginia school divisions.

The Virginia Board of Education published proposed recommendations to the Standards of Quality at their meeting on September 22, 2016. They noted that throughout the public hearings, the need for additional fiscal resources was a predominant theme. Many individuals and organizations, including the Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia Municipal League, have noted that education funding in Virginia after the recession has not returned to 2008 levels. As a result, their recommendation states, “Because support services positions are essential to the effective operation of schools, and provide vital support to instructional staff, the General Assembly should return to its prior practice of funding support services to school divisions based upon actual school division practices.”

The funding for support positions resulted in a loss for Chesapeake of \$9 million per year.

Other recommendations from the State Board also called for increased staffing ratios for principals, assistant principals, and guidance counselors.

Support

Continue to Provide Lottery Funds to be Used for School Construction and Operating Expenses as Proposed in the 2017-2018 Approved Budget.

The Virginia Lottery has been in operation since the late 1980s; however, lottery proceeds were not used strictly for K-12 education until 1999. Until 2000, lottery proceeds were transferred to the state's general fund and their use was determined by the General Assembly. Beginning in 2001, an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia stated that lottery funds were to be used solely for educational purposes. The following bullets provide a history of lottery funds distribution.

- From 1999 to 2004, an increasing portion of lottery proceeds (History of Lottery) was used for Basic Education funding in the place of State General Fund Revenues while the portion paid directly to school divisions for use as either capital or operating support remained fairly level at 40% of the proceeds. Fifty percent of these direct payments were required to be used for capital expenditures.
- In FY 04/05, lottery proceeds began to also be used for incentive and categorical funding for K-12.
- Beginning in FY 08/09:
 - All lottery funds were provided as support for K-12 Education at the state level.
 - Direct payments to school divisions were eliminated.
 - All lottery funds were channeled into operating support for the state's portion of K-12 funding.

In 2016-2017

- A portion of Lottery Funds was restored to K-12 support.
- In 2017-2018, 40% of Lottery Funds is scheduled to be provided as was the case in years prior to 2008-2009.

Oppose

Any Legislation that Would Result in an Unfunded Mandate.

We support the local autonomy of school districts and oppose any new legislation that would result in an unfunded mandate. We encourage review of current legislation and ask for full funding of existing unfunded mandates or removal of the identified legislation. We call on the legislature, the Governor, and the state's administrative agencies to refrain from imposing any further unfunded mandates and requirements on school divisions.

Aligning Pay Increases for Public School Employees and State Employees with Revenue Projections.

Recently, the Governor announced a \$1.5 billion shortfall in the state revenue forecast for fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018. As required by law, if the revenue collections are more than one percent below the forecast, the state must revise the official estimate of its revenue projections. Per the language of the Appropriations Act, raises for state employees and public school teachers and support positions could not go into effect. The practice of aligning pay increases for these employee groups to revenue projections negatively affects the efforts of state departments and public schools to hire and retain high quality employees. Announcing a pay increase and then changing it is very deflating to the morale of current employees.



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Chesapeake Public Schools

QUICK FACTS

March 2016

Student Enrollment (October 1)

		Increase/Decrease	% of Increase/Decrease
2015-2016	38,935	257	0.66%
2014-2015	38,678	-7	-.02%
2013-2014	38,685	94	.24%
2012-2013	38,591	171	.45%
2011-2012	38,420	-248	-.64%

Projected Enrollment

2016-2017
39,085

Number of School Buildings - 56 (2015-2016)

Elementary	28
Middle	10
Senior High	7
Special Centers	2
Support/Annex	9

Transportation Vehicles (2015-2016)

Buses	536
Service/Utility	184

Current Number of Teaching Positions (2015-2016)

2,800 (2,617 Operating Budget; 183 Categorical)

A Teacher's Salary with a Bachelor's Degree (2015-2016)

Current Beginning - \$41,560
Current Top - \$63,141

Salary Supplements - Academic (2015-2016)

Master's Degree = \$3,200

C.A.S. = \$1,600

Ed.D./Ph.D. = \$3,200

Average Teacher Salary

	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15
Chesapeake	\$54,548	\$53,043	\$54,830	\$56,483	\$56,156
State	\$51,524	\$52,096	\$52,923	\$53,818	\$54,486

Information from the Department of Education's Salary Report

Per Pupil Cost (in ADM)

	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14
Chesapeake	\$10,459	\$10,490	\$10,680	\$10,474	\$10,892
State	\$11,020	\$10,793	\$10,969	\$11,257	\$11,242

Basic Aid

	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Chesapeake	\$5,115	\$5,304	\$5,308	\$5,478	\$5,476

Revenue Sources as % of Budget

	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
State*	52.8%	52.7%	52.6%	52.9%	52.8%
Local	46.4%	46.4%	46.5%	46.2%	46.4%
Federal	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%

** Includes State Retail Sales & Use Tax*

Goals

- Optimize School Safety
- Ensure Rigorous Educational Standards
- Evaluate Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Optimize the Management of Human Resources and Ensure Effective Staff Development
- Optimize the Use of Technology
- Enhance Parental and Community Involvement
- Provide Optimal School Facilities



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