

2023 K-12 Legislative Issues to Watch For

Government Relations Department
Chad Stewart, Policy Analyst



Union of 40,000 Teachers, Retirees and Support Professionals



VEA

Fund Our Schools Coalition

LEGAL AID
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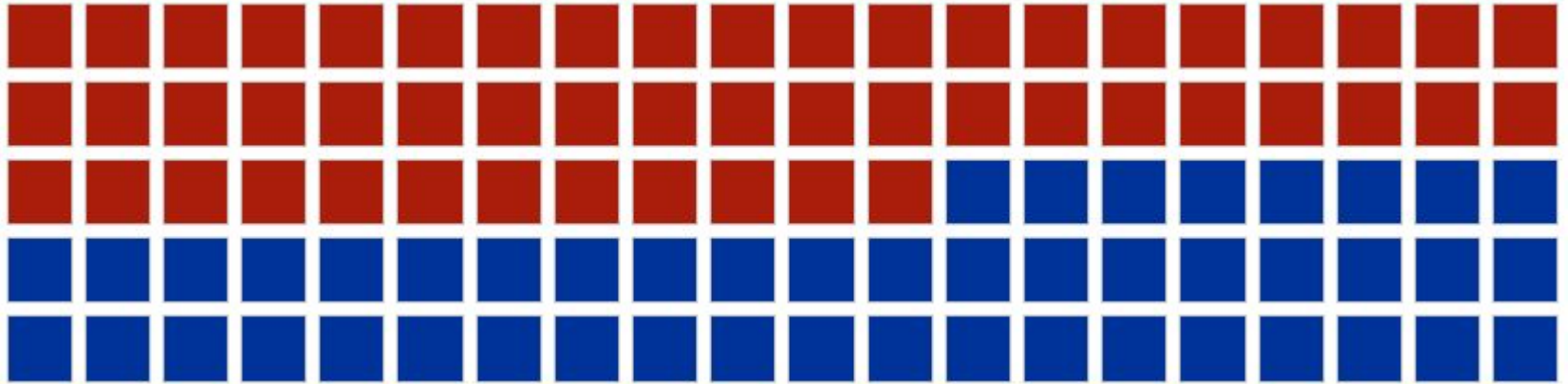
Agenda



- **Recent K-12 Funding Budget**
- **Where VA K-12 Funding Stands**
- **Staffing Shortages**
- **SOQs and Support Cap**
- **High-Need Schools/Students**
- **Efforts to Divert Public Funding**

Composition of State House?

52 Republicans



48 Democrats

Composition of State Senate?

19 Republicans



21 Democrats

Budget Showdown



House

- Major tax cuts = less K-12 \$\$
- \$150m for Lab Schools

Senate

- Targeted tax cuts = more K-12 \$\$
- More \$\$ for pay, high-poverty, infrastructure, support staff



Compromise Deal

- **More targeted tax cuts**
- **Some \$\$ for high-poverty**
- **More infrastructure \$\$**
- **Full pay raise + support staff \$\$**
- **\$100m for lab schools**
- **No English Learner \$\$**

Where Virginia K-12 Funding Stands





Pop Quiz

1. Out of all 50 states, where does Virginia rank for state per student funding (highest = 1st, lowest = 50th)?

a) 10th

b) 40th

c) 26th

High Capacity, Low Effort

Per Pupil State Expenditures

2020-2021 School Year

38	Montana	\$5,912
39	Louisiana	\$5,722
40	Virginia	\$5,668
41	Mississippi	\$5,404
42	Missouri	\$5,327
43	Oklahoma	\$5,217
44	Tennessee	\$5,165
45	Utah	\$5,153
46	Nebraska	\$4,897
47	Arizona	\$4,760
48	Texas	\$4,562
49	Florida	\$4,378
50	South Dakota	\$4,166

BOTTOM
25%

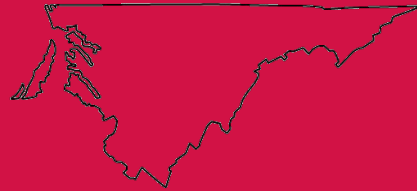


Pop Quiz

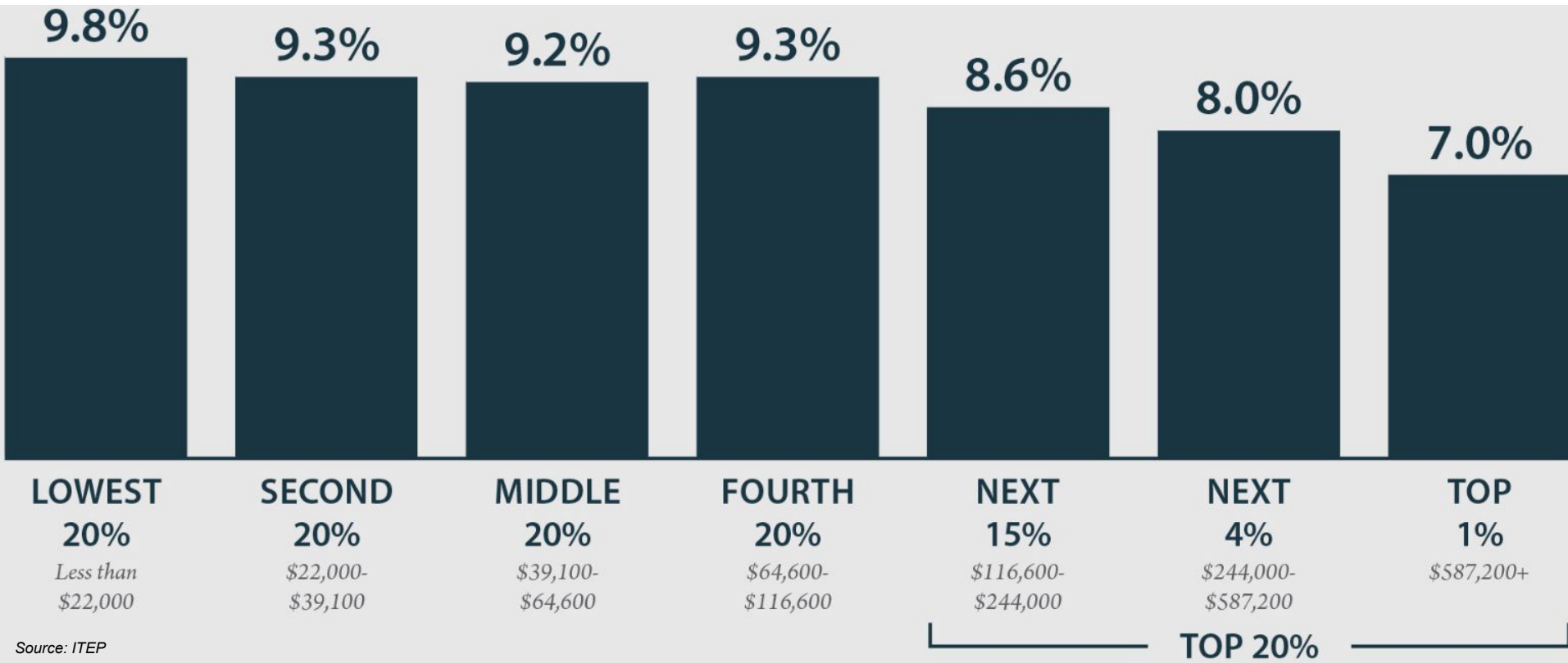
2. Who pays the highest share of their income in state/local taxes in VA?

- a) Low income families
- b) Middle income families
- c) High income families
- d) Top 1% of families

Virginia's Tax Code is Upside Down



Total State and Local Taxes in Virginia - *Share of Family Income*



VA Gets a “D” Grade for Funding Effort

Effort Grade	State	Per cap. GDP relative to national avg (\$55,314)	Effort Index	Effort Above/Below the National Average	
D	Texas	+\$3,103	3.10%	-0.28%	34
	Virginia	+\$615	3.04%	-0.34%	35
	North Dakota	+\$11,994	3.01%	-0.37%	36
	Idaho	-\$15,471	2.98%	-0.40%	37
	Louisiana	-\$5,708	2.90%	-0.48%	38
	California	+\$12,384	2.89%	-0.49%	39

**Low Effort =
Inadequate
\$\$ for Some**





Staffing Shortages and Policy Solutions



Headlines

NEWS > LOCAL NEWS

How Virginia schools will handle possible teacher shortage amid COVID surge



The Washington Post
January 18, 2022

EDUCATION

**The principal is cleaning the bathroom:
Schools reel with staff shortages**

By Donna St. George and Valerie Strauss
December 5, 2021 at 6:22 p.m. EST

NorthernVirginia

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FOOD CULTURE STYLE HOME FAMILY HEALTH THINGS TO DO TRAVEL

Local Educators Are Battling A Teacher Shortage So Severe, There Aren't Enough Subs To Cover Classes

State policies and the pandemic are putting teachers in a vicious cycle of stress and burnout.

nder | February 25, 2022

10NEWSNOW
VIRGINIA BEACH

News Weather Near Me VERIFY

Watch
Live

Virginia Beach school leaders introduce changes to address teacher shortage, burnout

The adjustments include an additional holiday, 2-hour early student release on certain Wednesday for central staff.

NEW RIVER VALLEY NEWS

Pulaski Co. announces virtual days due to staff shortage

by: Kylie Kidd
Posted: Apr 11, 2022 / 09:07 PM EDT
Updated: Apr 11, 2022 / 09:45 PM EDT



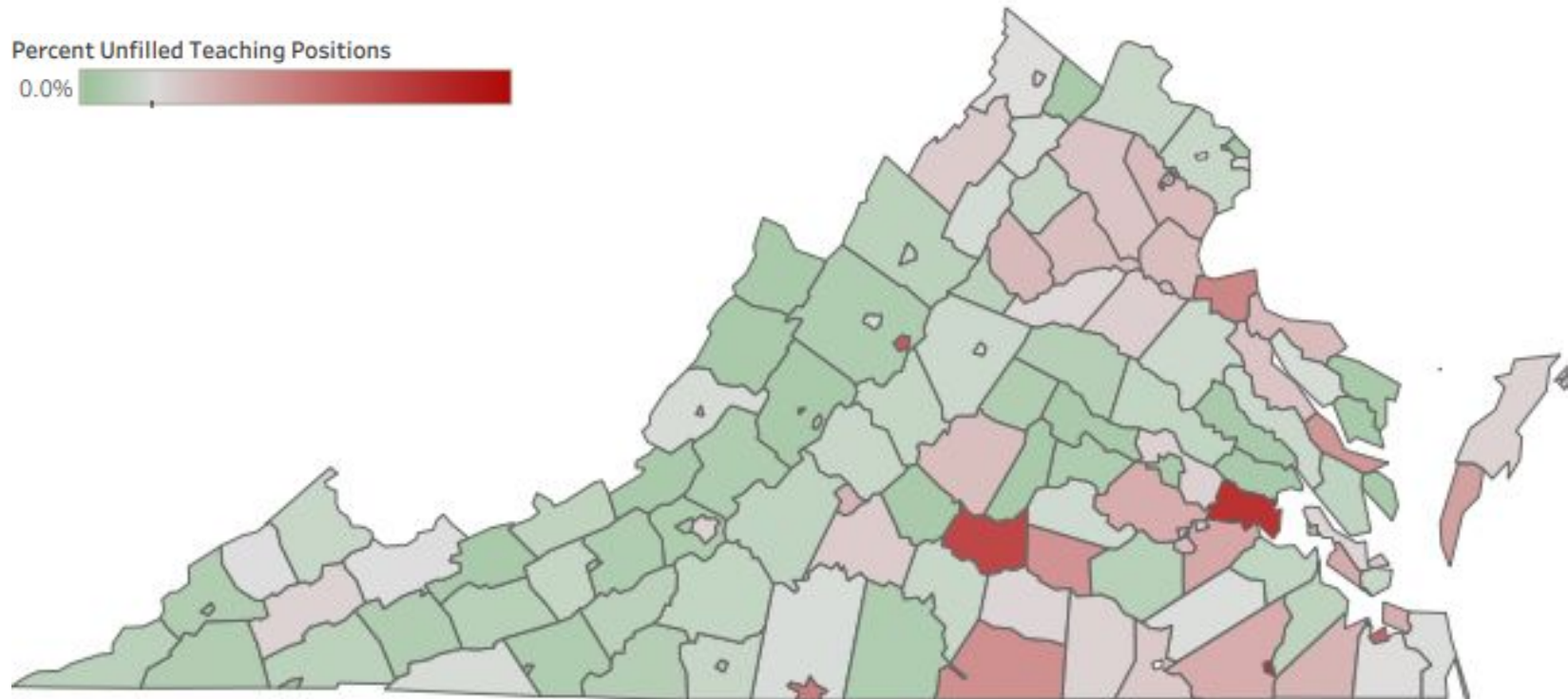
10 WBNS

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'Severe' staff shortages forcing school districts to close or go online

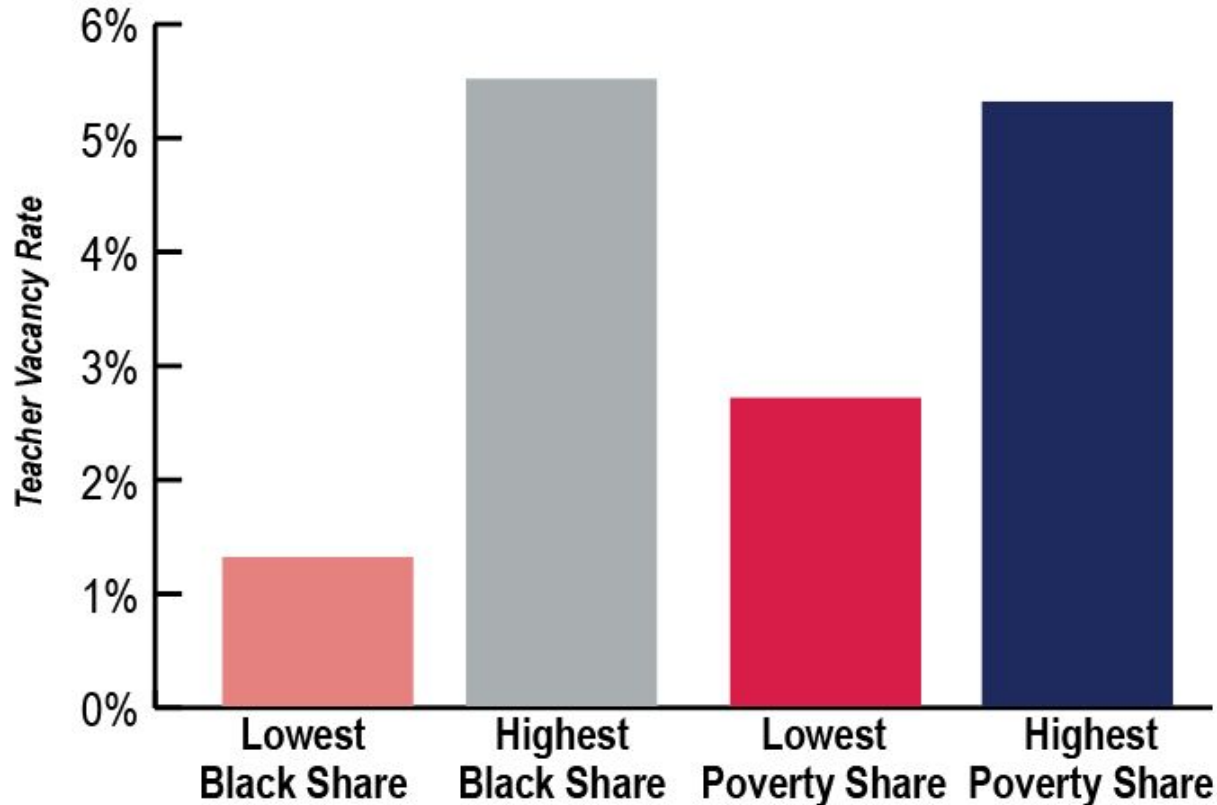
School districts in several states have had to shift plans in the last few weeks because there aren't enough teachers or subs.

Teacher Vacancies Severe In Many Virginia School Divisions



Source: VEA analysis of Exits and Positions Survey, VDOE. Data reflects October 1, 2021 reported division vacancies. Richmond City data excluded due to pending update.

Teacher Vacancies Highest in Divisions with Most Student Need





Reasons Teachers Leave

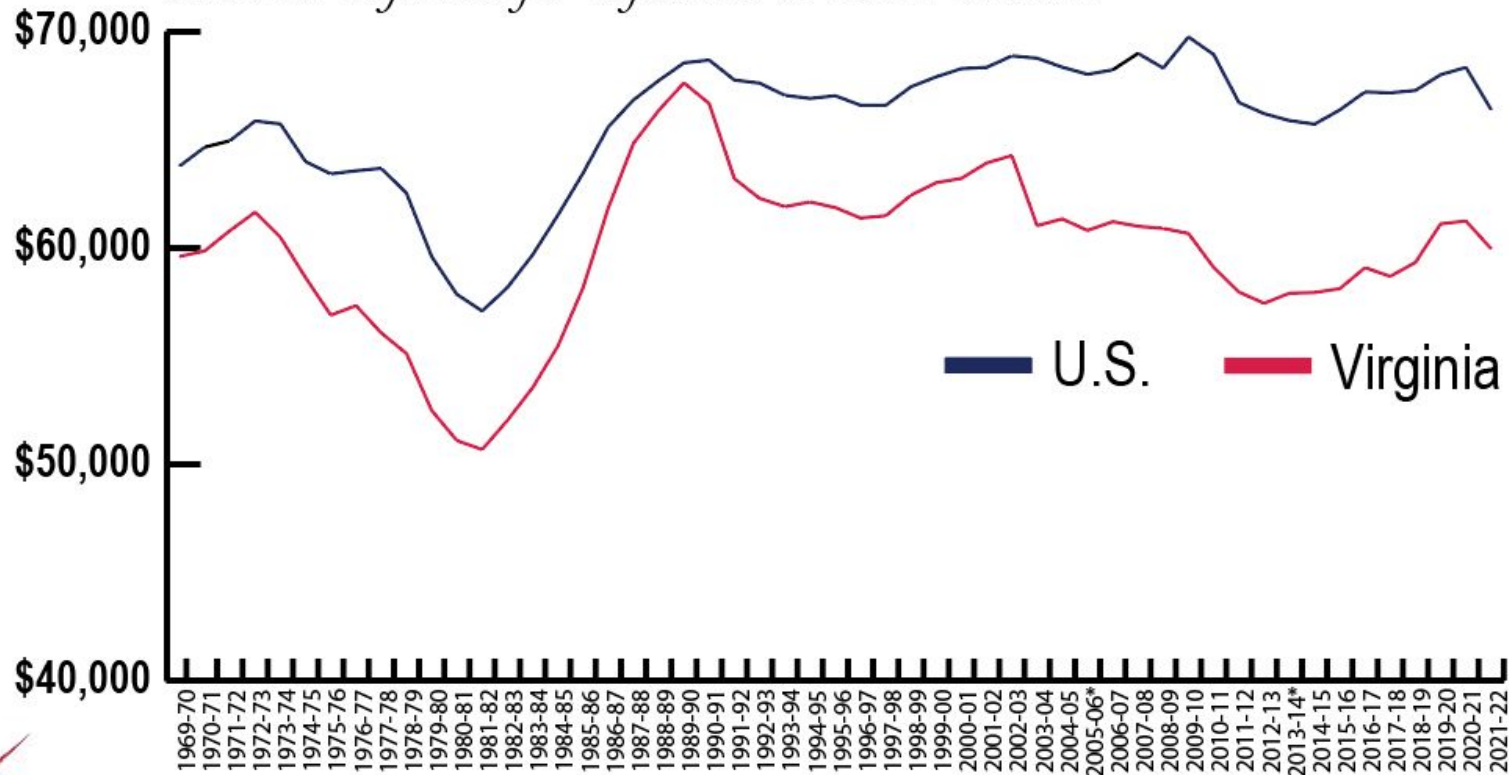
- Low pay
- Not enough support
- Stress and burnout

Promises ≠ Guarantee



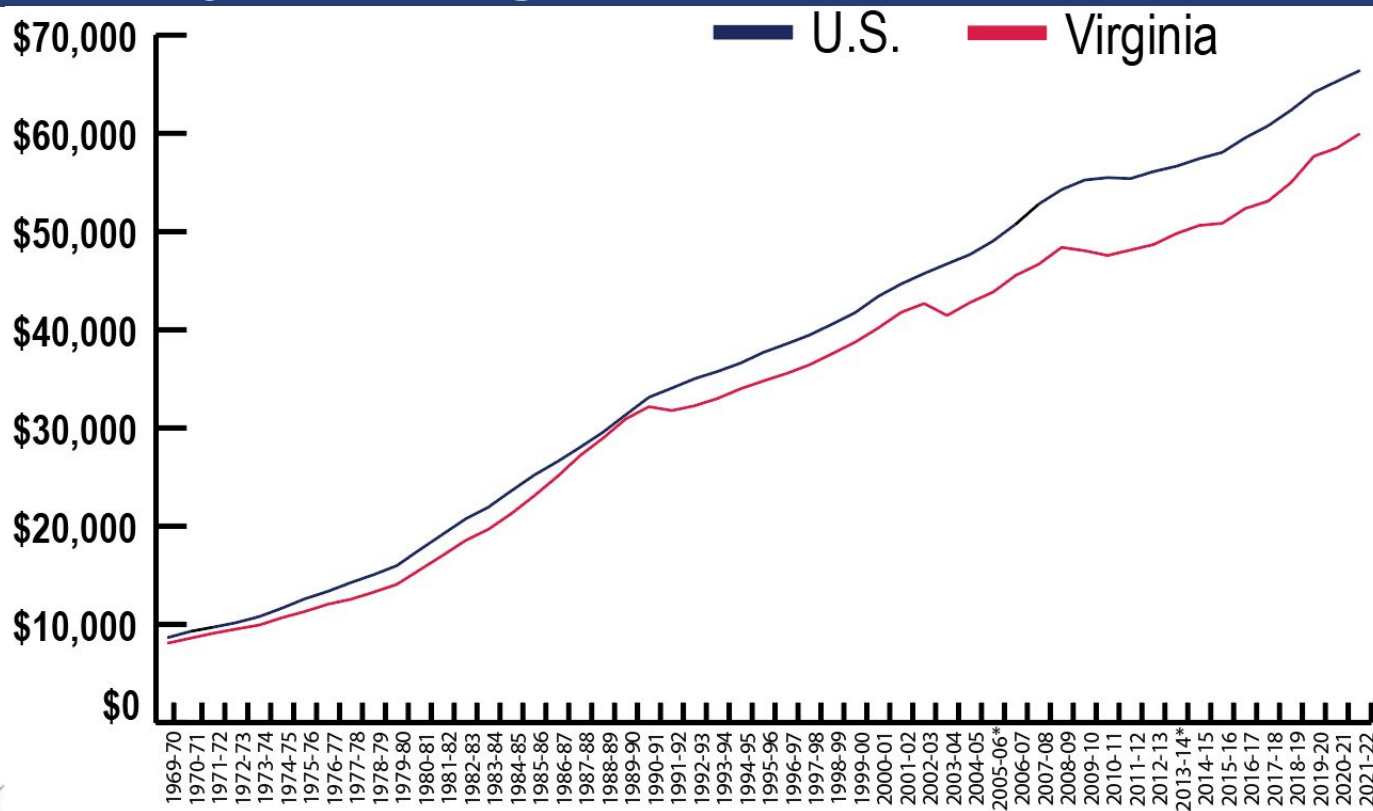
Virginia Continually Fails to Reach National Teacher Pay Average

Salaries adjusted for inflation to 2021 dollars.



Source: VEA Analysis of NEA Rankings and Estimates. Adjusted to 2021 dollars with CPI Consumer data
*NEA Estimate

Virginia Continually Fails to Reach National Teacher Pay Average

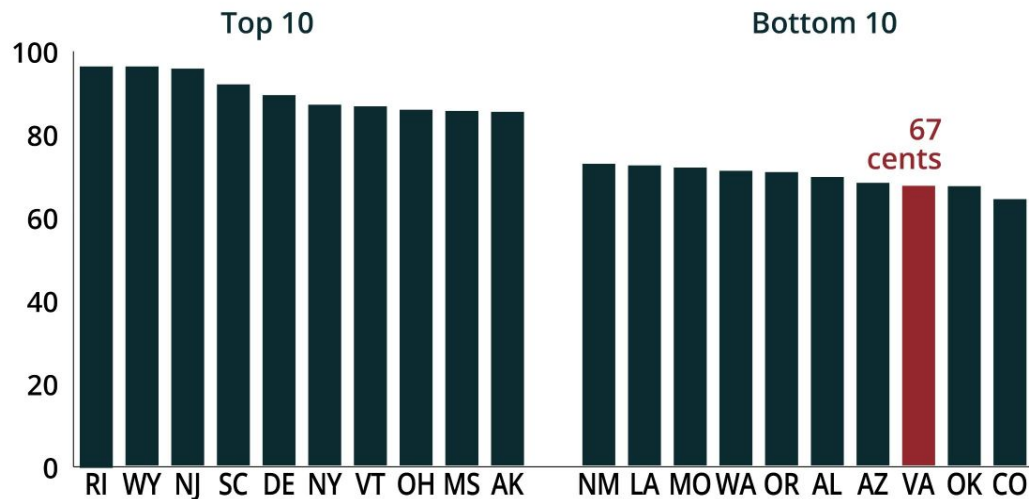


Source: Data from NEA Research, Rankings and Estimates

*NEA Estimate

Teacher Pay Penalty Third Largest in Virginia, Teachers Paid Just 67 cents for Each Dollar Paid to Their Peers in Other Professions

*Teacher salaries compared to peers of similar age,
education, and hours worked*



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of pooled
2016-2021 Current Population Survey ORG data

Policy Solutions Ahead



Key Policy Solutions

- Attracting/Recruiting Educators through competitive pay

Virginia would have to increase teacher salaries by

10.32%

in the 2023-2024 school year to reach the national average.

Fiscal Year	Virginia Teacher Pay Average	Annual Percent Growth	National Teacher Pay Average	Annual Percent Growth	Source/Assumptions
2018	\$53,091		\$60,768		2020 R&E , B-6
2019	\$54,986	3.6%	\$62,355	2.6%	2021 R&E , B-6
2020	\$57,665	4.9%	\$64,172	2.9%	2022 R&E , B-6
2021	\$58,506	1.5%	\$65,293	1.7%	2022 R&E , B-6
2022	\$59,965	2.5%	\$66,432	1.7%	2022 R&E , E-6
2023	\$62,963	5.0%	\$67,930	2.3%	2022 + 5% assumed growth average for VA and four year growth avg for National
2024	\$66,111	5.0%	\$69,461	2.3%	2023 + 5% assumed growth average for VA and prior four year growth avg for National

Estimated percent growth in VA teacher salaries needed to get to national average in FY24 from estimated average FY23 salaries

10.32%

Falling Short

- Advertising more
- Existing incentive grants - less than \$7 million
- Watering down licensure standards

\$1 million of Advertising Fully Inadequate

The Virginia Department of Education announces social media campaign to promote teaching

by Kaylee Shipley | Saturday, October 15th 2022



The Virginia Department of Education announces the launch of its social media campaign to promote the teaching profession. (Credit: Virginia Department of Education)

New Website = Wrong Direction

 Become A Teacher.



**It only takes a moment
to change everything.
Become a teacher.**

New Website = Insulting to Profession

 **Become A Teacher.**

Which age range are you most interested in teaching?

Little kids are the best. Arts and crafts, story-time--sign me up.

→

Slightly older kids are more my speed...

→

I like kids—but I'm also excited to become a subject matter expert and help guide them as they get closer to college.

→

I'm passionate about helping children with disabilities.

→

I'm open to anything!

→

Standards of Quality (SOQs)



Virginia Board of Education



Prescribed SOQs → VA Lawmakers



VBOE's Prescribed SOQs	
Teacher leader & mentor programs	
Establishes standard for K-5 reading specialists	
Principal mentor program	
Work-based Learning Coordinators	
Full Time Principal in each school	
Fund Additional Assistant Principals	
Enhanced At-Risk Add-On	
Additional Specialized Student Support Positions	
Additional School Counselors	
Additional English Learner Teachers	
Total	

Progress Made on SOQs

To fully fund the Standards of Quality the state needs to invest an additional

\$365 million

in our schools in the 2023-2024 school year.



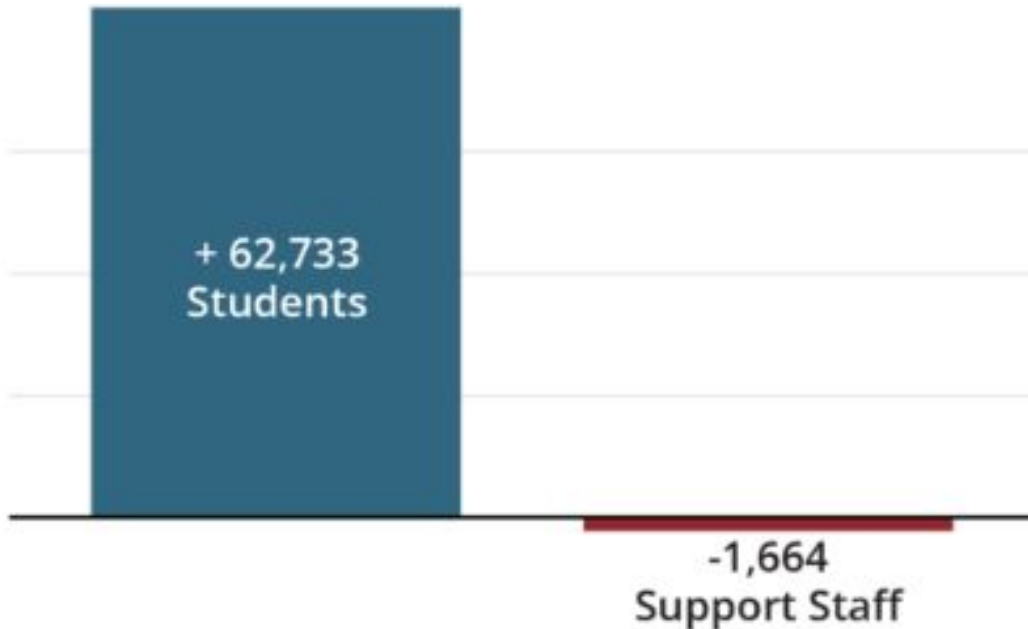
Lift the Support Cap



Fewer Support Staff in Schools

Student enrollment has risen since 2009, while support staffing has dropped.

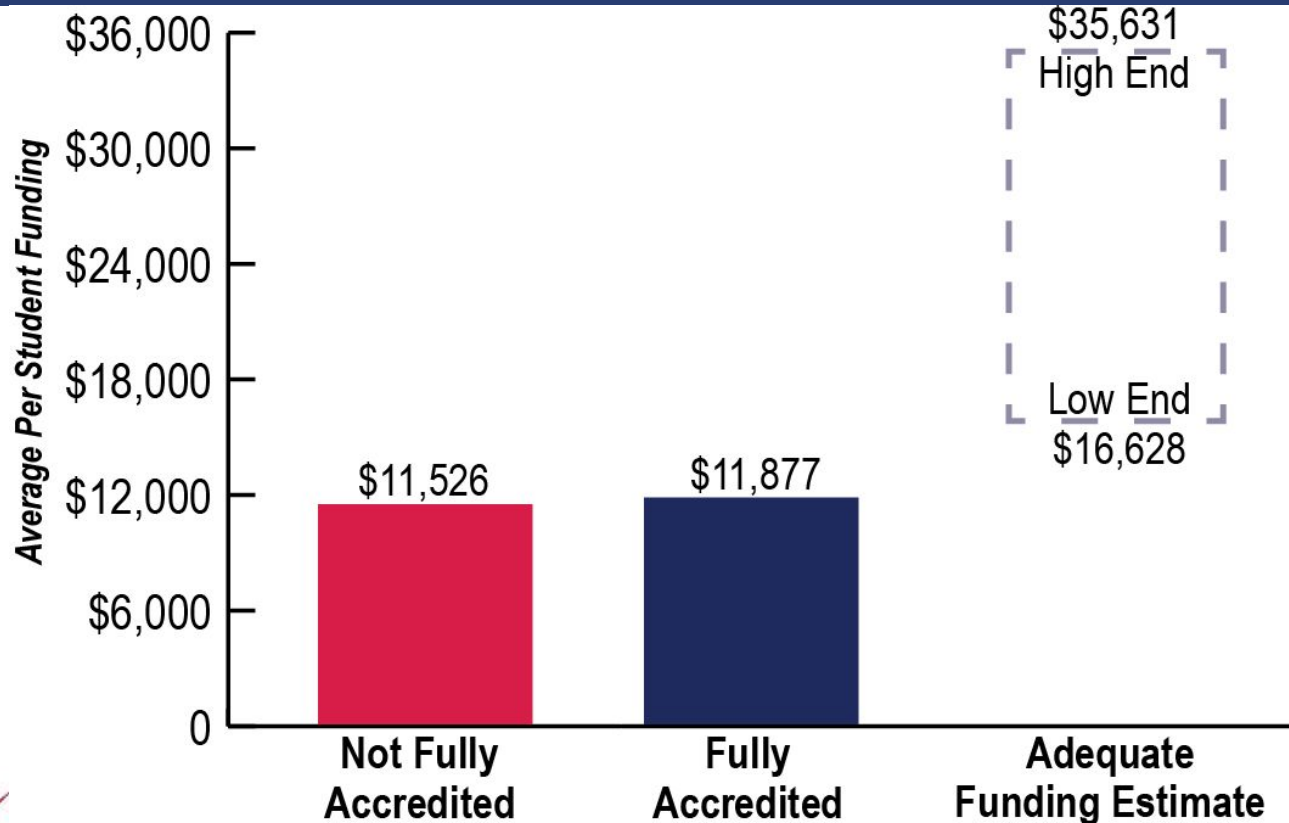
Change in Total Enrollment and Support Staff (2009 - 2020)



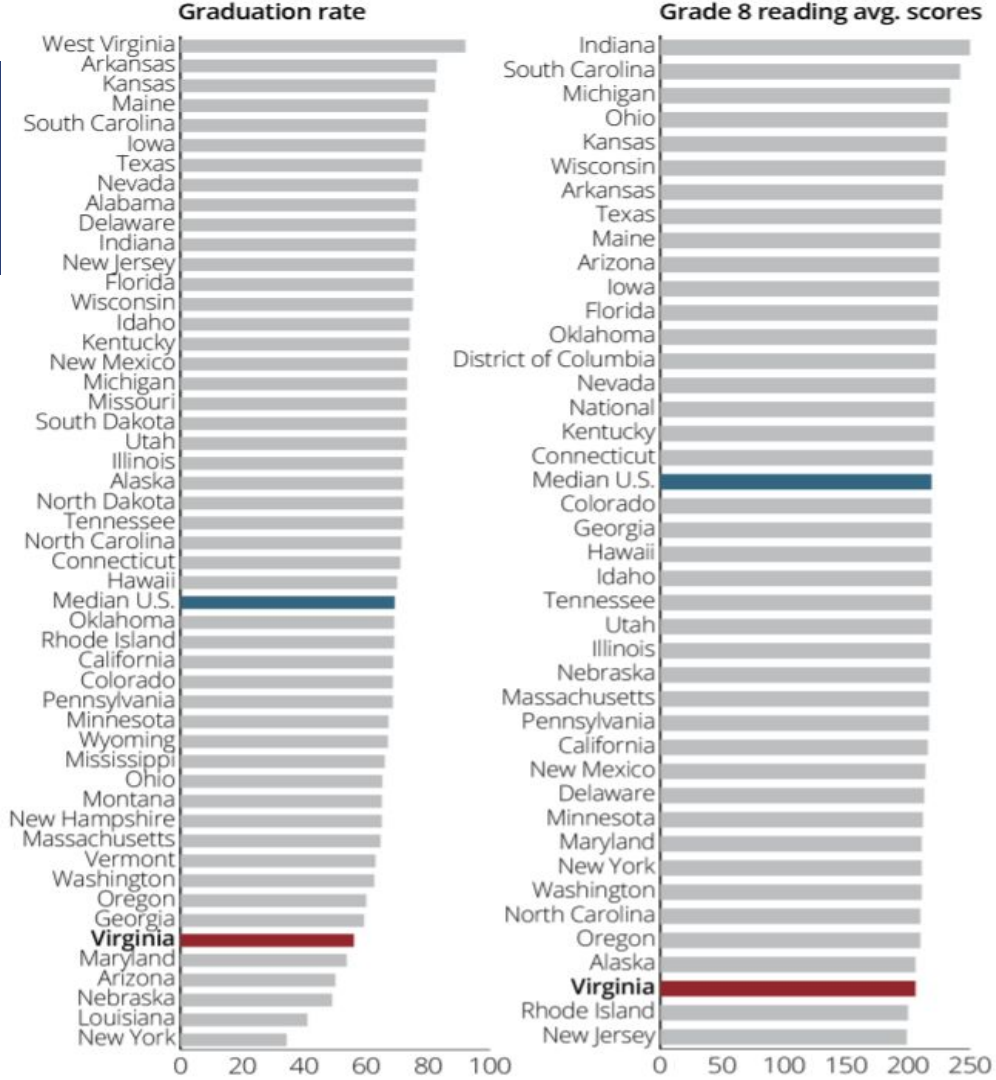
Inadequate Support For Students Facing Most Barriers



Highest Need Schools Receive Less State and Local Funding



Lack of Support for Virginia's EL Students Puts Them Far Behind Nationally



Source: The Commonwealth Institute analysis of public high school 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate via EDEfacts for school year 2018-19 and 8th grade reading scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress; states with measurable data

Current Virginia spending (FY22)	
Supplement EL spending compared to other state aid	13.5%

Add'l state EL spending per student

\$725

State add'l spending on EL students

\$82.8 million

At national average supplement	
	38.7%

\$2,079

\$237.5 million



Key Policy Solutions for High-Need Schools

- Increase At-Risk Add On
- Increase Funding for EL Students
- Community Schools Models

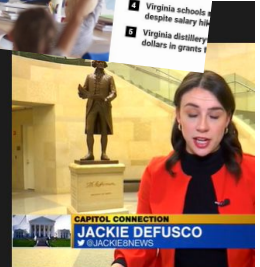
Efforts to Divert Public School \$\$



NEWS

Survival of Youngkin's school choice push may depend on bipartisan bill

by Jackie DeFusco
Posted: Feb 14, 2022 / 07:58 PM EST
Updated: Feb 14, 2022 / 08:01 PM EST



What Can Advocates Do?



What Can Advocates Do?



Call or email your lawmaker:



whosmy.viriniagenralassembly.gov/

Fact Sheets on Tons of Policy Issues

vea.link/factsheets

Get Involved!



Learn more @ www.fundourschoolsva.org



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Your Questions & Comments

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