

FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

2024 State and Federal Legislative Program



Positions on State and Federal
Legislation, Policies, and Regulations

Adopted
December 4, 2023

Table of Contents

School Board Beliefs, Mission & Vision	2
FCPS Strategic Plan 2023-2030	3
Fairfax County School Board 2024 State Priority Positions	4
Fairfax County School Board 2024 Federal Priority Positions	5
2024 Joint Legislative Priority Position	6

State Legislative Positions

A. After School Programs, At-Risk Youth, and Gang Prevention	7
B. Attendance and Truancy	7
C. Charter Schools	7
D. College and Workforce Readiness	7
E. Early Childhood Education	8
F. Educational Technology	9
G. Employer/Employee Relations	9
H. English Learners	9
I. Environmental Sustainability/Renewable Energy	10
J. Freedom of Information Act	10
K. Governance and Mandates	11
L. Non-Discrimination	11
M. Post-Secondary Education	11
N. Poverty and Student Achievement	11
O. Retirement/Virginia Retirement System	12
P. Revenue Alternatives	12
Q. School Calendar	12
R. School Construction	12
S. Special Education	13
T. Standards of Accreditation and Standards of Learning	13
U. Standards of Quality	15
V. State Education Funding	15
State Funding Formulas and Practices	
Cost of Competing Adjustment	
Local Composite Index	
Program Specific Funding	
W. Student Activities	17
X. Student Discipline	17
Y. Student Health and Wellness	17
Z. Student Safety	18
AA. Student Transportation	19
AB. Teachers and Instructional Personnel	19
AC. Vouchers, Tuition Tax Credits, and Tax Deductions	20

Federal Legislative Positions

FED. Federal Education Funding and Policy	21
• Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	
• Title I	
• Impact Aid	
• Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)	
• Other Funding and Policy Issues	
Fairfax County School Board	24
2024 Fairfax County General Assembly Delegation	25

School Board Beliefs, Mission & Vision

Students come first in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Beliefs

- Each student is entitled to an excellent education that meets their individual needs.
- Dynamic and supportive partnerships among students, parents, educators, and the community are critical to meet student needs and provide enriching experiences.
- Effective educators are essential to student success.
- Families play a fundamental role in their children's education.
- High expectations inspire high performance.
- Everyone thrives in a vibrant, healthy, safe, enriching, and respectful environment.
- Our diversity is a strength that creates resilient, open, and innovative global citizens.
- Quality early childhood education is crucial to school readiness and future success.
- Literacy is an essential life skill and reading proficiency by third grade is critical for the academic success of all students.
- A well-rounded education enables students to lead productive, fulfilling, creative, and culturally rich lives.
- An educated citizenry enhances everyone's quality of life, improves our economy, and sustains our system of self-governance.
- A successful education system develops students who are effective communicators; collaborators; creative critical thinkers; global and ethical citizens; and goal-directed, resilient learners.

Mission

Fairfax County Public Schools inspire and empower students to meet high academic standards; lead healthy, ethical lives; and be responsible and innovative global citizens.

Vision

Looking to the Future

FCPS prepares all students for the world of the future by giving them a broad spectrum of opportunities to prepare for education and employment beyond high school. All graduates are productive and responsible members of society, capable of competing in the global economy and motivated to pursue learning throughout their lifetimes.

Commitment to Opportunity

FCPS values its diversity and acknowledges that all people contribute to the well-being of the community. FCPS provides opportunities for all its students and employees to grow educationally, personally, and professionally.

Community Support

Fairfax County embraces its schools. Businesses and community members generously volunteer their time and resources to help students. Schools are integrated into the fabric of the community, and residents take pride in their schools. The success of FCPS draws businesses to Fairfax County. Citizens support the financial and capital needs of the school system.

Achievement

Fairfax County students achieve at high levels in all core areas and across a broad spectrum of pursuits. FCPS values a well-rounded education that goes beyond basics, and encompasses the arts, technology, communication, and critical thinking skills in preparation for the work of the world. FCPS provides a breadth and depth of opportunities to allow all students to stretch their capabilities and pursue their passions.

Accountability

FCPS is accountable for the academic achievement of all students. FCPS measures academic progress to ensure that all students, regardless of race, poverty, language, or disability, will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary for college or employment. FCPS spends money wisely. FCPS directs funds to the classroom and finds ways to improve performance across the spectrum of academic programs and business processes.

FCPS Strategic Plan 2023-2030

Fairfax County Public Schools' new Strategic Plan 2023-2030 presents our vision and goals as a leading public school division that is committed to delivering excellence, equity, and opportunity in education. With this plan, we are beginning a transformative journey to ensure that each and every student reaches their greatest potential.

Four Pillars

The Four Pillars identify what FCPS must do well to be able to reach our goals for all students. They serve as the foundation of our work and define the capabilities we need and must continuously improve to strengthen the effectiveness of instructional programs and Division-wide infrastructure. They are the building blocks for action and decision-making, and provide a durable frame for organizing and focusing our work.

- 1. Differentiated and Culturally Responsive Learning Environments**
- 2. Vibrant Home, School, & Community Partnerships**
- 3. Diverse, Adaptive, & Supported Workforce**
- 4. Culture of Equity, Excellence, & Accountability**

Goals and Measures of Success

The strategic plan identifies five overarching goals that will drive positive change throughout our district. These goals indicate where we should focus our attention and help us align our efforts. Each goal includes an equity commitment and a set of measures that will be used to evaluate success.

- Goal #1 - Strong Start: PreK-12**
- Goal #2 - Safe, Supported, Included, and Empowered**
- Goal #3 - Academic Growth and Excellence**
- Goal #4 - Equitable Access and Opportunity**
- Goal #5 - Leading for Tomorrow's Innovation**

For additional information on the Strategic Plan, including details on equity commitments and goal success measures, please visit: <https://www.fcps.edu/strategic-plan>

Fairfax County School Board 2024 State Priority Positions

The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) believes that public education should be based on a strong partnership between the Commonwealth and local school divisions, with the state fairly sharing in the true costs of implementing a locally-based and student-centered high-quality public education system. While we understand the state's role in standard setting, the supervision of schools and flexibility in policy implementation should remain with local school boards per the Virginia Constitution.

State Funding Supports

The FCSB supports addressing state Standards of Quality (SOQ) funding formula imbalances and inadequacies through implementation of many of the Near- and Long-Term recommendations made by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission's (JLARC) *K-12 Funding Formula* study, including:

- Elimination of Great Recession-era cost reduction measures (which includes the state cap on support position funding); calculating prevailing costs using division averages; and updating out-of-date salary assumptions during re-benchmarking
- Replacing the existing cost of competing adjustment (COCA) with a newer, more accurate adjustment based on a Virginia cost of labor index, or at least fully funding the existing COCA

Workforce Shortages

- The FCSB supports funding and initiatives to address ongoing and acute shortages of highly qualified educational and professional staff, including addressing compensation, the cost of preparation programs, and streamlining and simplifying licensure processes

Student Academic Success

- The FCSB supports ensuring students have multiple pathways to earn a diploma, as well as access to dual enrollment and work-based learning opportunities to prepare for postsecondary and workforce opportunities
- The FCSB supports a shift away from standardized assessments and toward a more balanced state assessment system, based on the principles of universal assessment design, and including performance-based assessments which inform instruction

Student Safety, Security, and Wellbeing

- The FCSB supports flexible state resources for school divisions to implement infrastructure and personnel-based safety improvements in local school facilities
- The FCSB supports dedicated and on-going state resources to facilitate local participation as Virginia joins the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) Rap Back Service
- The FCSB supports additional state resources dedicated toward expanding both school and community based student mental, behavioral, and substance abuse health services
- The FCSB supports additional state resources dedicated toward the costs of expanding the availability of free meals in schools
- The FCSB supports additional local authority and flexibility to improve pedestrian safety in and around school zones

Early Childhood

The FCSB supports increased state per-pupil funding for early childhood programming and related facilities costs

Fairfax County School Board 2024 Federal Priority Positions

The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports full and adequate funding to implement federal mandates, such as those found in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as well as broad flexibility to empower states and localities to fulfill mandated program requirements.

Title I

- The FCSB supports increased funding for the federal Title I, Part A grant within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) that serves schools with the highest percentage of children from low-income families.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- The FCSB supports mandatory funding for chronically underfunded special education programs to meet the federal commitment to fund 40 percent of the “excess costs” of special education as promised but never realized since the 1975 adoption of federal special education laws (currently known as IDEA).

Federal Meals Reimbursement

- The FCSB supports restoration of enhanced United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) federal reimbursement rates to resume the provision of high quality and nutritious free meals to all students.

Impact Aid

- The FCSB supports full funding for the federal Impact Aid program, which is intended to offset the local impact of Fairfax’s over 19,000 federally-connected students as well as those associated with federal military base relocation decisions.

Learning Recovery

- The FCSB supports continued federal funding dedicated to learning recovery services for our most vulnerable student populations.

Title IX

- The FCSB supports repealing the U.S. Department of Education’s Final Rule under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (released May 2020), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance and, in the interim, returning to the pre-May Rule.

Student Safety

- The FCSB supports requiring all states to participate in the FBI’s Next Generation Identification (NGI) Noncriminal Justice Rap Back Service.

Cybersecurity

- The FCSB supports increased federal resources dedicated to cyber and data security for school and school division technology infrastructure.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Fairfax County School Board 2024 Joint Legislative Priority Position

Public education funding in the Commonwealth is enshrined in the Virginia Constitution as a joint responsibility of both state and local governments, so it is essential that the state fully and appropriately meet its Constitutional responsibility to adequately fund K-12 education. Unfortunately, the Commonwealth continues to allow the gap between state funding and the actual costs of providing a high-quality education, particularly in high cost-of-living jurisdictions like Fairfax County, to continue to expand.

A watershed report by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) in 2023 outlined both the inadequacy of state funding and the substantial flaws in current state funding formulas. The findings of the report are dramatic:

- Virginia school divisions receive less K-12 funding per pupil than the 50-state average and the regional average, which equates to approximately \$1,900 per pupil in state underfunding of the Commonwealth's students. Many of Virginia's neighboring states spend more per pupil, including West Virginia, Kentucky, and Maryland.
- The state Standards of Quality (SOQ) formula yields substantially less funding than actual division spending and benchmarks. The current SOQs dramatically underestimate the actual costs of public education, as evidenced by the fact that the SOQ formula provided \$6.6 billion less than what was spent by local school divisions in FY 2021. In FY 2022, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) spent \$1.2 billion above the SOQ formula's calculated required local effort.
- The SOQ formula systematically underestimates school division costs, and still uses Great Recession-era cost reduction measures (including the support positions ratio cap, which has artificially lowered the state's funding contributions for critical educational support positions by hundreds of millions of dollars annually since its adoption in 2009).
- The formula does not adequately account for higher needs students, and the methodology for at-risk students undercounts students in poverty.
- The formula does not adequately account for local labor costs. As a result, the formula includes additional factors, like the Cost of Competing Adjustment (COCA), as an acknowledgement of the formula's failure to account for cost of living, but such factors are too small to appropriately counteract the inadequacy of the funding formula in recognizing the competitive salaries required in high cost-of-living regions to attract and retain high-quality personnel.

The Boards support addressing the deficiencies and underfunding cited by the report including:

- SOQs that reflect the true local costs of providing a high-quality public education, including the elimination of Great Recession-era changes in the SOQ funding formula.
- Recognizing cost-of living variations throughout the Commonwealth in state funding formulas, particularly in high-cost-of-living areas like Northern Virginia.
- Increasing state funding support for school divisions with high numbers or concentrations of English learners (approximately 30 percent higher costs than general education), students living in economically disadvantaged households (approximately 10 percent higher costs), and students receiving special education and mental health services (approximately 100 percent higher costs).
- Increased state resources for early childhood education programs which help young children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed.

The Boards oppose changes that disproportionately target or affect Northern Virginia, policies which impose unfunded mandates on localities, and policies which divert K-12 funding away from local public schools and toward non-public options.

Fairfax County School Board State Legislative Positions

A. After-School Programs, At-Risk Youth, and Gang Prevention

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports comprehensive and flexible after-school programs and other preventive interventions addressing expanded learning opportunities and academic success, positive peer and adult relationships, adolescent substance abuse, behavioral issues, and gang participation.
- 2) The FCSB supports availability of and coordination between local, state, federal, and non-profit resources focusing on after-school programs, summertime programs, and initiatives with a proven record of effectiveness that enhance academic, social, physical, and emotional development, address opportunity gaps, and address gang violence prevention.

B. Attendance and Truancy

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports attendance and truancy laws and policies that are clear; that emphasize encouraging attendance through engagement, prevention, and early intervention; and that provide appropriate timelines for addressing attendance issues.
- 2) The FCSB supports adjustments to attendance and truancy regulations for students exceeding compulsory attendance age who choose to attend and continue their education so that neither the student choosing to continue their education nor the school division providing the opportunity are penalized.
- 3) The FCSB supports changes in attendance reporting to allow for additional measures of attendance based on student engagement and not solely based on a student's physical presence, to include participation in virtual and remote learning activities.
- 4) The FCSB respects a parent's right to request an exemption from compulsory school attendance for their student under Virginia Code Section 22.1-254 by reason of "bona fide religious training or belief," but believes that requirements to report on the academic progress of students receiving such an exemption should be aligned with reporting requirements already required of all other students receiving home instruction under §22.1-254.1.

C. Charter Schools

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports reserving ultimate and final authority over decisions whether or not to approve or revoke the formation of a charter school for local school boards.

D. College and Workforce Readiness

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports increased coordination of college and work readiness standards between K-12 and higher education, including robust collaborative dual enrollment partnerships and course offerings. Such partnerships should include better coordinated pathways to credentialing of faculty between local school divisions and institutions of higher learning, allowing for mixed classrooms.
- 2) The FCSB supports continued local flexibility to determine the most appropriate financial arrangements between individual school divisions and higher education institutions to deliver dual enrollment programming at no cost to students and families, regardless of how or where the instruction is provided.
- 3) The FCSB supports additional work-based learning opportunities for students while enrolled in high school to increase exposure to and exploration of career pathways, including expanded internship, externship, apprenticeship, journeyman programs, service learning, and other

work-based learning opportunities as well as initiatives to address barriers to accessing such opportunities for both general education and special education students.

- 4) The FCSB supports ensuring students have multiple pathways to earn a diploma and the flexibility to explore career clusters of interest in preparation for postsecondary opportunities including: increasing the number of high school elective courses that can substitute as graduation requirements in other content areas, additional routes to fulfilling graduation requirements in lieu of a year-long course, additional opportunities for Career and Technical Education (CTE) coursework and credentials to fulfill verified credit requirements, and recognition of relevant coursework in middle school.
- 5) The FCSB supports allowing for the substitution of skills-based courses focused on college readiness and college level skills, such as the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) elective course, for other required high school graduation standard course credits, such as Career and Technical Education (CTE).
- 6) The FCSB supports additional flexibility for older and non-traditional students to obtain high school credit through General Education Development (GED) programs, concurrent enrollment, enrollment in adult education high school completion courses, including expansion of virtual instructional offerings.
- 7) The FCSB supports additional state funding support to help offset the increasing costs of Career and Technical Education credentials.
- 8) The FCSB supports funding of the student costs for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate end-of-course examinations and other related fees.
- 9) The FCSB supports preserving the state's current split of federal Perkins career and technical education funding which allocates 85 percent of available funding to K-12 institutions.
- 10) The FCSB supports the creation of employer incentives to make work-based learning and workforce development opportunities available for students, including students with disabilities, English Learners, and low-income students.
- 11) The FCSB supports ensuring that eligibility for state and federal financial aid for post-secondary and workforce development programs and opportunities is available to recipients of all of Virginia's diploma types.
- 12) The FCSB supports funding for post-secondary bridge programs to support workforce readiness and connection to career opportunities.
- 13) The FCSB opposes the imposition of a tuition floor on dual enrollment courses.

E. Early Childhood Education

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports state provision of high-quality early childhood programs for all eligible age groups, provided that the state furnishes full funding for implementation and ongoing operation and increases the per pupil funding of such programs.
- 2) The FCSB supports, in the absence of state provision of full funding, paying particular attention to increasing per pupil funding, minimizing start-up costs, reducing, or eliminating any required local match, and funding assistance for capital facilities.
- 3) The FCSB supports flexibility to account for local at-risk criteria, including regional variations in cost of living, when setting eligibility standards for early childhood programs; particularly for the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI). Specifically, the FCSB supports allowing Fairfax County to increase the VPI program income eligibility threshold from families with incomes of up to 250% of the federal poverty level to families with incomes of up to 350% of poverty.
- 4) The FCSB supports providing school divisions with additional options to establish VPI eligibility for families enrolling after the initial fall membership verification date.
- 5) The FCSB opposes shifting mandated responsibility for early childhood programs and capital facilities funding to localities or subjecting such funding to state equalization formulas.

F. Educational Technology

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports increased state contributions for local educational technology infrastructure refresh and modernization, staffing needs, on-going professional development to improve and enhance classroom instruction, to fulfill mandates for closing the digital divide, to support online learning and assessment, and to assist with the extensive data collection and reporting requirements faced by school divisions.
- 2) The FCSB supports directed state investments dedicated to assisting local school divisions in addressing the cyber and data security needs of school divisions.
- 3) The FCSB supports allowing school divisions the flexibility to use state technology funds to either purchase or lease technology equipment and software.
- 4) The FCSB supports flexibility for school divisions to pursue locally developed technology plans as well as innovative approaches to the development and funding of educational technology, including partnerships with higher education and private industry.
- 5) The FCSB supports the creation of a state clearing house to facilitate the movement of student records for students who transfer between school divisions in Virginia.
- 6) The FCSB supports policies and specific state funding to enhance the accessibility of technology and broadband connectivity to all schools and students.
- 7) The FCSB supports artificial intelligence (AI) regulations that provide appropriate safeguards against misuse but that do not overly restrict local school division flexibility to leverage the educational and instructional promise of this emerging technology.

G. Employer/Employee Relations

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports granting authority to local school boards to recognize the right of employees to enter into collectively bargained agreements that value and balance the needs of employees with the educational mission of the school division and that preserves the constitutionally protected supervisory authority of the local school board.
- 2) The FCSB supports the right of every school board to adopt its own method of communicating with employees as long as the constitutional authority of the board to make public policy is not compromised.
- 3) The FCSB supports amending §22.1-315 of the Code of Virginia to clarify that school employees charged with an enumerated offense are entitled the return of escrowed salary only if (1) they are found innocent of the enumerated charge and (2) they have not plead to a lesser offense or received a deferred or suspended imposition of sentence.
- 4) The FCSB supports development, implementation, and funding for a centralized and standardized state reporting and notification system regarding public school employee misconduct.
- 5) The FCSB opposes changes to the teacher grievance procedure, the *Regulations Governing the Employment of Professional Personnel*, or other state laws, regulations, procedures, or guidelines that would diminish the authority of school boards or that would impose unreasonable and unnecessary administrative and financial burdens.
- 6) The FCSB opposes mandated benefits for local employees, which would interfere with the right of local school boards to contract benefits directly with their employees.

H. English Learners

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports additional funding resources for the provision of appropriate academic and English language instructional programs and supports, including reduced classroom staffing ratios, and for appropriate content area and language proficiency assessments for English learners.
- 2) The FCSB supports funding English language proficiency assessments in the same manner as the state pays for other assessments required for state or federally mandated accountability programs.
- 3) The FCSB supports expanded availability of locally awarded verified credits to English learners as deemed appropriate by a student's English Learner Committee established under Department of Education guidance.

- 4) The FCSB supports additional state resources to provide appropriate services to English learner students new to the United States who enter Virginia schools with limited or interrupted formal education (SLIFE students) and accreditation standards that appropriately reflect these students' unique circumstances.
- 5) The FCSB supports increased access to family literacy programs and adult English classes for parents and guardians of English learners.

I. Environmental Sustainability/Renewable Energy

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports state efforts to reduce the County's greenhouse gas emissions and operational demand for energy through efficiency, conservation, renewable energy, and education.
- 2) The FCSB supports state resources, incentives, opportunities, and targeted goals for expanding renewable energy, and energy efficiency and removing existing barriers to such efforts.
- 3) The FCSB supports state resources to support deploying electric school buses and related charging infrastructure in local school divisions as well as state capital funding dedicated to net-zero and sustainability-related building construction, renovation, and infrastructure.
- 4) The FCSB supports additional dual enrollment and work-based learning opportunities focused on careers related to environmental sustainability.
- 5) The FCSB supports state resources to encourage school locations and school access developments that maximize the ability for students and staff to bike and walk to school.
- 6) The FCSB supports state resources to develop and promote outdoor classrooms and learning spaces at schools.

J. Freedom of Information Act

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports revision and amendment of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and companion regulations, such as those issued by the Library of Virginia regarding records retention, to achieve the appropriate balance between the considerable investment in time and money required for compliance, protection of personal information, and ensuring the people of the Commonwealth ready access to public records.
- 2) The FCSB supports addressing and potentially adjusting FOIA requirements in light of the growth of the use of electronic communications and social media to communicate more quickly and efficiently with the public, which has resulted in increasingly broad, complex, and burdensome requests, including additional flexibility in reporting timelines regarding requests for extraordinary volumes of records or extraordinarily lengthy searches.
- 3) The FCSB supports the creation of a "third party disclosure" FOIA exemption that would allow for the redaction of private information from emails that would not otherwise be subject to FOIA except for the fact they had been forwarded to an email address subject to FOIA.
- 4) The FCSB supports the clarification of current FOIA exemptions for human resources investigations.
- 5) The FCSB supports state and federal reimbursement for mandated redactions from requested documents.
- 6) The FCSB supports granting local school boards and other local public bodies expanded authority to conduct electronic communication meetings, including removal of limitations on the remote participation of members.
- 7) The FCSB supports flexibility in how to fulfill mandates for required legal notices for certain public hearings and meetings.
- 8) The FCSB supports adjusting the threshold for open meeting requirements based on a governing board's size rather than the current standard which applies regardless of the number of members on a board.
- 9) The FCSB supports the equal applicability of FOIA provisions, requirements, and flexibilities to all levels of government.

K. Governance and Mandates

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) believes that the ultimate decisions regarding appropriate policy or school governance interventions to address instructional and operational issues should remain with local school boards, as made in collaboration with their parents and local community.
- 2) The FCSB supports treating elected local school boards under the Code of Virginia in the same way as are other elected local governing bodies and boards.
- 3) The FCSB supports permitting school boards to seek disclosure by potential vendors whether the vendor imposes pre-dispute arbitration on their own customers or employees and to offer alternatives to pre-dispute arbitration which preserves protected student privacy and alternatives for parents or guardians.
- 4) In light of the November 2020 VCU/Penn State Study on School Segregation in the State of Virginia and its associated recommendations, the FCSB supports initiation of a Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study on school segregation in Virginia.
- 5) The FCSB opposes state and federal mandates requiring school division actions or services that do not specifically provide the resources (including both funding and the availability of instructional/administrative time) required for the mandate's implementation.

L. Non-Discrimination

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports policies which provide students and employees with an equitable, safe, and supportive school and workplace environment.
- 2) The FCSB supports policies that protect students and employees, on the basis of age, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, marital status, or disability, from discrimination under any educational program, activity, or employment.

M. Post-Secondary Education

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports increased state funding for the additional faculty and buildings needed to accommodate the growing number of qualified Virginia high school graduates seeking admission to the Commonwealth's community colleges and four-year colleges and universities.
- 2) The FCSB supports maintaining suitable ratios of in-state and out-of-state students in each of the Commonwealth's institutions of higher education.
- 3) The FCSB supports eligibility for in-state tuition for students who are lawfully present in the United States under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, provided they meet Virginia's domicile requirements.

N. Poverty and Student Achievement

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports additional state-level K-12 resources, including additional instructional and support positions, targeted to assist schools with high concentrations of or numbers of students in poverty.
- 2) The FCSB supports education funding formulas which more accurately account for and reflect the impact of large numbers of students in poverty within a school division, regardless of the percentage of the division they represent.
- 3) The FCSB supports coordinated local, state, and federal policies and resources to help address the root causes of poverty within the larger community and not just within the schools' walls, including programs to address food, housing, and health care insecurity, and efforts to reduce concentrations of poverty through strategic community planning in collaboration with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.
- 4) The FCSB supports Virginia's Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission's (JLARC) 2023 recommendation to update the methodology by which Virginia calculates student poverty.

O. Retirement/Virginia Retirement System

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports state funding for the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) as to sustain long term fiscal solvency and to meet its legal obligations to vested school system employees.
- 2) The FCSB supports increased state funding contributions for VRS, allowing for lower required local contribution rates.
- 3) The FCSB supports VRS consideration of the impacts that teacher retirement contribution rates can have on local school divisions during their rate setting process.
- 4) The FCSB supports post-retirement employment options which do not adversely affect the employer and that encourage educational employees to work after they have accrued the maximum retirement benefits.
- 5) The FCSB supports reimbursement from the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) for costs incurred by local school divisions that provide VRS-related services. Such services include preparing estimates of VRS benefits; counseling employees on the benefits provided by VRS; handling VRS forms such as the VRS retirement application and related documents; assisting employees with VRS Disability Retirement applications; and correcting VRS records.
- 6) The FCSB opposes caps upon or the establishment of rates below what localities would be required to bear of the state share of VRS contribution rates for teachers.
- 7) The FCSB opposes mandating the inclusion of salary supplements for temporary voluntary activities, such as club sponsorship or coaching, in the definition of creditable compensation.

P. Revenue Alternatives

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports a tax structure in the Commonwealth that provides localities with sufficient state revenue to better address the resource demands of mandated education programs. Any revisions to the tax structure should result in long-term additional revenue capacity, not in revenue-diminishing or revenue-neutral changes among different taxing sources.
- 2) The FCSB supports local revenue flexibility to accommodate various economic and demographic conditions, including expanding local taxing authority and the flexibility over the use of generated revenue available to the Commonwealth's 95 counties to match authority already available to its 39 cities, as well as referendum authority to raise local sales taxes with revenues dedicated to school facilities.
- 3) The FCSB supports continued local school board flexibility to charge appropriate fees for programs and activities that are not directly related to core educational programs.
- 4) The FCSB supports fiscal autonomy for locally elected local school boards.

Q. School Calendar

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports local school board control over school calendars and the school day, including allowing local school boards to set the opening day of school.

R. School Construction

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports the development and funding of adequate and equitable state programs to assist localities with public school construction, renovation, and major maintenance projects.
- 2) The FCSB supports exempting contractors from the retail sales and use tax on materials purchased while under contract by local school divisions for construction, repair, or other real-estate related services.
- 3) The FCSB supports full restoration of local government authority to accept cash and in-kind proffers that accurately reflect and compensate for the impact of development on the school division, regardless of the location of the new development.

S. Special Education

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports special education programs which help every child learn to his or her potential, which necessarily include additional and mandatory federal and state funding to help local school divisions deliver those services.
- 2) The FCSB supports expanded alternatives for demonstrating subject matter competency and for earning verified credits as deemed appropriate by a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team.
- 3) The FCSB supports a uniform set of rules and guidelines allowing school districts to seek Medicaid reimbursement for administrative and transportation expenses associated with Medicaid eligible services provided to special education students who are being served under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education (IDEA). The FCSB further supports the implementation of program requirements allowing Local Education Agencies the opportunity to maximize reimbursements for nursing and personal care services, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, physical therapy, audiology, psychological and transportation services, including telehealth services that are provided virtually or remotely.
- 4) The FCSB supports adherence to language in IDEA asking states to minimize the number of additional rules, regulations, and policies imposed upon local school divisions above and beyond the requirements already imposed by IDEA, while preserving current requirements for parent/guardian involvement, participation, and consent to IEPs.
- 5) The FCSB supports leaving the ultimate determination of the provision of appropriate services for each student covered under IDEA to that particular student's IEP team, subject to due process protections.
- 6) The FCSB supports the existing convention which places the burden of proof during due process proceedings on the party bringing the action.
- 7) The FCSB supports authority for local school boards to apply timely and fair discipline to all students, regardless of disability status, where the violation is not determined by the student's IEP team to be a manifestation of their disability.
- 8) The FCSB supports initiatives to address chronic shortages of qualified special education teachers.
- 9) The FCSB supports additional state resources and staffing dedicated to improved academic and career planning, postsecondary transition planning services, and postsecondary employment options for students with disabilities, including expanded availability of adult service opportunities.

T. Standards of Accreditation and Standards of Learning

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports a Standards of Accreditation (SOA) accountability program for schools based on a system of balanced measures of student achievement, engagement, and outcomes toward college and workforce readiness goals.
- 2) The FCSB supports school improvement guidelines and expectations that are grounded in evidence of effectiveness, and that allow flexibility for school divisions to adopt evidence-based improvement models that align with their specific goals and improvement focus.
- 3) The FCSB supports Standards of Learning content standards that emphasize a realistic body of content knowledge, conceptual understanding, application, and critical thinking; and that de-emphasize rote memorization and low-level thinking skills.
- 4) The FCSB supports reductions in the number and impact of mandated, standardized assessments on students, teachers, and schools, shifting toward a more balanced assessment system, including performance-based assessments which inform instruction. In addition, the FCSB supports expanded use of nationally and internationally benchmarked substitute assessments, including flexibility to use substitute growth assessments in place of the grade 3-8 Virginia Growth Assessment (VGA).
- 5) The FCSB supports the development of subject matter assessments in a student's native language for both academic screening assessments, such as Early Mathematics Assessment System (EMAS) and Language and Literacy Screener (LLS), and assessments of grade level content standards, such as Standards of Learning (SOL) and Virginia Growth Assessment (VGA) tests.

- 6) The FCSB supports subject matter assessments that adhere to universal design principles, including "plain language" assessments, to ensure more accurate measurement of content knowledge.
- 7) The FCSB supports a comprehensive review of state content standards, curriculum guidelines, and assessments to ensure state policies promote culturally responsive educational practices free of systemic racism, discrimination, and background knowledge biases.
- 8) The FCSB supports reasonable reporting requirements, guidelines, and regulations for both early intervention and remediation programs that do not compromise their objectives of improving student academic achievement.
- 9) The FCSB supports the current authority local school divisions have to implement changes in graduation requirements that go beyond those mandated by the state to meet the educational needs of their particular jurisdictions.
- 10) The FCSB supports conditioning any statewide changes in instructional program requirements, including high school graduation requirements, on the sufficient input of the State Board of Education and major stakeholders as well as on studies of the fiscal and instructional implications of such changes for all students and local school divisions. Possible changes in high school graduation requirements in particular should be evaluated in the context of where they fit within existing student requirements and balanced with consideration of relaxing or eliminating other requirements.
- 11) The FCSB supports accreditation standards which recognize the unique circumstances of English learners new to the United States with limited or interrupted formal schooling (SLIFE students) when incorporating these students into state measures of non-academic student performance like dropout rates and the Graduation and Completion Index (GCI) using similar practices and measures as those currently used for English learner student academic performance.
- 12) The FCSB supports providing local school divisions with greater flexibility in determining the appropriate allocation of instructional time in elementary schools across specific subject areas. Such flexibility would allow school divisions the opportunity to restructure the educational environment based on current research and to provide adequate time for recess.
- 13) The FCSB supports continued revisions to the School Quality Profiles and other public reporting of school and division results to embed sufficient explanation of how and why there may be differences in a school's outcomes in terms of how they are reported for state and federal accountability versus how they are reported for assessment, graduation, and absenteeism performance rates.
- 14) The FCSB supports development of enhanced assessment management and data monitoring tools for use by divisions to improve efficiency and consistency in their application of revised state testing expectations and to strengthen and support their use of assessment data to inform instructional decisions and to design appropriate student interventions.
- 15) The FCSB encourages the Virginia Board of Education to consider choosing a different indicator of school quality or student success other than the currently used measure of chronic absenteeism under Virginia's Standards of Accreditation and its federally required Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plan.
- 16) The FCSB supports continued implementation of literacy instruction that is grounded in the science of reading.
- 17) The FCSB supports continued access to rigorous and advanced mathematics instruction in grades K-12.
- 18) The FCSB supports allowing public K12 schools to provide virtual classroom driver education instruction.
- 19) The FCSB supports additional flexibility regarding graduation requirements for out-of-state transfer students, including leveraging flexibility for military transfer students provided under the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.
- 20) The FCSB opposes oversimplifying school achievement measurements by aggregating the wealth of data already available about school performance into a single summative rating, such as a grade on an A-F scale.
- 21) The FCSB opposes state "takeovers" of underperforming local schools.

- 22) The FCSB opposes the use of standardized test scores as the sole basis for decisions regarding a student's appropriate grade level assignment.

U. Standards of Quality

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports adoption and maintenance of appropriate and adequately funded Standards of Quality (SOQ) to accurately reflect and fully support actual local instructional and support priorities and operating expenses, best practices, and local needs; which fully account for the effects of cost increases due to inflation; and which keep pace with evolving accountability requirements. In addition, the FCSB supports SOQs which strike a fair balance of costs between the state and localities.
- 2) The FCSB supports staffing standards that are flexible enough to address varying local service needs and accommodate innovative instructional practices.
- 3) The FCSB supports specific inclusion in the SOQ of the positions and support already in place at local expense necessary to carry out mandates found in other sections of the Code, in other Virginia Board of Education regulations, or in federal law, including for example, test coordinator positions to help with implementation and administration of expanded and more frequent Standards of Learning assessments.
- 4) The FCSB supports funding for the SOQ that fully covers the total state share (55 percent) of the costs of establishing and maintaining an educational program of high quality, as envisioned in the Constitution of Virginia.
- 5) The FCSB supports Virginia's Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission's (JLARC) 2023 recommendation to eliminate "Great Recession" era changes to the SOQ funding formula, including elimination of the support cap, re-instating non-personal cost categories, and re-instating the federal fund deduction methodology used prior to FY 2009.
- 6) The FCSB supports specific recognition within the Standards of the critical role that both school facilities and technology infrastructure play in the successful implementation of the instructional program prescribed by the SOQ.
- 7) The FCSB encourages the Virginia Department of Education to evaluate the policy implications and fiscal impacts of replacing the state's existing position centered funding formulas under the Standards of Quality with weighted per-student funding formulas.
- 8) The FCSB opposes the state shifting its Constitutional responsibility for funding public education onto the localities and local taxpayers.
- 9) The FCSB opposes changes in the state's biennial re-benchmarking process which further erode the connection between what the state is obligated to pay for K-12 education and the actual costs of providing services.
- 10) The FCSB opposes deducting local or federal revenues from Basic Aid funding calculations.

V. State Education Funding

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) believes that state funding for elementary and secondary education should adequately and appropriately support quality programs for all students in the Commonwealth. The state should fairly share responsibility with each local school board for the true costs to localities of implementing Virginia's Standards of Quality, Standards of Accreditation, Standards of Learning, and other state mandated education related programs. This includes fair, equitable, and up-to-date state funding distribution formulas, including the Local Composite Index (LCI), that accurately reflect local ability to pay, revenue generation capacity, local cost of living, local salary costs, and the particular resource needs of local school divisions.
- 2) The FCSB supports continued state resources dedicated to remediation and learning recovery services for our most vulnerable student populations.

State Funding Formulas and Practices

- 3) The FCSB supports the amendment of Article VII of the Virginia Constitution, to mandate that the

General Assembly “ensure” (as opposed to merely “seek” to ensure) that an educational program of high quality is established and continually maintained.

- 4) The FCSB supports providing full and appropriate funding for the biennial re-benchmark of Direct Aid to Public Education. Should the General Assembly fail to fully fund re-benchmarking, the state should grant waiver requests from mandated requirements in proportion to the shortfall.
- 5) The FCSB supports JLARC's 2023 recommendation to calculate salary and other Standards of Quality formula cost assumptions using division averages, rather than a linear weighted average.
- 6) The FCSB supports the recognition of absolute population numbers as well as percentages for programs targeting funding support for English learners, students receiving special education services, and students in poverty.
- 7) The FCSB supports the use of formulas based on individual school populations, rather than solely on aggregate system-wide data.
- 8) The FCSB supports funding formulas which account for student population growth, measured both by percentage as well as by absolute population growth, as a key factor which drives education funding needs in high growth localities.
- 9) The FCSB supports continued distribution of some funding on a uniform state/local match, such as technology grants.
- 10) The FCSB supports funding formulas used for infrastructure needs, such as for technology and construction, which recognize variations in school enrollments and student population growth, rather than basing distribution on a per-school basis or on the Local Composite Index.
- 11) The FCSB supports funding formulas that distribute state aid for early intervention and remediation programs for all eligible students by using the local school division's composite index or .5000 – whichever is lower.
- 12) The FCSB supports increasing the proportion of state sales tax dedicated to public education.
- 13) The FCSB supports the current mechanism for distributing sales tax revenues on the basis of each locality's number of school-age children rather than through other mechanisms that would further equalize sales tax distributions.
- 14) The FCSB opposes artificial limitations on the growth of state expenditures, such as limiting expenditure growth to the rate of inflation and general population increases.
- 15) The FCSB opposes the continued practice of shifting Standards of Quality and other recurring cost programs into the state's lottery funded accounts.
- 16) The FCSB opposes measures that would reduce the discretionary authority local school boards currently have to set their own budget priorities, such as requiring school divisions to spend certain percentages of their budget on certain activities or budget categories.

Cost of Competing Adjustment

- 17) The FCSB supports JLARC's 2023 recommendation to replace the current cost of competing adjustment with a more accurate adjustment based on a Virginia cost of labor index that better accounts for differing labor costs across school divisions in calculating compensation funding through the Standards of Quality formula. In the absence of a Virginia cost of labor index, the FCSB supports the continued use of an appropriate, up-to-date, and fully funded cost of competing factor for both instructional and support personnel in the Standards of Quality reimbursement formulas, including full restoration of the support position adjustment and JLARC's 2023 recommendation to apply the cost of competing adjustment to facility and transportation staff salaries in the SOQ formula.

Local Composite Index (LCI)

- 18) The FCSB supports lowering the current .8000 cap on the LCI to increase the state's minimum share of education funding for every local school division.
- 19) The FCSB supports hold harmless provisions to mitigate the effects of biennial changes in the LCI.
- 20) The FCSB supports an in-depth review of the LCI focused on JLARC's 2023 recommendation to replace the LCI with a revenue capacity index to more accurately measure local ability to pay.

Program Specific Funding

- 21) The FCSB supports increased state funding for instructional and support position salaries without state revenue contingencies.
- 22) The FCSB supports increased funding for all regional, academic year Governor's Schools, with annual adjustment of the add-on per pupil amount for academic year Governor's Schools in conjunction with the basic aid per pupil adjustment, as well as funding based on total uncapped enrollments. In addition, the FCSB supports state funding for capital construction and improvements at regional academic year Governor's Schools.
- 23) The FCSB supports additional state funding to help address the local education-related impacts associated with major regional corporate relocations, such as increases in K-12 enrollments in particular communities.

W. Student Activities

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) opposes mandates to require local school boards to allow students who are not currently enrolled full time in a public school in their locality to participate in student athletics and activities.
- 2) The FCSB supports the development of state-wide standards and enforcement protocols to prevent racism, discrimination, bullying, and all forms of violence during interscholastic activities.

X. Student Discipline

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports maintaining the current statutory authority of local school boards to adopt regulations permitting them to choose among alternative discipline procedures specified in the Code of Virginia for handling cases of suspension, expulsion, and exclusion.
- 2) The FCSB supports regulations and procedures that enable prompt, understandable, consistent, and fair disciplinary action for all students.
- 3) The FCSB supports continued local school board authority and discretion for offering alternative education programs to students, including those who have been suspended, expelled, excluded, or otherwise disciplined; as well as increased availability of state funding resources for local school boards to implement alternatives to suspension and/or expulsion, such as restorative justice initiatives.
- 4) The FCSB supports limiting the required reporting of school-based student offenses to law enforcement only to cases where the offense would be a felony, or, in the case of instances of assault or assault and battery without bodily injury, reporting such cases to the police at the discretion of the principal.
- 5) The FCSB opposes legislative imposition of universally applicable restrictions on local school board authority to take disciplinary action against students for specific actions or behaviors, particularly in cases of offenses that endanger students and/or staff such as those involving drugs, weapons, physical injury, or offenses of a sexual nature.
- 6) The FCSB opposes legislative requirements that local school boards use any particular disciplinary measure, unless it is required by federal law; and mandates to provide educational services to students (other than those served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act) whom the local school board has suspended, expelled, or excluded.

Y. Student Health and Wellness

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports significantly increased state resources devoted to programs and staffing (including school psychologists, school nurses, school counselors, school social workers, and community-based programs) to help school divisions serve the increasing school mental and physical health and wellness needs of our student population; and to assist with responses to issues such as childhood obesity, child and adolescent sleep, menstrual product availability, student mental health, student safety, suicide prevention, and other public health crises.

- 2) The FCSB supports maintaining locally based authority and flexibility to determine the school health, mental health, and counseling models that most appropriately meet a division's needs via local policies and staffing, including preservation of the role that local health departments play in the provision of school health services. Should the General Assembly choose to mandate health-related programs or staffing, adequate and appropriate state resources must be allocated before local school divisions would be required to implement changes.
- 3) The FCSB supports current policies allowing parents to review Family Life Education (FLE) curricula and, at their discretion, to opt their student out of participation from FLE lessons.
- 4) The FCSB supports increased state reimbursement for both the school lunch and school breakfast programs, including state revenues to facilitate expansion of universal free meals availability, and to address ongoing funding challenges for food and nutrition programs and increasing state restrictions on meal debt collection.
- 5) The FCSB supports additional funding, associated supports, and coordinated strategies to meet the growing need for substance use disorder services that target specific high-risk age groups, particularly regarding fentanyl, other opioids, and vaping. Innovative approaches to prevention and addiction treatment are necessary to address these public health crises.

Z. Student Safety

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports the provision of and funding for a safe and secure learning environment for its students and personnel, which includes securing physical facilities, addressing student mental health and wellness, as well as educating students regarding the safe use of the internet and other instructional technologies.
- 2) The FCSB supports state funding sufficient to support at least one uniformed School Resource Officer (SRO) in each middle school and high school in the Commonwealth, as well as state funding to provide additional safety and security personnel in elementary schools.
- 3) The FCSB supports state support for the active monitoring by state and local offices of probation and parole of individuals in the State Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry.
- 4) The FCSB supports dedicated and ongoing state funding for local school boards to use in ensuring safe, secure, and respectful school environments through effective programs such as character education, risk prevention, door access technologies, video surveillance, radio interoperability with public safety agencies, exit door numbering protocols, visitor screening, and other proactive initiatives appropriate at the local school level.
- 5) The FCSB supports interpretations and provisions of law that allow local school boards to be rigorous in banning the possession of weapons on school property in order to protect the safety of students in the school environment.
- 6) The FCSB supports specific authorization for localities to ban possession of dangerous weapons in recreation centers and prohibition of the sale of look-alike firearms, particularly BB and pellet guns, to minors.
- 7) The FCSB supports allowing localities the option of regulating the proximity of a gun store to a public school.
- 8) The FCSB supports maintaining the confidentiality of school specific and district-wide emergency/crisis plans.
- 9) The FCSB supports comprehensive gun violence prevention legislation to help protect the health and safety of our students, families, and staff.
- 10) The Fairfax County School Board supports additional local authority and flexibility in setting speed limits in school zones.
- 11) The FCSB opposes requiring the designation of non-law enforcement officials to carry concealed handguns in schools.
- 12) The FCSB opposes specific state mandates to place School Resource Officers in particular schools; such personnel decisions should remain with local school boards.

AA. Student Transportation

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports measures that foster safe transportation for pupils as well as the efficient operation of school buses and school division transportation systems.
- 2) The FCSB supports continued focus on policies and technologies which assist in the enforcement of the prohibition on passing stopped school buses.
- 3) The FCSB supports findings regarding the safety value of installing safety belts on large school buses which conclude that lap belts appear to have little, if any benefit, in reducing serious injuries and actually could increase the incidence of neck and abdominal injuries. While the use of combination lap/shoulder belts could provide some benefit, misuse could result in serious injuries.
- 4) The FCSB supports the elimination of requirements to equip school buses with EZ Pass transponders to operate on any toll lanes, including Express Lanes, for which they are already exempt from paying tolls.
- 5) The FCSB supports the Commonwealth addressing barriers to entry for school bus driver candidates, particularly related to eligibility requirements, to Commercial Drivers License (CDL) training costs, and to expediting licensure timelines.
- 6) The FCSB opposes legislation which would involve local school boards in the provision of transportation for nonpublic school students.

AB. Teachers and Instructional Personnel

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports local, state, and federal initiatives that help to attract and retain the highest quality teachers and instructional personnel of diverse backgrounds including: competitive salaries; addressing cost concerns related to high-quality teacher preparation programs; alternative licensure and Career Switcher programs (which maintain rigorous requirements and include an internship or classroom practicum requirement); monetary awards for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification; clinical faculty programs; professional development schools; tuition reimbursement programs; property and income tax relief; and other support for housing related expenses.
- 2) The FCSB supports expansion of and increased funding for the Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan program and similar programs providing education loan forgiveness in exchange for classroom teaching service time.
- 3) The FCSB supports rigorous and fair performance evaluation systems, including school board discretion to determine the appropriate weighting of student academic progress components in teacher evaluation systems, as well as the ability to remove ineffective teachers.
- 4) The FCSB supports significantly increased state resources for and availability of high-quality comprehensive induction programs, effective mentoring, and professional development to better prepare teachers and school administrators to successfully manage such challenges as educational accountability, addressing opportunity gaps, and the integration of technology for instruction and improving student achievement.
- 5) The FCSB supports a comprehensive evaluation of the appropriateness of initial teacher licensure and licensure renewal requirements, particularly as new mandates are added each year, and with an eye toward simplifying the process for prospective applicants. Discussions of possible new requirements must be evaluated considering the additional workload they place on teachers and balanced with consideration of relaxing or eliminating existing requirements.
- 6) The FCSB supports JLARC's 2023 recommendation to evaluate alternatives to the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment as a teacher licensure requirement.
- 7) The FCSB supports better alignment between the content and coursework requirements in post-secondary teacher and administrator preparation programs and their respective licensure requirements, (including those mandated by state and federal policymakers), and the actual skills and academic content knowledge necessary for teachers and administrators to be successful, with an emphasis on classroom and behavioral management, on the needs of students receiving special education services and of English learners, and on literacy instruction that is grounded in the science of reading.

- 8) The FCSB supports an evaluation of Virginia statutes governing teacher employment, grievance, suspension, and dismissal, including in particular the impacts of the changes adopted by the General Assembly in 2013.
- 9) The FCSB supports reform to the process for submission of licensure applications and renewals to the state, with the goal of streamlining processing and reporting.
- 10) The FCSB supports JLARC's 2023 recommendation requesting the Virginia Department of Education to list the specific teacher license types and endorsement areas in other states that qualify for a Virginia teaching license through reciprocity.
- 11) The FCSB supports additional state funding, resources, and policies to facilitate and accelerate the process of conducting employee background checks, including state approval for specific local positions authorized to conduct employee background checks.
- 12) The FCSB supports additional routes to provisional or conditional licensure in high-need fields, including English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) and special education, and incorporation of additional flexibility in provisional or conditional licensure for teachers seeking to add further endorsement areas (even in non-high need fields) when those individuals can secure an intention to hire from a school administrator in a high poverty school.
- 13) The FCSB supports dedicating additional state resources to accelerate Virginia's planned participation in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Next Generation Identification (NGI) Noncriminal Justice Rap Back Service, and on-going funding for local participation once implemented.
- 14) The FCSB opposes the elimination of continuing contracts.
- 15) The FCSB opposes changes to the grievance process that do not preserve adequate due process protections.
- 16) The FCSB opposes the use of standardized test scores as the sole or predominant measure of teacher effectiveness.

AC. Vouchers, Tuition Tax Credits, and Tax Deductions

- 1) The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) opposes mandates for choice programs between school divisions or choice programs that include private schools; as well as state or federal mandates for intra district choice programs (within one school division).
- 2) The FCSB opposes diverting public education funds away from local public schools to non-public schools in the form of tuition tax credits, tax deductions, education savings accounts, or vouchers as means of reimbursing parents for their children's educational expenses, grades K-12.
- 3) The FCSB opposes measures requiring the transfer of local taxpayer funds to other jurisdictions, to a statewide institution, or to private providers should a student choose to attend a virtual program outside of their home school division.

Fairfax County School Board Federal Legislative Positions

FED. Federal Education Funding and Policy

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- 1) The FCSB supports mandatory funding for chronically underfunded special education programs to meet the federal commitment to fund 40 percent of the “excess costs” of special education as promised but never realized since the 1975 adoption of federal special education laws (currently known as IDEA).
- 2) The FCSB supports allowing local school divisions to use additional special education funds to supplant local funds that since 1975 have been expended to make up the deficit in promised federal support.

Title I

- 3) The FCSB supports continuation and full funding of the Title I, Part A grant within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) that serves schools with the highest percentage of children from low-income families.
- 4) The FCSB supports continued reliance on Title I formula grants to provide critical and consistent funding to all eligible school divisions and not solely on competitive grant programs.
- 5) The FCSB supports giving schools greater flexibility for using Title I funds to address persistent performance gaps, including allowing school divisions to flexibly supplement local funding where appropriate as well as reducing the number and amount of mandated fund set-asides.
- 6) The FCSB supports continued reliance on Title I formulas that allocate funding based on both a school division’s overall poverty rate as well as on the division’s absolute numbers of students in poverty.
- 7) The FCSB opposes turning Title I or other federal program funding into portable vouchers.

Impact Aid

- 8) The FCSB supports full funding for the federal Impact Aid program, which is intended to offset the local impact of federally connected students as well as those associated with federal military base relocation decisions.
- 9) The FCSB supports additional Impact Aid funding support to address the impacts of particular concentrations of military-connected families within localities.
- 10) The FCSB supports additional Impact Aid funding support for students with disabilities who receive special needs exemptions to attend military-connected schools.
- 11) The FCSB supports revisions to the Impact Aid eligibility identification process which would automatically “opt in” any student with a military student identifier as created under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- 12) FCSB supports policies to facilitate and streamline military student records transfers for military-connected youth transferring into or out of FCPS schools.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- 13) The FCSB supports common sense federal accountability programs that ensure fair, accurate, and meaningful assessments of student achievement, and that leave the ultimate determination of the best ways to measure student, school and school division accountability to the states and localities.

- 14) The FCSB supports federal programs which encourage and enhance the use of successful evidence-based improvement models, appropriately emphasize the achievement of particular goals rather than rigid and inflexible “top down” or “one size fits all” reform models, and which are not in conflict with provisions found in other major federal education laws.
- 15) The FCSB supports emphasis on the broad-based college and workplace readiness skills necessary for success in the 21st Century.
- 16) The FCSB supports allowances for determinations of reasonable and meaningful student assessment, including the use of alternative assessments for students with disabilities and English learners where appropriate.
- 17) The FCSB opposes rigid imposition of school reform models that rely on the removal of a principal as the only or ultimate way to turn around an underperforming school.
- 18) The FCSB opposes making policy decisions, such as teacher and principal evaluations, solely or overly reliant on student scores on standardized, high-stakes tests.

Other Funding and Policy Issues

- 19) The FCSB supports continued federal funding dedicated to remediation and learning recovery services for our most vulnerable student populations.
- 20) The Fairfax County School Board supports repealing the U.S. Department of Education’s Final Rule under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (released May 2020), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance and, in the interim, returning to the pre-May Rule.
- 21) The FCSB supports federal and state policies, laws, regulations, and procedures that promote and facilitate local access to and flexibility in the use of federal education-related funds.
- 22) The FCSB supports continued and adequate funding for teacher quality and professional development (Title II, Part A); educational services for students with limited English proficiency (Title III, Part A); for vocational and technical education (the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act); for at-risk youth; and for quality after school and summer programs (21st Century Community Learning Centers Initiative).
- 23) The FCSB supports continued and adequate funding for educational technology and internet connectivity (E-Rate), including additional flexibility to use E-Rate funds for mobile internet infrastructure, devices, and connectivity for remote or at-home use.
- 24) The FCSB supports federal resources dedicated to cyber and data security for school and school division technology infrastructure.
- 25) The FCSB supports additional federal funding aid to help address the needs of unaccompanied children who have been relocated to Fairfax County through the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement.
- 26) The FCSB supports a uniform set of rules and guidelines that would at least maintain current Medicaid funding and eligibility standards for our students and that would continue to allow school divisions to claim administrative and transportation expenses associated with Medicaid eligible services to students served under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), including telehealth services that are provided virtually or remotely.
- 27) The FCSB supports federal funding reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) which helps serve children’s health care needs in low-income households.
- 28) The FCSB supports the implementation of funding to support the provision of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for students with disabilities identified under the Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, including the provision of related services, training of personnel and costs associated with maintaining 504 compliance.
- 29) The FCSB supports reclassifying menstrual products as eligible items for purchase with assistance from programs designed to help low-income families, including Medicaid, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), and WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children).

- 30) The FCSB urges the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to partner with state education agencies and local school divisions to provide school performance data based on each state's own system of school quality rather than relying on oversimplified results from unaccountable nongovernmental aggregators of such data; and specifically requests that HUD end its partnership with GreatSchools.org.
- 31) The FCSB supports passage by the United States Congress of a federal constitutional amendment guaranteeing equal rights to women.
- 32) The FCSB supports the funding of adequate and equitable federal programs to assist localities with public school construction, renovation, and major maintenance projects.
- 33) The FCSB supports restoration of enhanced United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) federal reimbursement rates to continue the provision of high quality and nutritious free meals to all students.
- 34) The FCSB supports continuation of federal funding associated with the now expired Safe Routes to School program to ensure student safety in travelling to and from school facilities.
- 35) The FCSB supports comprehensive gun violence prevention legislation to help protect the health and safety of our students, families, and staff.
- 36) The FCSB supports requiring all states to participate in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Next Generation Identification (NGI) Noncriminal Justice Rap Back Service.
- 37) The FCSB supports expansion of and increased funding for the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and similar programs providing education loan forgiveness in exchange for public education-related service time.
- 38) The FCSB opposes intrusive federal mandates that are not adequately funded or that impose undue administrative burdens.
- 39) The FCSB opposes arbitrary across-the-board cuts to, or federally imposed caps upon, education spending, such as those envisioned by "sequestration".
- 40) The FCSB opposes overly restrictive interpretations of "supplement, not supplant" provisions for federal funding which infringe on a local school board's authority to set their own budget and staffing priorities.
- 41) The FCSB opposes changes in eligibility requirements for federal assistance programs which would directly or indirectly reduce student access to free and reduced-price school meals (FRM) or school breakfast programs.

Fairfax County School Board



Elaine Tholen

Chair and Dranesville District Representative

Karl Frisch

Vice Chair and Providence District Representative

Megan McLaughlin

Braddock District Representative

Tamara Derenak Kaufax

Franconia District Representative

Melanie K. Meren

Hunter Mill District Representative

Ricardy Anderson

Mason District Representative

Karen Corbett Sanders

Mount Vernon District Representative

Laura Jane Cohen

Springfield District Representative

Stella Pekarsky

Sully District Representative

Karen Keys-Gamarra

Member-at-Large

Abrar Omeish

Member-at-Large

Rachna Sizemore Heizer

Member-at-Large

Rida Karim

Student Representative

2024 Fairfax County General Assembly Delegation (as of December 4, 2023)

Virginia Senate

Senator-Elect Jennifer D. Carroll Foy - 33rd District

Senator Scott A. Surovell - 34th District

Senator David W. Marsden - 35th District

Senator-Elect Stella G. Pekarsky - 36th District

Senator-Elect Saddam Azlan Salim - 37th District

Senator Jennifer B. Boysko - 38th District

Senator Adam P. Ebbin - 39th District

Virginia House of Delegates

Delegate Charniele L. Herring - 4th District

Delegate Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan Jr. - 6th District

Delegate-Elect Karen A. Keys-Gamarra - 7th District

Delegate Irene Shin - 8th District

Delegate Karrie K. Delaney - 9th District

Delegate Dan I. Helmer - 10th District

Delegate David L. Bulova - 11th District

Delegate Holly M. Seibold - 12th District

Delegate Marcus B. Simon - 13th District

Delegate Vivian E. Watts - 14th District

Delegate-Elect Laura Jane H. Cohen - 15th District

Delegate Paul E. Krizek - 16th District

Delegate Mark D. Sickles - 17th District

Delegate Kathy K.L. Tran - 18th District

Delegate-Elect Rozia A. "J.R." Henson, Jr. - 19th District