Virginia is For Learners
Deeper Learning and Supportive State Policies in Virginia

Atif Qarni, Secretary of Education
Dr. James Lane, State Superintendent for Public Instruction
Holly Coy, Deputy Secretary of Education
Gov. Northam’s Educational Priorities

Improve the quality of and expand access to early childhood (0-5) care and learning programs for at-risk children

Promote excellence and equity in all schools for all students

Build meaningful pathways from classrooms to the workplace

Increase access to higher education and improve completion rates
Promote Excellence and Equity

Continue state investments in K12 education with primary goals of addressing historic inequities and closing outstanding achievement gaps

Ensure all students, in every grade, experience instruction that focuses on key skills for success

Support efforts to guarantee that students have high quality teachers in their classrooms who are prepared to advance deeper teaching and learning for all students
TRAINING K-12 STUDENTS TO GO DEEPER

Students in every grade will experience a new approach to instruction that focuses on key skills for success in a modern world – Virginia’s 5C’s: critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration and citizenship skills. This approach will prepare every student with the content knowledge they need and the skills they need to apply it successfully after graduation.
A SUCCESSFUL VIRGINIA GRADUATE WILL:

- Achieve and apply academic and technical knowledge;
- Demonstrate workplace skills, qualities, and behaviors;
- Build connections and value interactions with others as a responsible and responsive citizen; and
- Align knowledge, skills and personal interests with career opportunities.
Virginia is changing how the commonwealth evaluates and accredits schools across the state.

These changes, in combination with a new approach to the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs):

• Provide a more comprehensive view of school quality;
• Place increased emphasis on racial and economic equity;
• Recognize schools that demonstrate continuous improvement; and
• Increase expectations that schools prepare students to succeed in college and the workforce after graduation.
Virginia high school graduation requirements have been revised to incorporate the Profile of a Virginia Graduate, ensuring graduates have the knowledge, skills, attributes and experiences identified by employers and educators as critical for future success.

For the first time, all Virginia graduates will also leave high school with life changing work-based learning experiences that put them on the path for a good career and economic advancement.
Equity in Education

Develop a vision of equity

Focus on teaching and leading

Use an equity lens on school funding

Ensure all students have access to high-quality curricula and programs, including gifted programs
## Summary of Draft SOQ Proposals

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<tr>
<td>Equity Fund</td>
<td>$131.9M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Leader and Mentor Programs</td>
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<td>English Learner Teachers</td>
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<td>Specialized Student Support Personnel</td>
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<td>Reading Specialists</td>
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<td>Work-Based Learning Coordinators</td>
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* Before rebenchmarking

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<td>Class Size Reduction</td>
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<td>Principal Mentorship</td>
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<td>School Counselors</td>
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<td>Elementary School Principals</td>
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<td>Assistant Principals</td>
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<td>Recession-Era Savings and Flexibility Strategies</td>
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<td>Enhance data collections regarding school staffing</td>
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Is Virginia for Early Learners?

Only **60% of Virginia students** start kindergarten with the key literacy, math, and social-emotional skills needed to be successful in school. Most concerning is that **only half of children** from economically disadvantaged families enter school fully prepared for success.

75% of Virginia’s early childhood programs that receive **public funding do not** participate in the state’s voluntary quality measurement system; vulnerable families as well as policymakers, practitioners and community leaders do not have **uniform information on quality**.
Is Virginia for Early Learners?

Virginia ranks 33rd nationally in preschool funding; 24% of economically disadvantaged 4-year-olds and 72% of economically disadvantaged 3-year-olds lack access to quality preschool.

Virginia ranks 37th nationally in early childhood governance and lacks a uniform oversight and regulatory framework, making it difficult for communities to strengthen their local systems.
Invest and support early childhood educators

Plan for and invest in expanded access in a mixed delivery system

Require participation in quality measurement and improvement systems

Better align funding streams and policies at the state level
Connections

Atif.Qarni@governor.virginia.gov
Holly.Coy@governor.virginia.gov
James.Lane@doe.virginia.gov

#VAis4Learners #EdEquityVA