



PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION: Developing a Shared Legislative Agenda for 2020

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MAYOR STONEY



City Council

A number of proposed legislative requests pertain to children and education:

Funding

- Full funding for the true costs of public education in Virginia
- Full funding for the PILOT in the City of Richmond

Supporting the creation of a School Construction Commission



City Council

A number of proposed legislative requests pertain to children and education:

Thriving and Healthy Futures for Children, Adults & Families

- Expanding access to healthy food, especially for those in food deserts
- Including oral health/dental services in Medicaid
- Increasing funding for mental health and substance abuse services
- Providing access to quality wraparound early childhood services for the most at-risk families
- Adopting a state policy requiring state and local governments to pay a living wage
- Authorizing localities to impose plastic bag and sweetened beverage taxes



Draft RPS Legislative Agenda

Update for the Education Compact

Presented by: Matthew Stanley, Director of Advocacy and Outreach

Venue: Education Compact

Date: October 10, 2019

Dreams4RPS Aligned Draft Legislative Agenda

Priority 1 – Exciting and Rigorous Teaching and Learning

Equity Based Funding (also supports Priorities 2, 3, and 4)

Support the Board of Education's recommendation to consolidate the At-Risk Add On (\$121 million) and Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation funds (\$112 million) into a single, expanded Equity Fund within the Standards of Quality to include an additional investment of \$131 million. This consolidated funding stream would be based on the existing At-Risk Add On formula and eliminate the academic outcome factors used for current Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation funds, maximizing funding to school divisions, like the City of Richmond, that have the most concentrated poverty. Distributions from the Equity Fund would support hiring additional teachers, targeted compensation adjustments to attract and retain teachers in schools with high child poverty rates, or for programs that support students who are academically at-risk.

Expand Early Childhood Programs for 3 Year-Olds

Support efforts to expand access to early childhood programs with a goal of universal preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds. Research shows that children who attend more than one year of preschool show better long-term outcomes than their peers that only attend one year of preschool before kindergarten.

Resources for English Learners and Students with Disabilities

Support additional state funding to provide resources needed to wrap around English Learner students and students with disabilities to reduce disparities and improve outcomes, support funding for additional training, technical assistance, curriculum design, and other programs and services.

Instructional Hours

Support additional state funding that would allow RPS to extend instructional hours. Such support should be limited to school divisions operating under MOU and state supervision by the Virginia Department of Education.

Dreams4RPS Aligned Draft Legislative Agenda

Priority 2 – Skilled and Supported Staff

Teacher and Staff Compensation

Improve the Commonwealth's teacher and staff compensation structure by fully funding salary increases to bring Virginia's average teacher salary to the national average without further burden on localities. Virginia's average teacher salaries are currently well below the national average – about 12% less than average – meaning they earn 31% less than comparable college-educated workers – the 3rd worst teacher wage penalty in the country. These disparities deter diverse, and particularly black teachers, from the profession since they are likely to have more student debt

(<https://thehalfsheet.org/post/186475365623/representation-matters-why-and-how-virginia>).

Support and Process Improvements for State Supervised School Divisions

Explore statutory, regulatory, or procedure changes that would provide additional state support and improve the VDOE/school division collaboration process for divisions under a Memorandum of Understanding and corrective action process with the state.

Dreams4RPS Aligned Draft Legislative Agenda

Priority 3 – Safe and Loving School Cultures

Support Staff

Increase funding for school-based support staff including school counselors, social workers, psychologists, and nurses. This involves removing the support position funding cap and decreasing ratios of these positions in the SOQs. In their new SOQ recommendations, the Board of Education has proposed \$100 million in investments to:

- Remove the school nurse, school social worker, and school psychologist position from the SOQ support position category.
- Create a new staffing category for “specialized student support personnel” in the SOQ, with a specified ratios for these positions of 4 per 1000 students.

Trauma-Informed Care

Support policies and funding that further support the use of trauma-informed practices to effectively serve students facing toxic stress in their lives.

Student Discipline

Eliminate the ability for students to be criminally charged with disorderly conduct at school and support the elimination of other policies contributing to the school-to-prison pipeline. Policy improvements in this area will help combat racial disparities in school discipline as highlighted in the recent Metropolitan Regional Educational Consortium report on Understanding Racial Inequity in School Discipline Across the Richmond Region (<https://merc.soe.vcu.edu/reports/published-reports/understanding-racial-inequity-in-school-discipline-across-the-richmond-region/>).

Alternative Education Funding

Support state funding of locally-provided alternative education. Currently, only regional alternative education programs are state funded and divisions should receive similar support in offering their own programs.

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Priority 4 – Deep Partnerships with Families and Communities

Parent Teacher Home Visits

Support creation of pilot grant program or teacher incentive program to support expansion of parent teacher home visits.

Research findings (<http://www.pthvp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/181130-StudentOutcomesandPTHVReportFINAL.pdf>) support the implementation of Parent Teacher Home Visits (PTHV) as an evidenced-based family engagement approach to improve student outcomes:

- On average, schools that systematically implemented PTHV experienced decreased rates of student chronic absenteeism and increased rates of student English Language Arts (ELA) and math proficiency.
- Students whose families participated in a home visit were less likely to be chronically absent than students whose families did not participate.
- For students, attending a school that was implementing home visits with at least 10% of students' families was associated with a decreased likelihood of being chronically absent.
- For students, attending a school that was implementing home visits with at least 10% of students' families was associated with an increased likelihood of scoring at or above proficiency on standardized ELA assessments.

LGBTQ+ Students and Staff

Support efforts to enact anti-discrimination laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and other laws that build safe communities.

Dreams4RPS Aligned Draft Legislative Agenda

Priority 5 – Modern Systems and Infrastructure

School Modernization and Construction

Provide meaningful state financial support for school modernization and construction by maximizing the use of Lottery funds or creating new funding streams. The quality of a school building has direct impacts on students' ability to learn and with 40 percent of Virginia's public school buildings and facilities built at least 50 years ago and another 20 percent constructed at least 40 years ago, school facilities in Richmond and the Commonwealth are in dire need of modernization or replacement. Virginia should create a School Construction Commission to provide state-level leadership and enable cross-division collaboration in addressing Virginia's school facility needs. Such a commission would be able to inventory statewide needs, identify possible funding mechanisms, establish best practices, and create savings for divisions through standardized designs and procurement.

Energy Efficient Infrastructure

Support grant programs, state incentives, and initiatives for energy efficient and sustainable infrastructure, including solar energy systems and electric buses. The Commonwealth should join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (<https://www.rggi.org/>) to allow the state to invest proceeds from emission allowances into energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in Virginia's public school buildings.

Transportation Funding Support

Support efforts to determine the full costs of transporting students, both K-12 and preschool, and seek additional state support for this critical service to ensure that the district has the resources to provide efficient transportation to all students.

Local Composite Index (LCI) Reform

Support modifications to the LCI formulas to include additional factors such as an equity factor, a Capitol City Multiplier, or a reduction in the weight of property values to reflect the significant inventory of tax-exempt property in the City of Richmond.

Intergovernmental Collaboration

Proposed Revisions/Additions to the Richmond City Council Legislative Agenda

Public Education Funding

Provide full, equitable funding for the true costs of public education in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Immediate goals should streams, removal of the funding caps for support staff, and providing sufficient general funds for direct aid programs so that 100 directly to local schools for discretionary use. Further, meaningful state financial support for school modernization and and/or creation of a new funding stream.

Education Priorities

Support the Richmond Public Schools' Legislative Agenda developed in alignment with the RPS strategic plan #Dreams4RPS.

1. **Priority 1 – Exciting and Rigorous Teaching and Learning:** *Equity-Based Funding, Expand Early Childhood Programs, ELL and Exceptional Education Resources, Instructional Hours*
2. **Priority 2 – Skilled and Supported Staff:** *Teacher and Staff Compensation, Support and Process Improvements for MOU Districts*
3. **Priority 3 – Safe and Loving School Cultures:** *Support Staff, Trauma-Informed Care, Student Discipline, Alternative Education*
4. **Priority 4 – Deep Partnerships with Families and Communities:** *Parent Teacher Home Visits, LGBTQ+ Staff and Students*
5. **Priority 5 – Modern Systems and Infrastructure:** *School Modernization and Construction, Energy Efficient Infrastructure, Local Composite Index Reform*



Recommendation

Going forward, Council, Schools, and Mayor staff recommends that the annual process to develop and propose legislative priorities be an intentionally collaborative one, and that the annual legislative summit be a shared event among all three teams



DISCUSSION:

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