Department of Education, will develop and plan or implement innovative approaches to engage and to motivate students through personalized learning and instruction leading to demonstrated mastery of content, as well as skills development of career readiness. Essential elements of high school innovation include: (1) student centered learning, with progress based on student demonstrated proficiency; (2) ‘real-world’ connections that promote alignment with community work-force needs and emphasize transition to college and/or career; and (3) varying models for educator supports and staffing. Individual school divisions or consortia will be invited to apply on a competitive basis by submitting a grant application that includes descriptions of key elements of innovations, a detailed budget, expectations for outcomes and student achievement benefits, evaluation methods, and plans for sustainability. The Department of Education will make the final determination of which individual school divisions or consortia of divisions will receive the year-long planning grant for High School Innovation or a grant to implement a High School Program Innovation plan previously approved by the Department of Education. Any school division or consortium of divisions which desires to apply for this competitive grant must submit a proposal to the Department of Education by June 1 preceding the school year in which the planning or implementation for systemic high school innovation is to take place.

V. Out of this appropriation, $550,000 the first year and $550,000 the second year from the general fund is provided to train new teachers in computer science and develop an in-state infrastructure for training existing teachers to teach computer science curricula.

W. Out of this appropriation, $100,000 the first year and $100,000 the second year from the general fund is provided to support the Newport News Aviation Academy's four-year high school STEM program, which focuses on piloting, aircraft maintenance, engineering, computers, and electronics.

X.1. Out of this appropriation, $50,000 the first year is provided for grants to school divisions of up to $5,000 each to explore alternative teacher compensation approaches that move away from tenure-based step increases toward compensation systems based on teacher performance and student progress. Priority will be given to school divisions that have not previously explored alternative compensation approaches and have schools not achieving full accreditation, or that have high numbers of at-risk students needing qualified teachers in hard-to-staff subjects.

2. In the second year, $2,075,000 from the general fund shall be available for the first year of five-year competitive grants to school divisions to implement performance-based teacher compensation systems. Priority for funding will be given to school divisions with high numbers of at-risk students needing qualified teachers in hard-to-staff subjects. Grantees should combine teacher improvement programs with performance-based compensation systems that consider teacher performance through gains in individual student academic achievement. The approved compensation programs should provide teachers with incentives to take on additional training and responsibilities. The compensation program must include an effective evaluation system.

Y. Out of this appropriation, $100,000 the first year and $200,000 the second year from the general fund is provided for STEM Competition Team Grants. Notwithstanding § 22.1-362, Code of Virginia, Paragraph B, grants may not exceed $5,000 each.

Z. Out of this appropriation, $870,625 the first year and $681,975 the second year from the general fund is provided to support a multi-platform STEM education engagement program and research study, via the Virginia Air & Space Center.

AA. Out of this appropriation, $350,000 the first year and $350,000 the second year from the general fund is provided for executive leadership incentives in the Petersburg City Public Schools to strengthen the impact of division and school level executive leadership on student achievement in the school division. Such incentives may include, but not be limited to, supplements to locally funded salaries, deferred salary compensation, bonuses, housing and commuting supplements, and professional development supplements. The Department of Education shall provide such executive management incentive payments directly to the Petersburg City Public Schools accounts pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding entered into between the Board of Education and the Petersburg City School Board. Such Agreement shall be approved by both parties by July 1, 2016, shall