| **Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item** | **Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia** |
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# Agenda Item: J

## Date: June 28, 2018

### Title: Legislative Report: 2018 General Assembly *(written report)*

#### Presenter: Dr. Cynthia A. Cave, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communications

#### Email: [Cynthia.Cave@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Cave@doe.virginia.gov) Phone: 804-225-2092

## Purpose of Presentation:

For information only. No action required.

## Executive Summary:

This report summarizes the major provisions of the 2018-2020 Appropriation Act impacting public schools, the Board of Education, and the Virginia Department of Education. The Act was approved by the General Assembly on May 30, 2018, and signed into law by Governor Northam on June 7, 2019.  
  
The report supplements the legislative report that the Board received at its April 26, 2018, which summarized bills that were approved during the 2018 General Assembly session.

## Action Requested:

No action requested.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept this report.   
  
Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

## Background Information and Statutory Authority:

This report provides summaries of provisions in the 2018-2020 Appropriation Act impacting the Board of Education, the Virginia Department of Education, or local school divisions.

## Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Items requiring Board action will be presented later in 2018.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

Department staff will provide the staff resources to assist the Board in developing the policies, guidance and regulations necessary to implement final actions by the General Assembly and Governor.

# Legislative Report

# Provisions in the Appropriation Act

# Approved by the General Assembly, 2018 Special Session I

## Prepared by the Virginia Department of Education

## Division of Policy & Communications

### June 28, 2018

Below are highlights of provisions in the approved Appropriation Act for the 2018-2020 biennium that impact public elementary and secondary education.

* **Early Childhood/School Readiness.** About $4.5 million is provided in the biennium to implement recommendations from the 2017 Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission’s (JLARC) report *Improving Virginia’s Early Childhood Development Programs*, including:
  + Requiring the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Assessment to be administered statewide by the end of the 2019-2020 school year. (Item 128.H)
  + Ensuring that rigorous, research-based classroom observations occur for each Virginia Preschool Initiative classroom at least once every two years by the end of the 2019-2020 school year, and corresponding professional development is provided. (Item 136.C.14.i through j)
* **Student Support.** Approximately $3.5 million is provided in the biennium to support student services, including expanding the Virginia Tiered System of Supports and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports to additional schools. (Items 129 and 135.M)
* **History/Social Science Verified Credit.** Prohibits the use of performance assessments to earn a verified credit in history/social science. $600,000 is provided in the biennium to support test development for history/social science. (Item 130.D)
* **Teacher Preparation, Recruitment and Retention**
  + Amends the Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program (VTSLP) to provide more targeted criteria to address critical shortage disciplines, recruitment of minority teaching students, and teacher shortages in high-poverty school divisions. (Item 135.G.1)
  + Amends the STEM Recruitment Grant Program to provide $5,000 incentives to teachers for teaching in a hard-to-staff school for up to three years. Currently, $5,000 is provided in the first year, and $1,000 is provided in each of the second and third years. The program also is amended to ensure that school divisions can use the grant as a recruitment tool. (Item 135.G.2)
  + Provides an additional $2 million in the biennium to support Teacher Residency Program partnerships between university teacher preparation programs and hard-to-staff school divisions. The language also expands the program from the school divisions in the cities of Richmond, Norfolk, and Petersburg to other hard-to-staff divisions. (Item 135.R)
  + Provides $100,000 in the biennium to provide grants to assist provisionally-licensed minority teachers seeking full licensure, by subsidizing test fees and the costs of tutoring. (Item 135.DD)
  + Provides $4.6 million in the biennium to provide grants to assist provisionally-licensed Virginia Preschool Initiative teachers seeking full licensure by assisting with costs of achieving the required degree and meeting the licensure requirements. (Item 136.C.14.h)
* **Teacher Misconduct.** Provides $186,000 in the biennium to establish local school division access to the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Clearinghouse to assist divisions with researching educator misconduct. (Item 133.E)
* **Discretionary Lottery Per-Pupil Payments.** Provides about $90 million across the biennium to increase the per-pupil funds provided to school divisions from $274/pupil in FY18 to $336 in FY19 and to $341 in FY20. School divisions can determine how to spend these funds and are not required to provide any local match. (Item 136.C.37)
* **Salaries for School Division Staff.** Provides $131 million for a three-percent salary increase for Standards of Quality-recognized positions, effective July 1, 2019. (Item 136.C.39)

**Initiatives eliminated from the Governor’s Introduced Appropriation Act**

These education initiatives were initially included in the Governor’s budget that was introduced in December 2017, but did not succeed in the approved Appropriation Act:

* **Automation of the teacher licensure application and intake process.** The initial budget included $1.1 million for this initiative.
* **Support for continued development and enhancements to the School Quality Profile.** The initial budget included $300,000 to integrate reporting requirements for new accreditation system and the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015.
* **Funding for one full-time principal in every elementary school.** The initial budget included $7.7 million beginning in FY20 to provide the state share of funding for one principal in every elementary school. The Board of Education recommended this in its 2016 review of the Standards of Quality.
* **Competitive fund for principal recruitment and retention.**The initial budget included $1 million to support principal recruitment and retention in school divisions with a memorandum of understanding with the Board of Education.