

Fairfax County School Board 2022 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 supporting locally based public education. Adequate and appropriate state funding for public pre-K, elementary, and secondary education—with the state fairly sharing in the true local costs of implementing Virginia’s mandated education related programs – is critical to ensuring high quality instructional and support programs for all students in the Commonwealth. While we understand the state’s role in setting and measuring standards, the supervision of schools and flexibility in the implementation of educational policies should remain with local school boards per the Virginia Constitution.

State Funding

The Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) supports:

- Ongoing funding to address reductions in student population counts and funding for remediation and learning recovery services as required to address the continued effects of the pandemic
- Funding appropriately targeted to schools and divisions with high concentrations of and significant numbers of students in poverty, English learners, and students receiving special education services
- Addressing state funding formula imbalances and inadequacies through full restoration of the Cost of Competing adjustment for support positions; elimination of the state’s cap on support position funding; and addressing required local match provisions imbalances, especially in high cost of living jurisdictions

Graduation Requirement Flexibility

- The FCSB supports continued graduation requirement flexibility for students in the graduating classes of 2022 through 2024 affected by the ongoing effects of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Critical Staff Shortages

- The FCSB supports initiatives to address ongoing and acute shortages of qualified educational personnel, particularly including special education teachers and school bus drivers

College and Workforce Readiness

- 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 and workforce opportunities, including addressing barriers to participation for historically underrepresented populations

Assessment Reforms

- The FCSB supports reductions in the number of mandated standardized assessments continuing a shift toward a more balanced assessment system, including performance-based assessments

Student Mental, Behavioral, and Physical Health Supports

- The FCSB supports significantly increased and flexibly provided state resources to allow school divisions to address the specific mental, behavioral, and physical health needs of students

English Learners and Accountability

- The FCSB supports increased funding for instructional programs for English learners, particularly for students new to the U.S. entering schools with limited or interrupted formal education (SLIFE), and accreditation standards recognizing the unique circumstances of SLIFE students

Early Childhood Education

- The FCSB supports increased state per-pupil funding for pre-K programming and facilities costs

State Revenues

- Given long standing and continued state underfunding of public education, the FCSB opposes revisions to the Commonwealth’s tax structure which reduce current or long-term revenue capacity and opposes diversion of public tax revenues to non-public education options