

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Advocates Demand Legislators Address Insufficient K-12 Public Education Funding in Governor Northam’s Proposed Budget

The Fund Our Schools campaign is fighting to ensure every student has the opportunity to attain a high-quality K-12 education.

Richmond, VA— Fund Our Schools coalition advocates, including parents, teachers, students, and community members, presented testimony in response to Governor Northam’s proposed 2020-2022 state budget at four regional public hearings today. Speakers in Richmond, Blacksburg, Manassas, and Suffolk demanded that legislators invest more than \$1.2 billion annually in new funding for the Commonwealth’s public schools, calling Governor Northam’s proposed budget inadequate to address decades of disinvestment in public education in Virginia.

“The Governor’s proposed education budget would direct some new resources to our highest-need school divisions, but it is simply not enough to make good on the promise of a high-quality education for every student in every zip code,” said Brionna Nomi, community organizer for the Legal Aid Justice Center. “The Virginia Board of Education has called for \$1.2 billion annually in new school funding, and we ask legislators to prioritize Virginia’s students and fully fund our schools.”

In October, the Virginia Board of Education prescribed new Standards of Quality for the state’s public schools. The new standards focus on promoting educational equity through additional targeted investments to low-wealth school divisions, fixing Virginia’s teacher shortage, and increased staffing levels for critical positions such as school counselors, social workers, psychologists, and nurses. The Virginia Board of Education has also called on the General Assembly to eliminate the recession-era support position cap, which limits state funding for school support personnel. The Board’s recommendations would cost at least \$1.2 billion in new annual funding. Governor Northam’s budget would provide less than one quarter of these new dollars to public schools.

Please contact Emma Clark to speak with advocates in any of the budget hearing locations

For more information about the Fund Our Schools campaign, please visit our [website](#), which includes our priorities and ways to join the fight for school funding.

The Fund Our Schools Campaign was launched by:



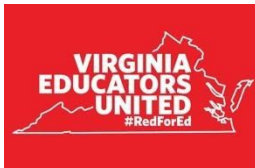
The Legal Aid Justice Center partners with communities and clients to achieve justice by dismantling systems that create and perpetuate poverty. Their mission is to seek equal justice for all by solving clients' legal problems, strengthening the voices of low-income communities, and rooting out the inequities that keep people in poverty.



The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis is deeply committed to advancing policies that create opportunities for people with low and moderate incomes in Virginia, with a particular focus on dismantling the barriers that face communities of color. They are a non-partisan, non-profit policy research and advocacy organization that provides accessible, independent analysis on policies to help build thriving communities.



New Virginia Majority works to create a powerful multi-issue, multi-racial movement to transform Virginia through large-scale civic engagement, issue advocacy, community organizing and strategic communications. They organize within Latinx, African American, Asian American Pacific Islander and youth communities, centering the leadership and demands of working-class women of color. Together, they vote, mobilize and engage within communities to advance racial and economic justice in Virginia.



Virginia Educators United is a grassroots campaign made of teachers, staff members, parents and community members who are fighting to ensure that after 10 years of systematic defunding, our children get the support they deserve.

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