

## **VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### *Operations and Performance of the Virginia Department of Education, 2020*

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Comprehensive supervision of school divisions** ► The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act directing the Virginia Department of Education to implement a pilot program to more comprehensively supervise school division compliance with a subset of key standards by requiring (i) the submission of more comprehensive compliance information, (ii) selective independent verification of compliance, (iii) monitoring of corrective action implementation, and (iv) analysis of compliance trends and issues. The department should conduct the pilot program during the 2021–2022 school year and submit a report on the results to the Board of Education and House Education and Appropriations committees and Senate Education and Health and Finance and Appropriations committees by November 30, 2022. (Recommendation 3)

**Strengthening Virginia’s school improvement program** ► The General Assembly may wish to consider appropriating additional funding for new staff positions in the Virginia Department of Education’s Office of School Quality to strengthen its work with school divisions in the school improvement program. (Recommendation 9)

**Responsibility for Virginia’s school improvement program** ► The General Assembly may wish to consider amending § 22.1-23 of the Code of Virginia to direct the superintendent of public instruction to (i) develop and implement an effective school improvement program, (ii) identify measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the services the Office of School Quality provides to school divisions, (iii) evaluate and make changes as needed to ensure effectiveness, and (iv) annually report to the Board of Education. (Recommendation 10)

**Support for teacher recruitment and retention** ► The General Assembly may wish to consider amending § 22.1-305.2 of the Code of Virginia to direct the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure to advise the Board of Education on policies related to helping school divisions more effectively recruit and retain licensed teachers. (Recommendation 15)

#### **POLICY OPTIONS**

**Additional staff for comprehensive school division supervision pilot program** ► The General Assembly could appropriate additional funding for up to two new staff positions to design and implement a pilot program for more comprehensive supervision of a subset of key state education standards. (Option 1)

**Additional staff for teacher recruitment and retention support** ► The General Assembly could appropriate additional funding for three new staff positions in the Office of Teacher Education to strengthen its role in helping school divisions with the most substantial teacher recruitment and retention challenges. (Option 4)

**Virginia Board of Education membership** ► The General Assembly could amend § 22.1-9 of the Code of Virginia to require that the Board of Education include (i) one member with expertise or experience in local government leadership or policymaking, (ii) one member with expertise or experience in career and technical education, and (iii) one member with expertise or experience in early childhood education. (Option 5)

**Virginia Board of Education membership** ► The General Assembly could amend § 22.1-9 of the Code of Virginia to require the Board of Education to include members that represent at least five of the state's eight superintendent regions. (Option 6)