JLARC
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
AND REVIEW COMMISSION

December 16, 2019

State Spending on the K–12 Standards of Quality: 2019 Update

Commission Briefing

Study mandate

- Standards of Quality (SOQ) annual spending reports

- Virginia Department of Education reports local spending

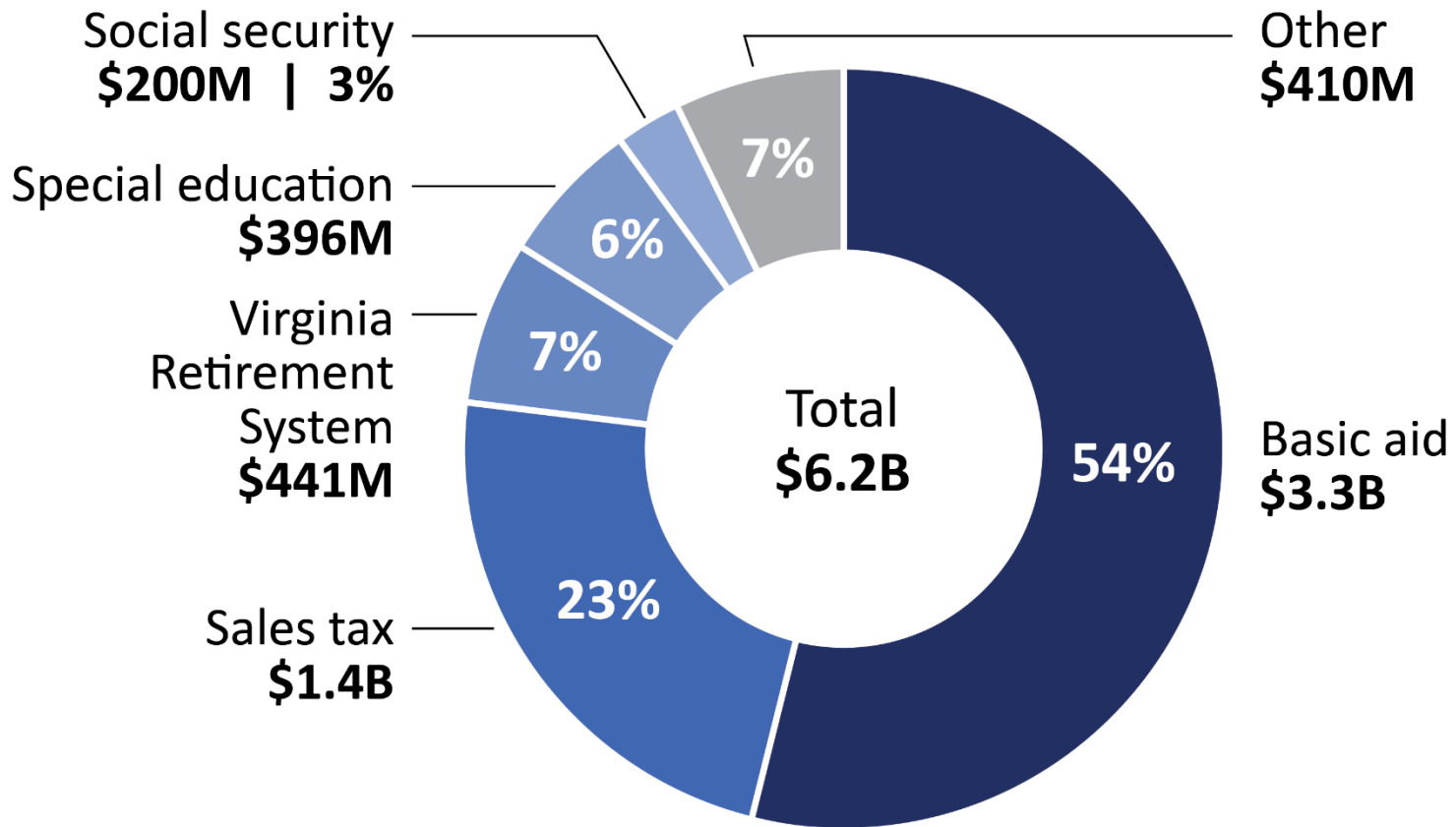- JLARC reports state spending

§ 22.1-97 of the Code of Virginia

State and localities share cost of meeting the K–12 SOQ

- Virginia's Standards of Quality
  - Prescribed by State Board of Education; subject to General Assembly revision
  - Specify type and minimum number of staff
- General Assembly estimates cost to meet K–12 SOQ; apportions between state and localities

Several major factors drive K–12 SOQ spending

- Number of funded instructional and support positions

- Salaries and benefits

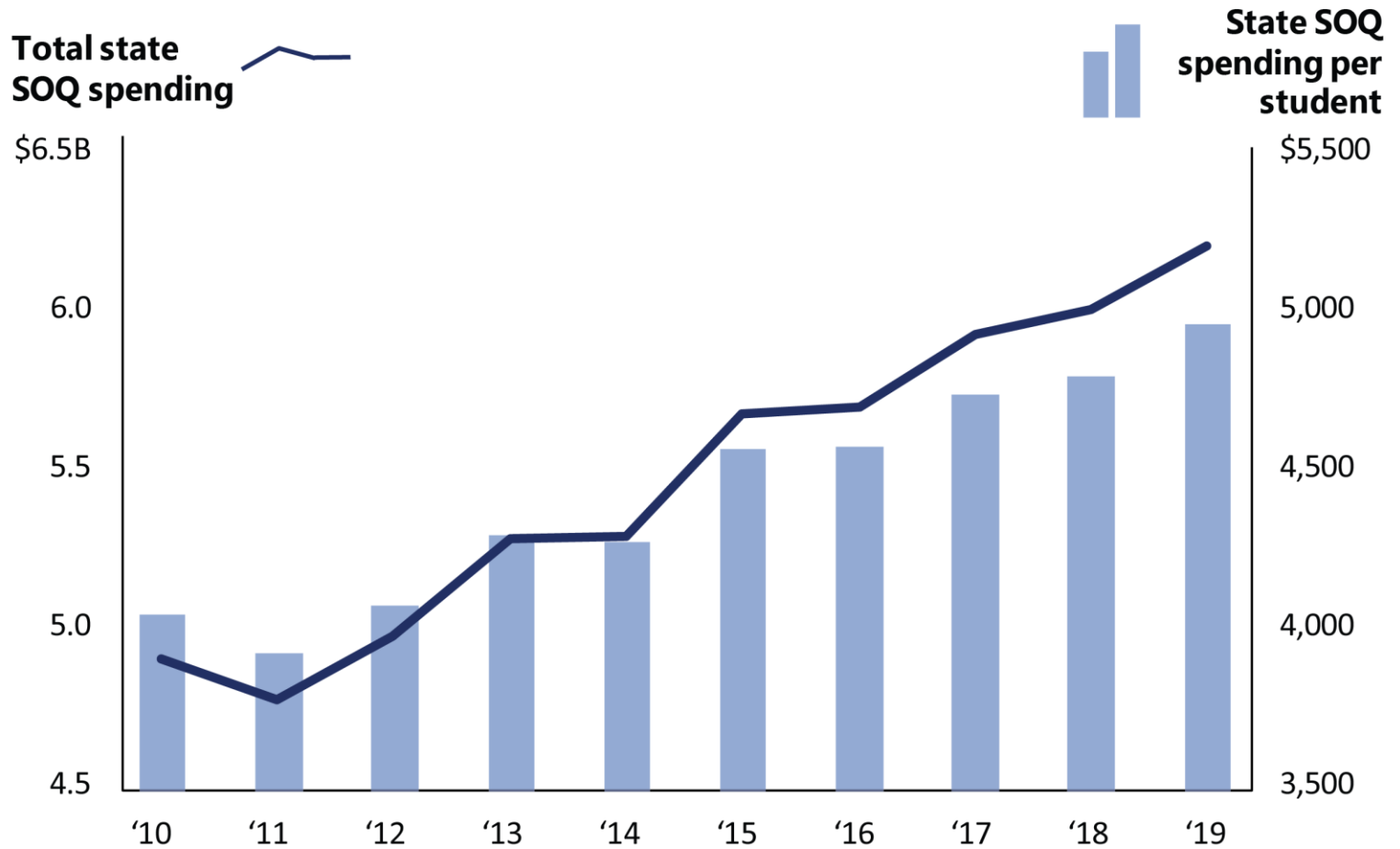- Number of students

- Policy decisions

School divisions spent $6.2B in state K–12 SOQ funds (FY19)

Social security
$200M | 3%

Special education
$396M

Virginia Retirement System
$441M

Sales tax
$1.4B

Other
$410M

Basic aid
$3.3B

Total
$6.2B

54%

23%

7%

6%

7%

School divisions spent $4,974 per student in K–12 SOQ funds (FY19)

- For first time in many years, the number of K–12 students declined statewide

- Decline in number of students was marginal: 0.2% (≈2,000 students)

Total spending and spending per student have steadily increased over time

Total state SOQ spending

State SOQ spending per student

	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19

Top 10 divisions by spending received 49% of total state SOQ funding

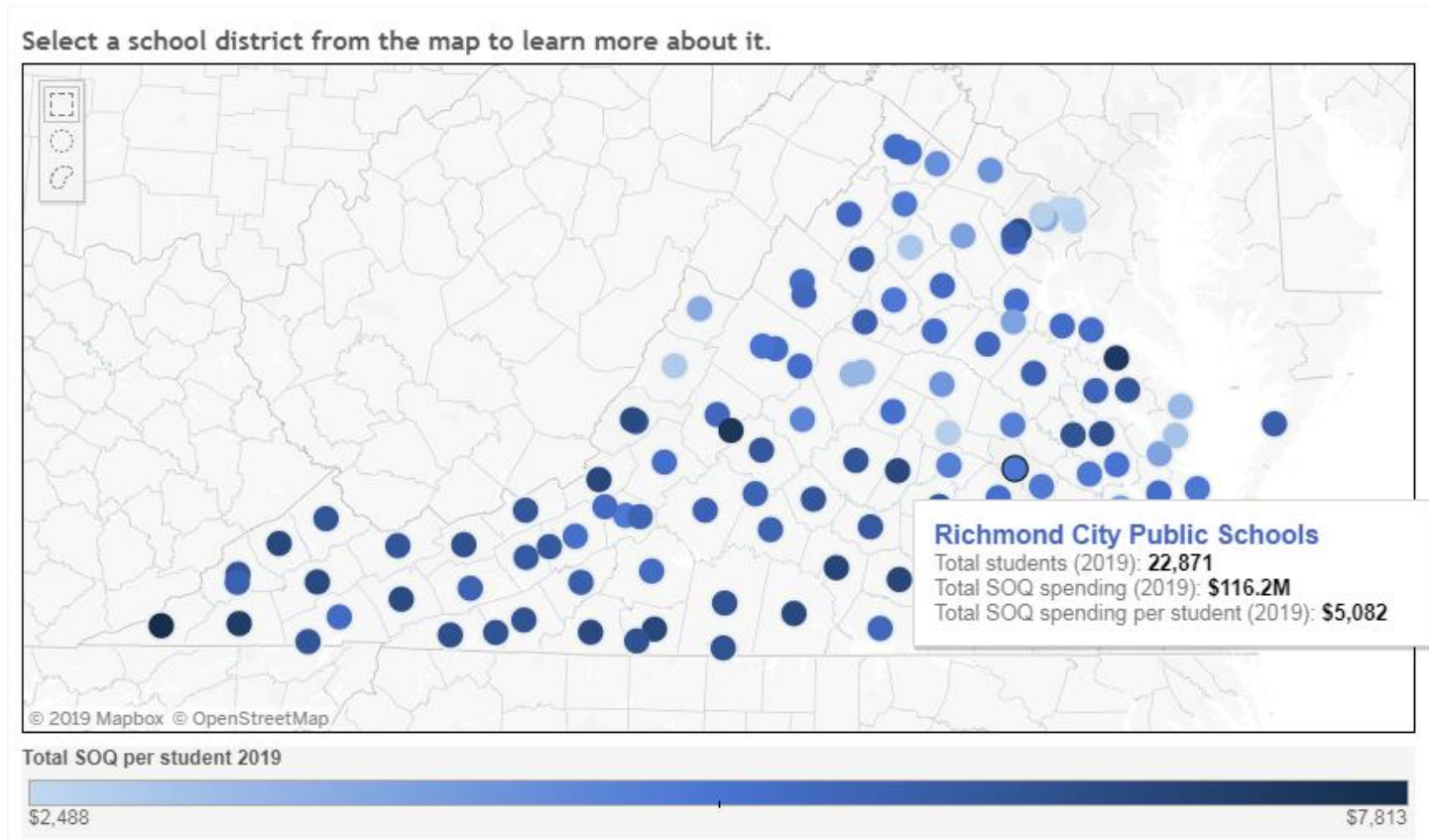| Rank	Division	Total state SOQ $	# of students	Per student $
1	Fairfax (Co.)	$643M	179,410	$3,586
2	Prince William	478M	88,162	5,427
3	Loudoun	349M	81,562	4,277
4	Virginia Beach	324M	66,593	4,860
5	Chesterfield	318M	60,705	5,243
6	Henrico	250M	50,148	4,986
7	Chesapeake	221M	39,698	5,572
8	Norfolk	163M	27,934	5,834
9	Newport News	162M	26,916	6,030
10	Stafford	151M	28,852	5,242

SOQ spending per student ranged from $7,813 to $2,488, primarily due to ability to pay

Top 5 divisions	Per student $	Local composite index
Lee	$7,813	0.1754
Buena Vista	7,504	0.1849
Westmoreland	7,337	0.4743
Scott	7,247	0.1917
Nottoway	6,937	0.2385

Bottom 5 divisions	Per student $	Local composite index
Falls Church	$2,488	0.8000
Arlington	2,569	0.8000
Alexandria	2,669	0.8000
Fairfax (City)	2,673	0.8000
Goochland	2,712	0.8000

Interactive K–12 SOQ data on JLARC website

- Includes annual trends, rankings, and interactive map

Select a school district from the map to learn more about it.

Richmond City Public Schools
Total students (2019): **22,871**
Total SOQ spending (2019): **$116.2M**
Total SOQ spending per student (2019): **$5,082**

© 2019 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Total SOQ per student 2019

$2,488 $7,813

JLARC staff for this report

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