

Study Resolution

Adequacy of the supply of qualified individuals to fill needed K-12 teaching positions

Authorized by the Commission on November 7, 2022

WHEREAS, an adequate supply of qualified teachers to educate Virginia's 1.2 million public K-12 students is essential for an effective public education system; and

WHEREAS, school divisions report difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified teachers, and the number of vacant teacher positions is increasing; and

WHEREAS, more teachers are leaving the profession or retiring while fewer individuals are (a) entering teacher preparation programs and (b) being licensed as first year teachers; and

WHEREAS, teachers cite frustration with licensing requirement complexity and recently the proportion of teachers who are provisionally licensed rather than fully licensed has increased; and

WHEREAS, teachers cite concern about their ability to manage their classrooms due to student behavior issues, mental health concerns, and increasingly complex student needs, now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission that staff be directed to review the adequacy of the supply of qualified individuals to fill needed K-12 teaching positions. In conducting its study staff shall (i) identify historical and current numbers of K-12 teachers needed and available and project the adequacy of the future supply of available teachers to accommodate future need, (ii) evaluate factors contributing to the decline in the number of individuals entering teacher preparation programs, (iii) evaluate the state process to determine qualifications and credentials needed to be a fully licensed teacher, and (iv) identify effective or innovative practices used in other states to maintain or increase the number of individuals entering and graduating from teacher preparation programs and becoming fully licensed teachers.

JLARC shall make recommendations as necessary and review other issues as warranted.

All agencies of the Commonwealth, including the Board of Education, Virginia Department of Education, public institutions of higher education, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, and local school divisions shall provide assistance, information, and data to JLARC for this study, upon request. JLARC staff shall have access to all information in the possession of agencies pursuant to § 30-59 and § 30-69 of the Code of Virginia. No provision of the Code of Virginia shall be interpreted as limiting or restricting the access of JLARC staff to information pursuant to its statutory authority.