

Recommendations and Options: Efficiency and Effectiveness of K-12 Spending

RECOMMENDATION 1

The General Assembly may wish to consider amending § 22.1-23 of the Code of Virginia to require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to track teacher turnover and report annually to the General Assembly and governor the numbers of and most common reasons for teacher turnover (Chapter 3, page 25).

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Virginia Department of Education should provide facilities management expertise to school divisions. The expertise should include guidance and information sharing about facilities management best practices, such as performance measurement, energy efficiency, outsourcing, collaboration, and closing schools (Chapter 4, page 39).

RECOMMENDATION 3

The General Assembly may wish to consider appropriating funds for the Virginia Department of Education to employ up to three additional staff to provide guidance and assist school divisions in sharing information about facilities management best practices (Chapter 4, page 39).

RECOMMENDATION 4

The Virginia Information Technologies Agency, in cooperation with the Department of Education, should assess the feasibility and potential savings of a statewide contract for school bus routing and monitoring software, and if feasible and likely to produce savings, develop such a contract (Chapter 5, page 47).

RECOMMENDATION 5

The Virginia Department of Education should provide transportation management expertise to school divisions. The expertise should include guidance and information sharing about transportation management best practices, such as performance measurement, improving bus routing, and bus maintenance and replacement (Chapter 5, page 48).

RECOMMENDATION 6

The General Assembly may wish to consider appropriating funds for the Virginia Department of Education to employ up to three additional staff to provide guidance and assist school divisions in sharing information about transportation management best practices (Chapter 5, page 48).

RECOMMENDATION 7

The Virginia Department of Education should collaborate with the board and/or staff for any statewide fully online school created in Virginia to develop (or obtain) and distribute informational materials that help families and guidance counselors to make informed decisions about enrolling children in fully online schools (Chapter 6, page 57).

RECOMMENDATION 8

The Virginia Department of Education should develop a methodology for estimating the cost of fully online learning programs (Chapter 6, page 58).

RECOMMENDATION 9

The Virginia Department of Education should annually compare the achievement of students enrolled in Virtual Virginia courses to students of the same characteristics in physical schools, and report these findings to the Board of Education annually (Chapter 6, page 59).

OPTION 1

The General Assembly could amend § 2.2-1204 of the Code of Virginia to allow school division employees to participate in the state employee health plan (Chapter 2, page 11).

OPTION 2

The General Assembly could appropriate funds for the Virginia Department of Education to employ additional staff to provide teacher training and curriculum development support to the school divisions that would most benefit from state assistance (Chapter 3, page 28).
