

PANDEMIC IMPACT ON K–12 EDUCATION

Pandemic Impact on K–12 Education, 2022

RECOMMENDATIONS

Hiring additional instructional assistants ► The General Assembly may wish to consider including language and funding in the Appropriation Act to provide additional, temporary funding for a subset of schools accredited with conditions to hire more instructional assistants to (i) help teachers provide small group and individualized instruction necessitated by widening academic needs within classrooms, (ii) help teachers manage challenging student behaviors within classrooms, and (iii) reduce teacher workloads. (Recommendation 5)

Teacher retention bonuses for divisions with increased turnover ► The General Assembly may wish to consider including language and funding in the Appropriation Act to provide the state share of funding to divisions that experienced an increase in teacher turnover during the pandemic to be used for providing retention bonuses for teachers. Retention bonuses should be structured to maximize the financial incentive for teachers to remain in their position. (Recommendation 6)

Tuition assistance for provisionally licensed teachers ► The General Assembly may wish to consider including language and funding in the Appropriation Act to provide the state share of funding for teacher tuition assistance to divisions that experienced an increase in the number of provisionally licensed teachers during the pandemic to help provisionally licensed teachers in those divisions become fully licensed. (Recommendation 7)

POLICY OPTIONS

Training and technical assistance on student behavior ► The General Assembly could include language and funding in the Appropriation Act for Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports to provide training and technical assistance to help staff at more schools better address disruptive classroom behavior. (Option 1)

Partnerships between school divisions and community providers ► The General Assembly could include language in the Appropriation Act directing the Virginia Department of Education to collect and report information from school divisions about existing and potential partnerships between school divisions and mental health providers, including the partner organization, type of partnership, scope, cost, and funding source. (Option 2)

Partnerships between school divisions and community providers ► The General Assembly could include language and funding in the Appropriation Act to help develop and support existing partnerships between school divisions and mental health providers to provide enhanced mental health services to students. (Option 3)

Teacher signing bonuses ► The General Assembly could include language and funding in the Appropriation Act to provide the state share of funding for one-time signing bonuses to be offered to teachers who agree to accept employment with a school division that has experienced an increase in teacher vacancies during the pandemic. (Option 4)