

VIRGINIA EDUCATION COALITION

Children Deserve Our Best: Coalition Urges No Permanent Cuts to Education

In the midst of financial challenges, Virginia faces tough choices. Already, localities feeling the pressure of decreased revenues are cutting back on school programs and services. We can be sure that further cuts in state aid will only worsen their plight, and that the result will be larger class sizes, a reduction in vital services such as counseling and paraprofessional classroom support, and fewer opportunities for Virginia students to master our Standards of Learning.

The members of the Virginia Education Coalition (VEC) believe that any cuts in public education funding should be minimized and of a temporary nature. One-time cuts should be employed only if necessary. There should be no changes to the funding formula, which would reduce education funding even after the economy improves.

We must not forget that Virginia, the 9th wealthiest state in the nation, has slipped to 37th in state per pupil funding for public education. Our children deserve better.

Prior to making cuts, both sides of the ledger should be considered. For example tax policies such as reinstating the estate tax, raising the tobacco tax, closing corporate loopholes, and revisiting the sales tax dealer discount are just a few examples of how we could find funds to reduce the need to cut education funding. In addition, we support using funds from the Revenue Stabilization Fund to reduce cuts to public education.

In summary, the VEC supports these points:

- **Eliminate or limit cuts by considering all funding options**
- **If funding cuts are necessary, they should be made temporary rather than long-lasting or permanent.**

Virginia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (VACTE)
Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals (VAESP)
Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS)
Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals (VASSP)
Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers (VAPTA)
Virginia Counselors Association (VCA)

Virginia Education Association (VEA)
Virginia Middle School Association (VMSA)
Virginia Professors of Educational Leadership (VPEL)
Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA)
Virginia School Counselors Association (VSCA)
Virginia Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (VASCD)