

# **PROPOSED**

## **Alexandria City Public Schools**

### **LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS 2017**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Alexandria City School Board believes that, as an elected body, it is better able to respond to the needs of students and interests of families than is the state through additional mandates. While the Board benefits from state goals and guidelines, we believe that local school boards should have the flexibility to determine policies in areas such as grading, instructional spending, school safety, and student discipline.

#### **Issues**

##### **Funding**

- The Alexandria City Board supports the full funding of the Standards of Quality and of all new mandates passed by the General Assembly.
- The Alexandria City School Board supports the return to the General Assembly's prior practice of funding support services to school divisions.
- The Alexandria City School Board supports continuation of the Cost of Competing factor.

##### **Mandates**

- The Alexandria City School Board supports legislation that would establish a School Health Advisory Board to advise the General Assembly on pending legislation concerning health policy that affects elementary and secondary schools.

## **SOL Innovation Committee**

- The Alexandria City School Board supports the work of the SOL Innovation Committee and legislation that is introduced as a result of its work.

## **Standards of Quality**

- The Alexandria City School Board supports the SOQ staffing changes that have been proposed by the State Board of Education.

## **Virginia Retirement System**

- The Alexandria City School Board supports a General Assembly effort to return the schedule for full funding of the VRS Board of Trustee recommended rate to the original schedule.

## **Continuing Issues**

- The Alexandria City School Board supports legislation to return control of the public school calendar to local school boards.
- The Alexandria City School Board opposes measures that would require the transfer of local taxpayer funds to other jurisdictions or to private providers should a student choose to attend a virtual program outside of the home school division.
- The Alexandria City School Board opposes any diversion of public education funds to non-public schools and specifically opposes the use of tuition tax credits, tax deductions, or vouchers as a means of reimbursing parents for their children's K-12 education expenses.