

DRAFT

Alexandria City Public Schools

LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Alexandria City School Board believes high-quality public schools are fundamental to keeping our local community and Commonwealth strong. The Board supports increased state funding to support students, staff, and school facility modernization. In addition, the Board requests flexibility to manage resources and set policies at the local level that are in the best interest of the local community.

FUNDING

The Alexandria City School Board supports the full funding of the Standards of Quality as recommended by the State Board of Education.

The Alexandria City School Board supports the return to the General Assembly's prior practice of funding support services to school divisions based upon local school division practices.

The Alexandria City School Board supports the implementation of the Board of Education's recommendation to base EL pupil/teacher ratios by English language proficiency of students.

The Alexandria City School Board supports expanded funding to provide professional staff and services for student mental health needs.

The Alexandria City School Board supports extending the Halifax Model of 1% sales tax for school construction and modernization to all school divisions.

The Alexandria City School Board supports the continued use of the Cost of Competing factor, including the restoration of funds for the inclusion of all support staff, in the reimbursement formula for Planning District Eight.

The Alexandria City School Board opposes any diversion of public education funds to non-public schools including the use of tuition tax credits, tax deductions, or vouchers as a means of reimbursing parents for their children's K-12 education expenses.

ISSUES

The Alexandria City School Board supports policies and practices respecting individual rights and protecting students from discrimination due to gender expression, gender identity, sexual harassment, and transgender status.

The Alexandria City School Board supports current policy regarding eligibility for in-state college tuition for Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals and Temporary Protected Status students and opposes any attempts to modify or curtail this policy.

The Alexandria City School Board supports legislation to expand universal free meals at schools for all students.

The Alexandria City School Board supports increasing evidenced-based incentives for potential teacher candidates to enter the profession.

The Alexandria City School Board supports the Virginia Literacy Act legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2022 and 2023 and requests that school divisions have the option of using a nationally recognized, research-based assessment and/or screener to assess potential student deficiencies.

The Alexandria City School Board supports legislative changes to allow school divisions to use performance-based assessments for all end-of-course Standards of Learning Assessments.

The Alexandria City School Board supports the goals of the Culturally Relevant and Inclusive Education Practices Advisory Committee that was established during the 2020 General Assembly.

The Alexandria City School Board supports legislation that would support the option for school division advisory bodies to meet electronically.

The Alexandria City School Board supports legislation that requires gun owners to keep their weapons and ammunition safely in locked storage when not in use to ensure that they do not fall into the hands of children who can use them to harm themselves or harm those in the schools and the community. Further, the Alexandria City School Board supports legislation that would make it a crime for failure to do so.

October 19, 2023