



LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS 2020

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.

INITIATIVES

The Alexandria City School Board requests legislation that would require each local school board to develop and implement a plan to test and, if necessary, remediate mold from sources identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as high priority. In this plan, priority for testing and remediation would be given to schools where the building was constructed, in whole or in part, before 1986.

ISSUES

Funding

- The Alexandria City School Board requests that the General Assembly determine the financial impact of legislation on local school divisions and fully compensate local school divisions for all state-directed mandates.
- 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 recognizing the educational needs of low-income students by consolidating the At-Risk Add On and Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation funds into a single, expanded At-Risk Add On fund within the Standards of Quality (SOQ).
- The Alexandria City School Board supports increasing the divisionwide ratios of English learner students in average daily membership to full-time equivalent teaching positions.
- 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 supports the addition of funding for tuition for low-income students taking college courses through programs in high school such as the Early College Program.
- The Alexandria City School Board supports increasing the flexibility of the Virginia Preschool Initiative funding to allow its use in other preschool programs.
- 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 mean of reimbursing parents for their children’s K-12 education expenses.

Mandates

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

Higher Education for Immigrant Students Who Are Not Permanent Residents

- The Alexandria City School Board supports legislation that provides eligibility for in-state tuition to students who are not yet permanent residents provided they meet criteria established by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

New Issues

- The Alexandria City School Board supports legislation that would eliminate mandatory reporting of misdemeanors and status offenses by students to law enforcement for school-based incidents.
- The Alexandria City School Board supports legislation that would decriminalize disorderly conduct for school-based offenses.
- The Alexandria City supports legislation that would impose a statewide sales tax on e-cigarettes and vaping materials and would allow localities to also impose such a tax.

Continuing Issues

- 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 legislation that would provide for articulation between local school divisions and the Virginia Community College System in areas such as dual enrollment, credit and transfer pathways, and mathematics intervention services.