

# Agenda Book

## September 15-16, 2025

Location:

William & Mary

## **September 15-16, Council Meeting Schedule of Events**

**William & Mary  
Williamsburg, VA 23185**

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### **September 15, 2025**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>11:00 – 1:00</b> | <b>New Council Member Orientation and Lunch</b><br><b>Alan B. Miller Hall, Room 2023</b><br><a href="#">Section I on the agenda</a><br>Committee members: Eric Chewning; Charlie King; Jennifer Montague.  |
| <b>1:00 – 2:45</b>  | <b>Academic Affairs Committee</b><br><b>Alan B. Miller, Room 2018B</b><br><a href="#">Section II on the agenda</a><br>Committee members: Steven Taylor (chair); Jason El Koubi; Lindsay Fryer; William Harvey; Cheryl Oldham; Doug Straley.          |
| <b>1:00 – 2:45</b>  | <hr/> <b>Resources and Planning Committee</b><br><b>Alan B. Miller, Room 2025</b><br><a href="#">Section III on the agenda</a><br>Committee members: John Olsen (chair); Eric Chewning; Walter Curt; Charlie King; Delceno Miles; Jennifer Montague. |
| <b>3:00 - 5:30</b>  | <b>Joint Meeting with the Council of Presidents</b><br><b>Alan Miller Hall, Room 2025, Brinkley Commons Room</b><br><a href="#">Section IV on the agenda</a>   |
| <b>5:45 – 6:15</b>  | <b>Reception</b><br><b>Muscarelle Museum of Art</b>  |
| <b>6:15 – 7:45</b>  | <b>Dinner</b><br><b>Muscarelle Museum of Art</b>   |

### **September 16, 2025**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>8:30 – 11:40</b> | <b>Council Meeting</b><br><b>Alan Miller Hall, Room 2025, Brinkley Commons Room</b><br><a href="#">Section V on the agenda</a> |
|---------------------|--|

11:45 – 1:30

**Closed Session- Subcommittee on Personnel Matters**

[Section VI on the agenda](#)

**Alan B. Miller, Room 2018B**

Committee members: John Olsen (chair); Walter Curt; Lindsay Fryer; John Jumper;  
Doug Straley; Steven Taylor.

**NEXT MEETING:** October 21, 2025  
SCHEV Offices.



## Council Meetings – September 15-16, 2025

### William & Mary

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<b>I. New Council Members Orientation &amp; Lunch (W&amp;M)</b> <b>Monday, September 15, 2025</b> <b>Alan Miller Hall, Room #2023 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)</b>	11:00 a.m.	Mr. Fleming	6
<b>II. Academic Affairs Committee (W&amp;M)</b> <b>Monday, September 15, 2025</b> <b>Alan Miller Hall, Room #2018B (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)</b>	1:00 p.m.		
II.A. Call to Order	1:00 p.m.	Dr. Taylor	
II.B. Approval of Minutes from the July 15 Academic Affairs Committee	1:05 p.m.	Dr. Taylor	36
II.C. Update on Program Productivity Policy Modifications	1:10 p.m.	Dr. DeFilippo Mr. Massa	38
II.D. Update on Cardinal Education (online graduate program consortium in engineering)	1:40 p.m.	Ms. Gravely	40
II.E. Update on SCHEV Transfer Policies and 2025-26 Work Plan	2:05 p.m.	Dr. Smith	42
II.F. Receipt of Report of the Staff Liaison to the Academic Affairs Committee	2:35 p.m.	Dr. DeFilippo	44
II.G. Motion to Adjourn	2:45 p.m.	Dr. Taylor	
<b>III. Resources and Planning Committee (W&amp;M)</b> <b>Monday, September 15, 2025</b> <b>Alan Miller Hall, Room #2025 (Brinkley Commons Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)</b>	1:00 p.m.		
III.A. Call to Order	1:00 p.m.	Mr. Olsen	
III.B. Approval of Minutes from the July 15 Resources and Planning Committee	1:05 p.m.	Mr. Olsen	47
III.C. Discussion of Institutional Performance Standards (IPS) and Full-Cost Calculations Review	1:10 p.m.	Mr. Andes	51
III.D. Discussion of Systemwide Budget & Policy Recommendations for the 2026 Legislative Session	1:30 p.m.	Mr. Andes	56
III.E. Briefing on Six-Year Plans	2:20 p.m.	Dr. Khattar	77
III.F. Receipt of Report of the Staff Liaison to the Resources & Planning Committee	2:35 p.m.	Mr. Andes	82
III.G. Motion to Adjourn	2:45 p.m.	Mr. Olsen	

<b>IV. Joint Meeting with Council of Presidents (W&amp;M)</b> <b>Monday, September 15, 2025</b> <b>Alan Miller Hall, Room #2025 (Brinkley Commons Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)</b>	3:00 p.m.		
<b>V. Council Meeting (W&amp;M)</b> <b>Tuesday, September 16, 2025</b> <b>Alan Miller Hall, Room #2025 (Brinkley Commons Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)</b>			
V.A. Call to Order	8:30 a.m.	Gen. Jumper	
V.B. Approval of Minutes from July 15 Council Meeting	8:35 a.m.	Gen. Jumper	<b>88</b>
V.C. Remarks from Katherine Rowe, President, William & Mary	8:40 a.m.	Dr. Rowe	<b>99</b>
V.D. Action on Meeting Schedule and Locations	9:00 a.m.	Ms. Osberger	<b>100</b>
V.E. Action on Systemwide Budget & Policy Recommendations for the 2026 Legislative Session	9:05 a.m.	Mr. Andes	<b>102</b>
V.F. Action on Framework for next Statewide Strategic Plan	10:00 a.m.	Ms. Salmon	<b>123</b>
Break	10:30 a.m.		
V.G. Action on Modified Model Resolution on Antisemitism	10:40 am	Dr. DeFilippo	<b>130</b>
V.H. Report from the Agency Executive Director	10:50 a.m.	Mr. Fleming	<b>134</b>
V.I. Report of the Academic Affairs Committee	11:00 a.m.	Dr. Taylor	
V.J. Report of the Resources and Planning Committee	11:10 a.m.	Mr. Olsen	
V.K. Receipt of Items Delegated to Staff	11:20 a.m.	Mr. Fleming	<b>138</b>
V.L. Old Business	11:25 a.m.	Gen. Jumper	
V.M. New Business	11:30 a.m.	Gen. Jumper	
V.N. Receipt of Public Comment	11:35 a.m.	Gen. Jumper	
V.O. Motion to Adjourn	11:40 a.m.	Gen. Jumper	
<b>VI. Closed Session – Subcommittee on Personnel Matters (W&amp;M)</b> <b>Alan Miller Hall, Room #2023 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)</b>			
VI.A. Call to Order	11:45 a.m.	Gen Jumper	
VI.B Approval of the Minutes from September 4, 2025 Subcommittee on Personnel Matters Meeting	11:50 a.m.	Mr. Olsen	<b>145</b>
VI.C. Closed Session for Subcommittee on Personnel Matters	11:55 a.m.	Mr. Olsen	
VI.D. Motion to Adjourn	1:30 p.m.	Gen. Jumper	
<b><u>NEXT MEETING:</u> October 21, 2025 – SCHEV Office (Richmond)</b>			

\*Use of courtesy titles is based on the expressed preference of the individual

# State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

**Item:** I. – New Council Member Orientation

**Date of Meeting:** September 15, 2025

**Presenter:** Scott Fleming  
Executive Director  
[scottfleming@schev.edu](mailto:scottfleming@schev.edu)

**Most Recent Review/Action:**

☒ No previous Council review/action

☐ Previous review/action

Date:

Action:

**Purpose of the Agenda Item:**

The purpose of this item is to provide Council's new members with an overview of Virginia higher education, the statutory duties of Council, and the responsibilities and operations of the agency.

**Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:**

The General Assembly created the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia in 1956 at a time of rapid growth in postsecondary enrollment in Virginia and across the nation. SCHEV is established as a state-level "coordinating body" rather than a "governing board." In Virginia, governance of the public colleges and universities is reserved to the 16 individual institutional boards (15 Boards of Visitors and the State Board for Community Colleges), whose members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the legislature. The boards, per the *Code of Virginia*, "shall at all times be under the control of the General Assembly."

In the *Code*, Council's first enumerated duty is the same as in 1956: to develop a [statewide strategic plan](#) that reflects the goals of the Commonwealth. Council's duties in the *Code of Virginia* exceed 30, with additional responsibilities (some time-limited; others ongoing) laid out in the annual *Appropriation Act*. As an agency, SCHEV also undertakes special studies and initiatives on its own but within the overall authority granted by the Governor and General Assembly. More information about Council's duties and responsibilities is accessible [here](#).

Virginia's "system" of higher education is one of the 10 largest in the nation, with more than 553,000 students enrolled in public, non-profit private, and proprietary two- and four-year institutions. In 2023-24 (the most recent data available), Virginia

public and private institutions conferred over 132,000 degrees and certificates, the largest number ever. Total appropriations in support of colleges, universities and affiliated agencies are about \$3 billion. In addition, appropriated nongeneral funds in support of operations, auxiliary enterprises, and sponsored programs exceed \$8 billion. Capital appropriations, which vary by year, are separate and in addition to operating funds. More information about Virginia's higher-education system is available [here](#). SCHEV also maintains hundreds of data reports on its [Research website](#).

Council conducts its business through two committees: Academic Affairs; and Resources and Planning. The committee chairs report out to the full Council on matters discussed and bring forward motions for Council action on items voted upon in committee. The full Council also engages in discussion, receives reports and acts on items that transcend the committees.

Council's normal cadence is to meet five to six times per calendar year. At the discretion of Council, its in-person public meetings are held in Richmond and at public and private institutions across the Commonwealth. At the discretion of the Council chair, Council may meet for special purposes. Council's [Bylaws](#) are accessible [here](#) and appear as the final document in the attached materials.

At the meeting in September, staff will review basic Council functions and the materials provided on the pages that follow.

**Materials Provided:** The pages that follow provide:

- Council Members List
- Agency Leadership Contact Info
- Agency Organizational Chart
- SCHEV Responsibilities
- Administrative Details
- "Policy on Council Travel"
- "SCHEV Policies for All Virtual Meetings and Electronic Meetings"
- Freedom of Information Act Basics (from the FOIA Advisory Council)
- SCHEV Bylaws

**Financial Impact:** N/A

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:** N/A

**Relationship to Goals of The Virginia Plan for Higher Education:** N/A

**Resolution:** N/A



# STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

## Council Members List

2025-26

NAME	APPOINTED	REAPPOINTED	EXPIRES
Chewning, Eric	7/1/25		6/30/29
Curt, Walter	7/1/22		6/30/26
El Koubi, Jason	12/1/21		N/A–Ex officio
Fryer, Lindsay	7/1/24		6/30/28
Harvey, William, PhD.	7/1/22		6/30/26
Jumper, General John*	7/1/23		6/30/27
King, Charlie	7/1/25		6/30/29
Miles, Delceno**	7/1/23	7/1/24	6/30/28
Montague, Jennifer	7/1/25		6/30/29
Oldham, Cheryl	6/1/22		6/30/26
Olsen, John	7/1/24		6/30/27
Straley, Doug***	7/1/23		6/30/27
Taylor, Stephen, PhD.	7/1/24		6/30/28

\* = Chair    \*\* = Vice Chair    \*\*\* = Secretary





# STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

## SCHEV Agency Leadership

Executive Director

**Scott Fleming**

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Board & Executive Operations Director,  
and Communications

**Laura Osberger**

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Interim Budget and Finance Director

**Lynne Brownlee**

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Academic Affairs & Planning Director

**Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo**

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Strategic Planning and Policy Studies Director

**Dr. Alan Edwards**

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Finance Policy & Innovation Director

**Lee Andes**

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Policy Analytics Director

**Tod Massa**

804-225-3147

[todmassa@schev.edu](mailto:todmassa@schev.edu)

Assoc. Director of Student Success Opportunities  
and Engagement

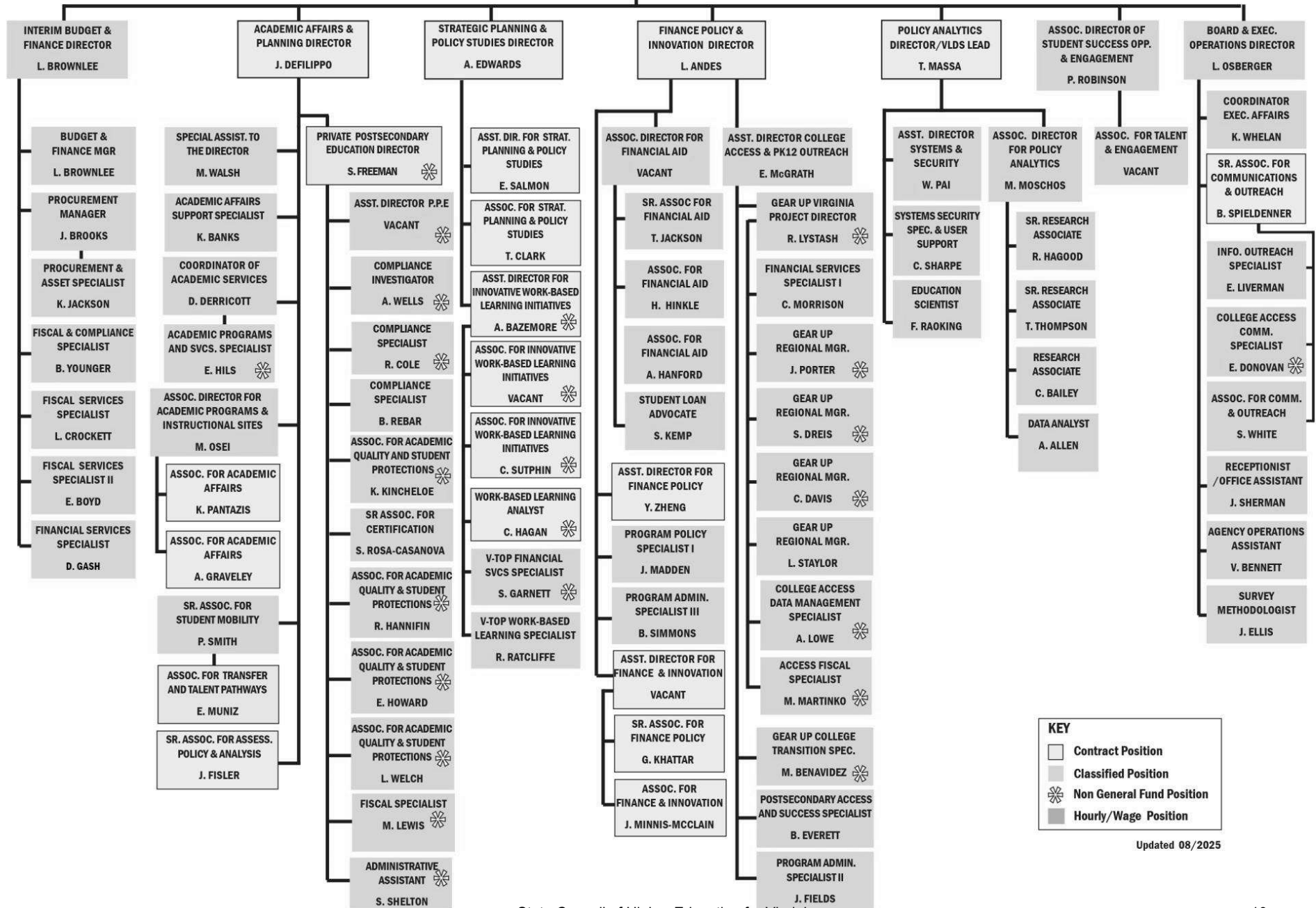
**Paula Robinson**

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**SCHEV COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
S. FLEMING**





## SCHEV Responsibilities

Virginia Code § 23.1-200 describes SCHEV's purpose:

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia is established to advocate for and promote the development and operation of an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of higher education in the Commonwealth and lead state-level strategic planning and policy development and implementation based on research and analysis and in accordance with § 23.1-301 and subsection A of § 23.1-1002. The Council shall seek to facilitate collaboration among institutions of higher education that will enhance quality and create operational efficiencies and work with institutions of higher education and their governing boards on board development.

In furtherance of the above-described purpose, SCHEV performs many functions and duties enumerated in Chapter 2 of Title 23.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, including 30 core duties listed at § 23.1-203. SCHEV's resulting responsibilities range over academic policy, private education regulation, finance and financial aid policy, data collection and analysis, research investment, board development, and numerous planning and communication functions designed to advocate for, and improve the coordination of, higher education in Virginia.

### ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES

**Academic Policy and Approval Authority:** Council approves public institutions' new degree programs, instructional sites, degree escalations, and mission statements. It also coordinates state policy on transfer, student learning assessment, military-related students, program productivity, and state distance education reciprocity. The Academic Affairs staff communicates and works with institutions on academic policy through numerous standing advisory committees, chief among which is the Instructional Programs Advisory Committee, which consists of chief academic officers of public institutions and one private institution representative.

**Authorization of New and Out-of-State Institutions:** Council authorizes certain private and out-of-state postsecondary institutions to operate in Virginia through

SCHEV's office of Private Postsecondary Education (PPE). PPE staff examines applications from institutions seeking certification, holds mandatory orientation sessions for applicant schools, conducts institutional audits to ensure compliance with Virginia regulations, and investigates and responds to student complaints (for all institutions). PPE also oversees closures of regulated institutions, a process that includes facilitating teach outs, preserving student records, and coordinating refunds as appropriate. PPE staff maintains regular communications with the U.S. Department of Education and works with institutions through the Career College Advisory Board.

### **BUDGET AND FINANCE RESPONSIBILITIES**

The main function of this section is to provide financial management, procurement services and budget functions for all sections in the agency. Provide overall guidance and interaction with all levels of staff of the agency in development, implementation, and monitoring of all budget and finance matters. To ensure compliance in accordance with regulations and policies governed by the Commonwealth of Virginia including the VPPA and APSPM.

**Financial Management:** Process and ensure all financial transactions for the agency are in compliance with regulations and policies governed by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Typical day-to-day transactions include: financial aid disbursements to public and private institutions in and out of state, travel reimbursements to staff and council members, grant payments to other state agencies and outside organizations, vendor purchases with Small Purchase Credit Card, and all other miscellaneous payments and/or transfers to other state agencies.

**Budgetary Processes:** Provide overall guidance and interaction with all levels of staff of the agency in development, implementation, and monitoring of all budget and finance matters. Budget entries are done to transfer funds to public institutions for financial aid, grant awards and other special projects. In addition, all submissions to DPB are done in the budgeting system.

**Procurement Services:** SCHEV's procurement function must ensure that all procurements, regardless of dollar amount or funding source, are conducted in a fair and impartial manner with avoidance of any impropriety or the appearance of impropriety, that all qualified vendors have access to public business, and that no provider of goods or services is arbitrarily or capriciously excluded.

Procurement for the agency has increased significantly in volume and dollar amount. Procurement function responsibilities include:

- Manage all purchasing for staff to include, contracts, RFP, sole source, catering, lodging etc.
- Educate and assist staff in “proper” procurements and appropriate vendors to use.
- Contracts for special events such as BOV, OFA and special projects
- Small, Women and Minority (SWAM) Plan Administrator, SWAM and Dashboard reports. Assist staff in obtaining SWAM goal of 42%.

### **FINANCE POLICY & INNOVATION RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Finance Policy Analysis and Recommendations:** Council makes recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly for state support for public higher education operations and capital needs. In addition, data analysis and policy recommendations are provided on an ongoing basis, especially to the Appropriations and Finance committee staffs of the General Assembly. The agency’s Finance Policy & Innovation staff communicates and works with institutions through the Finance Advisory Committee, which consists of chief finance officers of public institutions.

**Oversight of Financial Aid Programs:** The Finance Policy section also administers most of the Commonwealth’s programs for need-based financial aid and other state-funded student assistance. In this capacity, over \$70 million passes through SCHEV to public institutions for need-based aid, to qualified Virginia residents attending in-state private non-profit institutions, and to qualified students in non-need-based assistance programs. The guidelines and regulations governing nearly all state-funded and state-authorized student assistance are issued by SCHEV, which also makes aid/assistance funding recommendations.

### **DATA RESEARCH RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Data Collection and Dissemination:** The agency maintains a comprehensive data system designed at the student level to meet Council’s need for information to inform policy decisions and budget recommendations. This data system comprises the core of the postsecondary component of the Virginia Longitudinal Data System (which Council administers) and provides over 30 years of data on Virginia college students. These data provide the raw material behind the extensive public reporting of student data on the SCHEV website and many of

consumer information requirements found in statute. The biennial enrollment projections and degree estimates are also handled within this area of SCHEV.

### **GENERAL SYSTEM RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**Boards of Visitors Orientation:** Council is statutorily required to develop and provide educational programs for newly appointed members of the governing boards of the public institutions of higher education. The topics to be covered are stipulated in the *Code of Virginia* and range from best practices in governance to future and national trends. The orientation has traditionally been held during autumn in Richmond. This location and timing allow for the participation of key policy makers and government officials in a central location. Council is required to submit an annual summary of its BOV training activities to the General Assembly and Governor. In addition to the yearly orientation, SCHEV also oversees the continuing education requirements for board members beyond the first two years of service.

**Communications:** SCHEV provides information regarding Virginia higher education and its mission to external stakeholders via the agency website, newsletter and in response to individual inquiries via email and telephone. The Communications staff also provides information to internal stakeholders, including Council members and staff, via the agency intranet and a weekly news summary.

**Legislative Affairs:** SCHEV creates and advocates for legislation that supports the agency's mission. Staff members respond to requests from the Governor and Secretary of Education for analysis of individual bills in the form of Legislative Action Summaries and Enrolled Bill Reports. Various staff members are also called upon to testify before General Assembly committees as their areas of expertise dictate. SCHEV staff responds to individual legislators' requests for information and coordinate reports mandated by legislation.

**Academic Common Market:** The Academic Common Market (ACM) is a program of the Southern Region Education Board (SREB) that provides access and affordability to students seeking specialized degree programs not available at any of Virginia's four-year public institutions. Eligible Virginia students are granted in-state tuition by participating public institutions in other (STEB).

**Access Initiatives:** SCHEV has for several years administered a **GEAR UP** grant (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) from the U.S. Department of Education, which aims to foster college readiness for

secondary-school students from economically disadvantaged areas. Through this grant, over 8,000 students receive college-preparation services and potential financial support to encourage their pursuit of postsecondary education. Additionally, **Level Up Virginia**, a statewide, collaborative initiative that seeks to coordinate college-access programming, launched in 2023. Its efforts include hosting events, offering professional development and coordinating the Middle School Campus Visit Project. The website, [levelupvirginia.org](http://levelupvirginia.org), serves as an informational platform for students, families and educators.

**Work-based Learning Initiatives:** SCHEV is authorized in statutory and budget language to offer grants and resources to institutions to facilitate expansion of paid and credit-bearing student internships and other work-based learning opportunities in partnership with Virginia-based companies. Through a statewide initiative marketed as V-TOP (Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership), SCHEV collaborates with stakeholders from diverse sectors, such as business and industry, secondary and higher education, economic development and state agencies. The effort aims to facilitate the readiness of students, employers, and higher education institutions to participate in internships and work-based learning opportunities in Virginia.

**Six-year Planning Process:** The *Code of Virginia* (§ 23.1-306) requires the governing board of each public institution of higher education to develop and adopt a six-year operating (academic, financial and enrollment) plan for its institution. The statute vests responsibility largely with SCHEV for facilitating the plan template and the plan-review process at the state level. A six-member group (referred to informally as Op-Six), which includes the Director of the Department of Planning and Budget, the Secretary of Finance, the Secretary of Education, the Staff Director of the House Committee on Appropriations, the Staff Director of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and the Director of SCHEV reviews the draft plans. Following review by Op-Six and potential revisions by institutions' administrators in response to that review, each governing board adopts its institution's six-year plan. The public institutions develop their six-year plans in each odd-numbered year, in conjunction with the state's preparations for the next biennial budget. In even-numbered years, the boards affirm or update the plans, if/as necessary.

**Statewide Strategic Planning:** Since Council's creation in 1956, its first statutory duty has been to develop a statewide strategic plan that identifies a coordinated approach to state goals for higher education, and which emphasizes the unique institutional missions and anticipates future needs at both the undergraduate

and the graduate levels. Council approved the current plan, *Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*, in 2021 with the vision of Virginia being the best state for education by 2030 and the target of 70% educational attainment of all 25 to 64-year old working-aged Virginians by 2030. The next iteration of the plan is currently under construction and will be voted on by Council at its January 2026 meeting.





# STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

## Administrative Details

### Meeting Schedule

The calendar of Council meetings is introduced at the July meeting and voted on at the September meeting for the following calendar year. The schedule for 2026 includes five regular meetings per year – usually on the third Monday/Tuesday in the months of January, March, May, July and September.

- Two of the meetings are scheduled in a one-day format rather than a day-and a half for the remaining meetings (January and July).
- The Council usually meets four times a year on a college campus on a rotating basis, including one meeting at a private institution.
- The remaining meeting is held in Richmond. Committees usually meet on Monday afternoon, followed by a group dinner. The full Council meets from approximately 9:00 – 12:30 on Tuesday following the Monday meetings, with the exception of the one-day format when committee meetings are held in the morning followed by the full Council meeting.
- The Council Chair may call additional meetings and/or planning sessions.
- A continental breakfast and boxed lunches are provided at all Council meetings.

### Travel Arrangements

When the meeting is scheduled at an out-of-town institution, that institution's president will host a dinner on Monday following the committee meetings. It is important that the Council be well represented at these functions. As mentioned above, when meetings are in Richmond, a dinner may also be scheduled on Monday evening following the committee meetings.

SCHEV staff also will make hotel arrangements for all meetings and room, tax, and parking expenses are generally billed directly to SCHEV. Council members will be responsible for notifying the hotel or Laura Osberger, in accordance with the hotel's established deadline, if a cancellation is necessary. State accounting rules prohibit using state funds to pay for hotel expenses incurred as a result of late cancellations. Therefore, any such charges will be billed to the individual Council member. If a Council member prefers to make his/her own hotel reservations, the bill may be submitted for reimbursement at the applicable state rate for the area in which the hotel is located.

SCHEV will contact Council members no later than six weeks ahead of a scheduled meeting to record your planned attendance and hotel needs. It is important that we receive your commitment early as the hotels often require advanced notice in their agreements with the agency.

### **Agenda Materials**

The Council has moved to a paperless agenda system. As new members, you will receive an email to set up your account with OnBoard, our board portal platform. The agenda book and supporting materials will be available in the board portal approximately one week prior to the Council meetings. Training is available if requested. In addition, all materials will be posted on the SCHEV website one week prior to the meeting.

### **Parking in Richmond**

Parking is NOT available for Council members in the James Monroe building. However, for meetings held at SCHEV in Richmond, arrangements will be made for members to park in state parking deck #13, located across the street from the Monroe building loading dock. Parking passes will be mailed in advance of the meeting and should be posted from the rearview mirror. When entering the parking garage, members may use their SCHEV ID card to open the gate. If there is a problem, press the button and give the attendant your name and the number on your parking pass.

The Monroe building can be entered either from the street level on Franklin Street (near the loading dock) or from the main entrance on 14<sup>th</sup> Street. From either entrance, take the elevators to the first floor. Then take the middle set of elevators to the SCHEV offices on the ninth floor.

### **Security in the Monroe Building**

During normal business hours, there is a guard stationed at the street level (employee) entrance and at the first-floor entrance. Show your ID to the guard at either entrance. If you do not have your ID with you, you will need to sign in as a guest and enter at the first-floor entrance. Your ID will allow you to access the SCHEV offices by swiping it in the card reader at the ninth and tenth floor office entrances. If you do not have your ID, the receptionist will open the door.

### **Reimbursements**

Council members may elect to receive reimbursement for mileage when traveling to and from meetings. Reimbursement forms are provided to members

at each meeting. You must return the original form with your signature in order to be reimbursed (faxed copies of reimbursements are not acceptable).

***Reimbursement funds must be distributed via direct deposit.*** SCHEV staff will provide the appropriate forms that need to be completed. If you choose to decline state reimbursement, please notify Laura Osberger.

### **Compliance Obligations**

The Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council requires each citizen member appointed to a state board to complete an annual financial disclosure statement in January. The Ethics Council also requires completion of periodic online training to ensure SCHEV compliance with the state and Local Government Conflict of Interest Act, § 2.2-3100. SCHEV staff will contact you with instructions when necessary.

### **Contact Information**

Please provide SCHEV staff with your preferred contact information, as well as your assistant's name, phone number and email address, if applicable

Your privacy is important to us. Occasionally, the agency will receive mail or email messages addressed to Council members. We do not share your contact information and will forward all mail and messages through agency staff.

We are always available to answer any questions you may have, so please feel free to contact any of the SCHEV staff for assistance.

Scott Fleming  
Executive Director  
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(804) 584-6206 (cell)

Laura Osberger  
Director of Board & Executive Operations, and Communications  
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## STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

### **"SCHEV Policy on Council Travel"**

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) is responsible for communicating state travel policies, regulations and procedures to all non-state employees who travel on state business. A non-state employee is any individual who is not employed by the state, but who is conducting official state business, including a member of any board or commission.

SCHEV recognizes official state business as that which is authorized by or affiliated with SCHEV.

All appointed members of SCHEV must receive prior, written authorization from the Chair or a resolution of full Council, in order to be reimbursed for travel expense not associated with routine business of the Council. Council members have a right to appeal by the full Council if in disagreement with the Chair over authorization of any travel issues.

Non-routine business of the Council is official state business that has not otherwise been previously assigned by the Chair, Vice Chair or full Council.

SCHEV's Director is hereby authorized to affect any procedures necessary to implement this policy.



## **"SCHEV Policies for All Virtual Meetings and Electronic Meetings Conducted During State of Emergency Declarations"**

**Approved October 25, 2022**

### **I. All Virtual Meetings**

The following practice and procedures apply when a meeting is held in which all members participate electronically:

1. Upon the decision by the Chair or Majority of the Council membership that a Council meeting will be held in an all-virtual format, the Council will issue a required meeting notice and include a statement notifying the public that the all virtual meeting format will be used. This notice should include a statement that should the meeting format change, that subsequent notice will be issued and in accordance with Virginia Code 2.2-3707.
2. The Council will provide for the general public to observe the all virtual meeting via electronic communications which allow the public to hear the Council members' deliberations, other than for any portion of the meeting that is closed pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711.
  - a. If audio-visual technology is used, the electronic communication means should allow the public to also see the public body.
  - b. The Council will provide the public access to observe all-virtual meetings.
  - c. The Council will state in the notice for the meeting whether public comment will be taken at the meeting or provide a means for submitting written comments.
3. A copy of the proposed agenda and all agenda packets and, unless exempt, all materials furnished to the members of the Council for a meeting shall be

made available to the public in electronic format at the same time that the materials are provide to the members of the Council.

4. No more than two members of the Council can be together or present in any one of the remote locations used during the all-virtual meeting unless that remote location is open to the public and physically accessible to the public.
5. The Council is limited in convening meetings in the all-virtual format to two meetings or 25 percent of the meetings held each calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater.
6. The Council may not hold meetings in the all-virtual format consecutively with another all-virtual public meeting.
7. The Council will provide a phone number or other live contact information so the public can alert the Council of the audio or video transmission issues that interfere with their access, participation or viewing of the public bodies meeting.
  - a. The Council will monitor such designated means of communication during the meeting.
  - b. Should access fail, the Council shall take a recess until public access is restored (subject to reasonable time limitations).
8. In the event the Council convenes a closed session during the all-virtual public meeting, transmission of the meeting to the public must resume before the public body votes to certify the closed meeting as required by subsection D of Virginia Code § [2.2-3712](#).
9. Minutes of all-virtual public meetings held by electronic communication means are taken as required by Virginia Code § [2.2-3707](#) and include the fact that the meeting was held by electronic communication means and the type of electronic communication means by which the meeting was held.

## **II. Electronic Meetings Conducted During State of Emergency Declarations**

When an emergency has been declared, pursuant to Virginia Code § 44-146.17 or where the locality in which the body is located has declared a local state of

emergency pursuant to Virginia Code § 44-146.21, the Council must affirm that (i) the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location and (ii) the purpose of the meeting is to provide for the continuity of operations of the Council or the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities.

In such cases, a physical quorum is not required for the conduct of public business.

In cases of emergency, the Council will:

1. Give public notice using the best available method given the nature of the emergency, which notice shall be given contemporaneously with the notice provided to members of the Council conducting the meeting;
2. Make arrangements for public access to such meeting through electronic communication means;
3. Provide the public with the opportunity to comment if public comment is customarily received at such meeting; and
4. Follow other mandates of this policy and law.



## **Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**

The *Virginia Freedom of Information Act* (FOIA), located § 2.2-3700 et seq. of the *Code of Virginia*, guarantees citizens of the Commonwealth and representatives of the media access to public records held by public bodies, public officials, and public employees.

A public record is any writing or recording -- regardless of whether it is a paper record, an electronic file, an audio or video recording, or any other format -- that is prepared or owned by, or in the possession of a public body or its officers, employees or agents in the transaction of public business. All public records are presumed to be open, and may only be withheld if a specific, statutory exemption applies. In other words, all emails, texts and documents exchanged between Council members are subject to FOIA.

The policy of FOIA states that the purpose of FOIA is to promote an increased awareness by all persons of governmental activities. In furthering this policy, FOIA requires that the law be interpreted liberally, in favor of access, and that any exemption allowing public records to be withheld must be interpreted narrowly.

**FOIA: An Easy Guide (YouTube):** <https://www.schev.edu/institutions/boards-of-visitors/foia>

A video that explains FOIA and provides information for Council and Board members.

**What Every Board Member Absolutely Has to Know about FOIA:**  
<https://www.schev.edu/home/showpublisheddocument/710/637810823553000000>  
Memo issued by the Attorney General's office regarding what Council and Board members need to know regarding FOIA.





# STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

## *SCHEV Bylaws*

Adopted:	September 17, 2003
Amended:	October 17, 2006
Amended and Restated:	January 8, 2008
Amended:	July 20, 2010
Amended:	October 29, 2013
Amended:	January 10, 2017
Amended:	January 14, 2019
<u>Amended:</u>	<u>October 25, 2022</u>

### *Prepared by*

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## **Preface**

The original SCHEV Bylaws were adopted in 1986 and specify that the Bylaws be reviewed every four years. Changes were made in 2003, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2017, 2019 and 2022. This report is presented to the Council and recommends revisions that reflect the Council's current organizational structure and good-governance practices.

The major revisions to the Bylaws proposed are summarized as follows:

- Changed the Electronic Participation section to reflect changes made to legislation in the 2022 session.

# **Bylaws of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia**

*Amended by Council October 25, 2022*

## **SECTION ONE**

These Bylaws of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia adopted October 25, 2022, supersede all previous Bylaws of the Council. The Council acknowledges that it is guided in its operations by law, various state regulations and by its own standing orders.

## **SECTION TWO**

### ***Responsibilities of the Council***

The responsibilities of the Council of Higher Education shall be those specified in the Code of Virginia or assigned to the Council by the Governor or the General Assembly.

## **SECTION THREE**

### ***Council Officers and Method of Election***

- I. The Council annually shall elect a chair and vice chair and appoint a secretary from its membership to serve until their successors have been elected.
- II. Election of the chair and vice chair, and appointment of the secretary shall be held at the last meeting of the Council prior to June 30 each year. Notification to all Council members of the date, time and place of the election meeting shall be made in writing at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The chair, vice chair, and secretary may be nominated by any member of the Council. Voting shall be by a voice vote or a show of hands. The nominee for each position receiving the majority of the votes cast by members attending the meeting shall be elected. No proxy voting shall be allowed.
- III. The number of consecutive years a member may hold the same office shall be limited to three. Committee chair terms are not so limited. A vacancy in the office of chair shall be filled by the vice chair.

- IV. A vacancy in the office of vice chair shall be filled by the secretary.
- V. The Council shall establish such other offices as it deems necessary from time to time.
- VI. The general duties of the chair shall include:
  - A. Preside at all meetings of the Council.
  - B. Serve as the official spokesperson and representative of the Council.  
On policy issues on which Council has not taken an official position, the chair shall consult the Executive Committee or act at the request of the Council.
  - C. The chair may delegate all or part of these duties to other members of Council as permitted by law.
- VII. The general duties of the vice chair of the Council shall include:
  - A. Perform those duties delegated by the chair.
  - B. Serve as acting chair in the chair's absence.
- VIII. The general duties of the secretary of the Council shall include:
  - A. Perform those duties delegated by the chair.
  - B. Sign the official minutes of the Council.

## SECTION FOUR

### *Membership of the Council*

The membership of the Council is specified in Section 23.1-200 of the Code of Virginia, included in the Appendix to these Bylaws.

## SECTION FIVE

### *Council Staff*

- I. The Council shall employ a full-time director to serve as its chief administrator.

- II. The duties of the director shall be specified by the Council. The director shall receive a performance evaluation at least annually in a manner specified by the Council. Except as specified in these Bylaws, the staff employees of the Council shall be supervised by the director. The director shall report to the Council. However, between Council meetings the director shall take guidance and direction from the chair on behalf of the Council.
- III. The director, with the consent of the Council, shall appoint a professional staff member whose responsibilities will include assisting the director in making arrangements for Council meetings and keeping minutes of all Council meetings.

## SECTION SIX

### *Council Meetings*

- I. The presiding officer of the Council shall be the chair who shall enforce the rules of procedure of the Council fairly and impartially. If the chair does not serve, the vice chair shall serve. If the vice chair cannot serve, the secretary will serve.
- II. The Council shall meet at least quarterly or on the call of the chair. A majority of the Council may also call a meeting.
- III. Written or oral notification of each meeting shall be given to each member of the Council or committee at least one week prior to the Council or committee meeting. A Council meeting may be called upon shorter notice by agreement of a majority of the members but must be in accordance with the open meeting requirements in the Freedom of Information Act.
- IV. A written agenda for the Council or committee meetings shall be sent to each member approximately one week prior to the meeting unless the meeting has been called on shorter notice by agreement of a majority of the members.
- V. Except as prescribed in these Bylaws, all Council meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and procedures set forth in the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order. For purposes of interpretation of Robert's Rules of Order, Council meetings shall be considered a meeting of

a “large” body. However, meetings of any committee of the Council shall be considered a meeting of a “small” body.

## SECTION SEVEN

### *Committees*

**Establishment and Appointments.** The Executive Committee shall be a standing committee of the Council and consist of the chair, vice chair and such other members as may be appointed by the chair. The Executive Committee shall make recommendations in all those areas concerning the internal management of Council operations, including the organization and effective functioning of the Council, its staff and its work. The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of the Council between meetings.

The chair may appoint such other standing committees or ad hoc committees from time to time as deemed appropriate or to ensure the efficient disposition of the Council’s work. The chair shall specify the purpose and duration of any ad hoc committee.

**Terms of Office.** The term of office of members appointed to the Executive Committee, any other standing committee or any ad hoc committee shall be at the pleasure of the Council’s chair.

**Quorum.** The presence of fifty percent of committee members shall constitute a quorum. For purposes of constituting a quorum of any committee, the Council’s chair and/or vice chair, when present, shall be considered members of that committee, entitled to take action within that committee.

**Electronic Participation.** Pursuant to applicable law and guidance, the following practice and procedures apply for the participation of members who cannot physically attend a meeting in which public business will be conducted.

1. Prior to a scheduled Council meeting, a member must (1) notify the Chair or Board Liaison that he or she is unable to attend the meeting due to (a) a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents physical attendance, (b) a family member’s medical condition that requires the member to provide care for such family member thereby preventing the member’s physical attendance, (c) a member’s residence is more than sixty

- (60) miles from the meeting location identified in the notice, and (d) a personal matter that prevents physical attendance.
- a. in the case of a personal matter, the member must identify with specificity the nature of the personal matter.
  - b. Participation by a member pursuant to a personal matter is limited each calendar year to two meetings or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater.
2. A quorum of the Council members must be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location for the Council to consider the participation of a remote member.
  3. The Chair, or in the Chair's absence, the Vice Chair, shall recommend approval or disapproval of the participation to the Council member. If the Council approves the participation by majority vote, it must record in its meeting minutes
    - a. the fact of the remote participation;
    - b. the location of the remote participation (and the remote location need not be open to the public);
    - c. whether the remote participation is because of
    - d. a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition, or
    - e. a personal matter; and
    - f. in the case of a personal matter, the specific nature of personal matter.
  4. This policy must be applied strictly and uniformly, without exception, to the entire membership and without regard to the identity of the member requesting remote participation or the matters that will be considered or voted on at the meeting.
  5. The Council may deny participation for personal matters only if participation would violate this policy. If a member's participation is disapproved, the disapproval and the reason for the disapproval shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity.
  6. The Council must plan for the voice of the remote participant to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location.
  7. Should the requirements of this policy not be met, the Council member will be allowed to listen into the proceedings through an electronic means, if available.
  8. The Council will provide the public access to observe any meeting at which a member is permitted to participate by remote means. The Council will state in the notice for the meeting whether public comment will be taken at the meeting and will provide a means for submitting written comments.



**Manner of Acting.** The act of the majority of the committee members present at a meeting at which there is a quorum shall constitute the act of the committee.

**Operation of Committees and Authority.** Committees shall not have authority of the Council except where specifically authorized by the Council.

## **SECTION EIGHT**

These Bylaws shall be reviewed and revised, as necessary, at least every four years. Any member may propose amendments to the Bylaws at any time. Proposed amendments must be presented in writing and for discussion at the meeting of the Council prior to the meeting when the amendments are to be voted upon. A three-quarters vote of the total membership shall be required to adopt any amendments to these Bylaws.

*The attached appendix is not part of the SCHEV Bylaws. It is included here as reference material.*

*Appendix*  
*Code of Virginia*

*Chapter 2*

§ 23.1-200. State Council of Higher Education for Virginia established; purpose; membership; terms; officers.

A. The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia is established to advocate for and promote the development and operation of an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of higher education in the Commonwealth and lead state-level strategic planning and policy development and implementation based on research and analysis and in accordance with § 23.1-301 and subsection A of § 23.1-1002. The Council shall seek to facilitate collaboration among institutions of higher education that will enhance quality and create operational efficiencies and work with institutions of higher education and their governing boards on board development.

B. The Council shall be composed of individuals selected from the Commonwealth at large without regard to political affiliation but with due consideration of geographical representation. Nonlegislative citizen members shall have demonstrated experience, knowledge, and understanding of higher education and workforce needs. Nonlegislative citizen members shall be selected for their ability and all appointments shall be of such nature as to aid the work of the Council and inspire the highest degree of cooperation and confidence. No officer, employee, trustee, or member of the governing board of any institution of higher education, employee of the Commonwealth, member of the General Assembly, or member of the Board of Education is eligible for appointment to the Council except as specified in this section. All members of the Council are members at large who shall serve the best interests of the whole Commonwealth. No member shall act as the representative of any particular region or of any particular institution of higher education.

C. The Council shall consist of 13 members: 12 nonlegislative citizen members appointed by the Governor and one ex officio member. At least one nonlegislative citizen member shall have served as a chief executive officer of a public institution of higher education. At least one nonlegislative citizen member shall be a division superintendent or the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The President of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority shall serve ex officio with voting privileges.

D. All terms shall begin July 1.

E. Nonlegislative citizen members shall serve for terms of four years. Vacancies occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term. No nonlegislative citizen member shall serve for more than two consecutive terms; however, a nonlegislative citizen member appointed to serve an unexpired term is eligible to serve two consecutive four-year terms. No nonlegislative citizen member who has served two consecutive four-year terms is eligible to serve on the Council until at least two years have passed since the end of his second consecutive four-year term. All appointments are subject to confirmation by the General Assembly. Nonlegislative citizen members shall continue to hold office until their successors have been appointed and qualified. Ex officio members shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office.

F. The Council shall elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from its membership. The Council shall appoint a secretary and such other officers as it deems necessary and prescribe their duties and terms of office.

G. At each meeting, the Council shall involve the chief executive officer of each public institution of higher education in its agenda. The chief executive officers shall present information and comment on issues of common interest and choose presenters to the Council from among themselves who reflect the diversity of the institutions.

H. At each meeting, the Council may involve other groups, including the presidents of private institutions of higher education, in its agenda.

1956, c. 311, § 23-9.3; 1964, c. 597; 1970, c. 117; 1972, c. 210; 1974, c. 544; 1980, c. 728; 1991, c. 590; 2013, c. 605; 2016, c. 588; 2017, c. 314; 2018, c. 202.

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA**  
**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**July 15, 2025**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Dr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 11:16 a.m., at the Woodrow G. Bolick Building, Room 110, Piedmont Virginia Community College, in Charlottesville, VA.

Committee members present: Steven Taylor (Chair), Jason El Koubi, Lindsay Fryer, Cheryl Oldham, and J. Doug Straley

Committee members absent: Dr. William Harvey

Staff members present: Joseph G. DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Jodi Fisler, Kirstin Pantazis, Emily Salmon, and Bob Spieldenner

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 17 COMMITTEE MEETING**

On motion by Mr. El Koubi and seconded by Ms. Fryer, the minutes were approved unanimously (5-0).

**DISCUSSION OF MODIFICATIONS TO SCHEV'S PROGRAM PRODUCTIVITY POLICY**

Dr. DeFilippo introduced and described the background of the proposed modifications to the program productivity policy, the details of which can be found beginning on pg. 12 of the agenda book. Dr. DeFilippo noted the modifications are presented in response to council's direction and, if approved at or before the October meeting, can be in effect for the upcoming productivity review scheduled for the 2025/2026 academic year. In response to a query by Ms. Oldham, Dr. DeFilippo remarked that the Code of Virginia (§ 23.1-203. Duties of Council) does not include explicit language about return on investment. In response to a query by Dr. Taylor, Dr. DeFilippo stated that under the current policy, an academic program that meets student enrollment and graduation standards but does not deliver high return on investment to students would not necessarily be considered for discontinuance.

Dr. DeFilippo presented a recommendation to shorten the productivity review cycle to occur every three years instead of every five years. In response to a query by Dr. Taylor, Dr. DeFilippo noted that while the initial review under the new policy is expected to be staff intensive, subsequent reviews may not require additional staff support. In a response to a query by Mr. El Koubi about defining return on investment, Ms. Fryer suggested flexibility in allowing institutions to show graduate earnings compared to what students pay for a program. Dr. Taylor concurred with Mr. El Koubi and Ms. Freyer on the need for an operational definition of return on investment and commented on the committee's responsibility to ensure students are presented with fiscally responsible academic options.

In response to a query by Dr. Taylor, Dr. DeFilippo stated Academic Affairs staff will work with Policy Analytics staff to prepare a presentation on available wage and debt data in relation to academic program data for the September committee meeting. In response to a query by Mr. El Koubi, Dr. DeFilippo will consult with institutional representatives on the developing policy and its effect on institutional operations.

### **DISCUSSION OF SCHEV RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO VIRGINIA WORKFORCE NEEDS**

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the discussion and reviewed SCHEV's responsibilities in addressing workforce needs as detailed in the Code of Virginia. Dr. Taylor remarked that in light of stakeholders across the state highlighting the importance of talent development, the committee should consider a focus on defining and overseeing alternative pathways to workforce credentials. Mr. Straley concurred with Dr. Taylor and noted the importance of definitional work by the committee before detailing initiatives to improve alignment of academic programming with workforce needs.

In response to a query by Mr. El Koubi, Dr. DeFilippo noted the Virginia Office of Education Economics (VOEE) offers both a High Demand Occupations Dashboard and a High Value Index Dashboard, neither of which fully encapsulate the range of data identified by the committee as necessary for determining alignment with workforce needs. Dr. DeFilippo requested committee support for outside analysis of labor markets and academic program alignment in Virginia. Mr. El Koubi noted an intent to assist with the project.

### **RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE STAFF LIAISON**

Dr. Taylor acknowledged the recent activities and accomplishments of Academic Affairs staff.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

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Steven Taylor  
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

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Kirstin Pantazis  
Staff, Academic Affairs

# State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

**Item:** II.C – Academic Affairs Committee – Update on Program Productivity Policy Modifications

**Date of Meeting:** September 15, 2025

**Presenters:** Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo  
Director of Academic Affairs & Planning  
[joedefilippo@schev.edu](mailto:joedefilippo@schev.edu)

Mr. Tod Massa  
Director of Policy Analytics  
[todmassa@schev.edu](mailto:todmassa@schev.edu)

**Most Recent Review/Action:**

- ☐ No previous Council review/action  
☒ Previous review/action

**Date:** July 15, 2025

**Action:** The Academic Affairs Committee discussed a set of proposed modifications to the Virginia Public Higher Education Policy on Program Productivity.

**Purpose of the Agenda Item:** This item provides a proposed model for measuring degree program “Return on Investment” utilizing Virginia-specific data. This proposed model fulfills a request of the Academic Affairs Committee from Council’s July 2025 meeting (see the draft minutes above). If acceptable, staff would incorporate the proposed measure into the program productivity policy and present the updated policy for approval at an upcoming Council meeting.

**Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:**

SCHEV staff proposes a Return on Investment measure derived from existing Virginia data to measure the economic outcomes of academic programs based on the following data components:

- Each student’s total net cost of attendance, utilizing:
  - cost of attendance minus total gift aid plus total student loans (since actual family contributions are unknown)
  - individual students’ time-to-degree
- Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS) wage data:
  - A linear regression analysis has been performed on historical wage data (adjusted to 2023 dollars) to develop a wage growth coefficient for graduates in each two-digit CIP code (the broader discipline family of each major).
  - The wage growth coefficient is then used to predict wage growth for graduates by discipline for the rest of their working life, which is assumed

to be 40 years post-entry to higher education. (Note: this amounts to the conservative assumption of a retirement age of ~58.).

An illustrative Return on Investment (ROI) projection for college graduates in select disciplines will be provided, using 2018-19 graduates and a modified version of the standard formula:  $ROI = (\text{Net Profit} / \text{Cost of Investment}) \times 100\%$ . Specifically, the proposed **Virginia Higher Education ROI Measure** would be:

$$\frac{(\text{sum of college graduate's wages}) - (\text{total net cost of attendance} + \text{student loans}) - (\text{sum of high school graduate's wages})}{(\text{total net cost of attendance})} \times 100\%$$

Given the data set that is being utilized, the resulting ROI percentage is based on actual historical earnings of Virginia graduates, and takes into account the actual costs of education (however long it takes to complete the degree). And because the earnings data are actual historical data by discipline, the wage projections are based in each case on a coefficient that is directly related to the graduate's degree. Finally, it should be noted that the measure as proposed here is designed to be inherently conservative. The inclusion of student loans as a cost results in an increased cost of attendance and the 40-year wage earning window implies an early retirement of age of ~58.

**Materials Provided:**

- Staff will provide a presentation to illustrate Return on Investment for a selection of Virginia degree programs.

**Financial Impact:** N/A

**Relationship to Goals of The Virginia Plan for Higher Education:**

- Council's review of degree program productivity supports the following strategies outlined in Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education:
- Strategy 5: Cultivate affordable postsecondary education pathways for traditional, non- traditional and returning students.
- Strategy 7: Foster program and administrative innovations that enhance quality, promote collaboration and improve efficiency.
- Strategy 9: Improve the alignment between post-secondary academic programs and labor market outcomes.

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:** Final modifications to the Virginia Public Higher Education Policy on Program Productivity will be presented for Council action at the next feasible meeting.

**Resolution:** N/A

## State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

**Item:** II.D – Academic Affairs Committee – Update on Cardinal Education (online graduate program consortium in engineering and science)

**Date of Meeting:** September 15, 2025

**Presenters:** Alexis Gravely  
Associate for Academic Affairs  
[AlexisGravely@schev.edu](mailto:AlexisGravely@schev.edu)

Bob Bailey  
Cardinal Education Program Manager  
[BobBailey@OutcomesConsultingServices.com](mailto:BobBailey@OutcomesConsultingServices.com)

**Most Recent Review/Action:**

- ☒ No previous Council review/action  
☐ Previous review/action

**Date:**

**Action:**

**Purpose of the Agenda Item:**

The purpose of this item is to update Council on the mission and activities of Cardinal Education, formerly known as the Commonwealth Graduate Engineering program, which offers online graduate programs in engineering and science to students across Virginia and around the world. (<https://www.cardinaleducation.org>).

**Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:**

Cardinal Education, formerly known as the Commonwealth Graduate Engineering Program (CGEP), was established in 1983 to deliver graduate-level engineering education to Virginia's working scientists and engineers through state-of-the-art distance learning technologies. Cardinal Education operates as a consortium of six public universities – GMU, ODU, UVa, VCU, VSU, and VT, which collectively offer 40 masters-level degrees and certificates. Cardinal Education's strategic plan was developed to directly support the state higher education plan's goals of affordability, equity and transformation. Cardinal Education also works to identify and support specific objectives in each member university's six-year operating plan. It is managed by the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center.

**Materials Provided:**

None enclosed. At the meeting, the Cardinal Education representatives will provide a presentation.



**Financial Impact:** N/A

**Timetable for Further Review:** N/A

**Relationship to Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:**

Council's consideration of this agenda item supports the following strategies outlined in *Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:

- Strategy 5: Cultivate affordable postsecondary education pathways for traditional, non- traditional and returning students.
- Strategy 7: Foster program and administrative innovations that enhance quality, promote collaboration and improve efficiency.
- Strategy 9: Improve the alignment between post-secondary academic programs and labor market outcomes.

**Resolution:** N/A

# State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

**Item:** II.E – Academic Affairs Committee – Update on SCHEV Transfer Policies and 2025-26 Work Plan

**Date of Meeting:** September 15, 2025

**Presenter:** Dr. Paul A. Smith  
Senior Associate for Student Mobility Policy and Research  
[paulsmith@schev.edu](mailto:paulsmith@schev.edu)

**Most Recent Review/Action:**

- ☐ No previous Council review/action  
☒ Previous review/action

**Date:** March 2024

**Action:** No action; Committee received an update from staff.

**Purpose of the Agenda Item:**

The purpose of this item is to provide the Academic Affairs Committee with an overview of the current state of transfer (of students – and their courses and credits – between institutions) in Virginia, with emphasis on SCHEV’s responsibilities for overseeing state transfer policy, current and ongoing transfer-related activities, and future transfer-related work.

**Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:**

The *Code of Virginia* assigns Council responsibility to develop and implement policies on a range of transfer-related topics, including: articulation agreements, dual admission agreements, dual enrollment transferability, pathway maps, military education transferability, and Passport and Uniform Certificate of General Studies credentials.

As a supplement to specific statutory duties, SCHEV has played a leading role in the Transfer Virginia initiative, which pursues the overarching goal of promoting effective practices among Virginia’s two- and four-year institutions, in order to benefit students maximally as they pursue a transfer pathway to the baccalaureate.

**Materials Provided:**

None enclosed. At the meeting, Dr. Smith will provide a presentation that reviews: current transfer data; SCHEV’s transfer-related responsibilities; and current and future transfer-related tasks.

**Financial Impact:** N/A

**Timetable for Further Review:** N/A

**Relationship to Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:**

Council's responsibility for transfer policy in Virginia supports the following strategies outlined in *Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:

- Strategy 5: Cultivate affordable postsecondary education pathways for traditional, non- traditional and returning students.
- Strategy 7: Foster program and administrative innovations that enhance quality, promote collaboration and improve efficiency.
- Strategy 9: Improve the alignment between post-secondary academic programs and labor market outcomes.

**Resolution:** N/A

## State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

**Item:** II.F. – Academic Affairs Committee – Report of the Staff Liaison to the Academic Affairs Committee

**Date of Meeting:** September 15, 2025

**Presenter:** Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo  
Director of Academic Affairs & Planning  
[joedefilippo@schev.edu](mailto:joedefilippo@schev.edu)

**Most Recent Review/Action:**

- ☒ No previous Council review/action  
☐ Previous review/action

**Date:**

**Action:**

**Purpose of Agenda Item:**

Staff activities report.

**Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:**

N/A

**Materials Provided:**

“Report of the Staff Liaison to the Academic Affairs Committee,” by Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo.

**Financial Impact:**

N/A

**Relationship to Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:**

N/A

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

N/A

**Resolution:**

N/A

## Report of the Staff Liaison to the Academic Affairs Committee, September 15, 2025

Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo  
Director of Academic Affairs & Planning

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### **Orientation Session for Schools Seeking Certification**

- Private Post-Secondary Education (PPE) staff virtually convened a group of prospective school owners on August 26. This orientation is the first step in the application process for entities seeking certification to operate a postsecondary school in Virginia. Staff presented participants with an overview of the laws and regulations pertaining to the operation of a private postsecondary school and a summary of the certification process. The orientation also included detailed instructions on how to complete the certification application. There were five participants from degree-granting and 11 vocational school representatives in attendance.

### **Open Virginia Advisory Committee**

- The Open Virginia Advisory Committee (OVAC), coordinated by Dr. Pantazis, convened for a planning retreat on August 28 at the University of Virginia. The committee includes representatives from public two- and four- year institutions. The agenda included discussion of increasing institution engagement, existing policy related to open education, the impact of open education on student's workforce readiness, and initiatives to increase understanding of open education resources and pedagogy as distinct from affordable access or equitable access products.

### **Staff Activities and Recognition**

#### **Darlene Derricott**

- Attended the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (S-SARA) Regional Steering Committee Meeting from June 11-12, 2025, in Atlanta, Georgia. Attendees discussed the 2025 policy modification/amendment process, the upcoming review schedule, alternatives for calculating financial stability and state SARA meetings.

#### **Sandra Freeman**

- Testified on July 9, 2025, in a case before the Fairfax County Circuit Court concerning a school whose approval to operate in Virginia was revoked.

#### **Emily Muniz**

- Attended and presented at the 2025 Virginia Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (VACRAO) Conference July 28 – 30 in Norfolk, Virginia. The presentation focused on pathways to the baccalaureate and the Transfer Virginia initiative.

Academic Affairs Staff:

*Public Sector Academic Affairs*

Ms. Paris Allen, Academic Program Assistant  
Ms. Karen Banks, Academic Affairs Support Specialist  
Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo, Director, Academic Affairs & Planning  
Ms. Darlene Derricott, Senior Coordinator, Academic Services  
Ms. Alexis Gravely, Associate for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Jodi Fisler, Senior Associate for Assessment Policy & Analysis  
Ms. Emily Hils, Academic Programs and Services Specialist  
Ms. Emily Muniz, Associate for Transfer and Talent Pathways  
Dr. Monica Osei, Associate Director for Academic Programs & Instructional Sites  
Dr. Kirstin Pantazis, Associate for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Paul Smith, Senior Associate for Student Mobility Policy & Research

*Private Postsecondary Education*

Mr. Richard Cole, Compliance Specialist  
Ms. Sandra Freeman, Director, Private Postsecondary Education  
Mr. Ryan Hannifin, Associate for Academic Quality and Student Protections  
Ms. Elizabeth Howard, Associate for Academic Quality and Student Protections  
Ms. Kathleen Kincheloe, Associate for Academic Quality and Student Protections  
Ms. Monica Lewis, Fiscal Specialist  
Ms. Sylvia Rosa-Casanova, Senior Associate for Private Postsecondary Education  
Ms. Stephanie Shelton, Administrative Assistant  
Ms. Lindsay Welch, Associate for Academic Quality and Student Protections  
Mr. Alfonso Wells, Compliance Investigator

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
RESOURCES AND PLANNING COMMITTEE  
July 15, 2025**

**MINUTES**

Mr. Olsen called the meeting to order at 11:15 in the Woodrow G. Bolick Building, Room 109, Piedmont Virginia Community College, Charlottesville, VA.

Chairman Olsen welcomed new council members Mr. Eric Chewning, Mr. Charlie King and Ms. Jennifer Montague to the Resources and Planning Committee.

Committee Members present: John Olsen(Chairperson), Eric Chewning, Walter Curt, Charlie King, Jennifer Montague and Delceno Miles.

Committee members attending virtually- General John Jumper

Staff members present- Lee Andes, Scott Fleming, Grace Khattar, Tod Massa, Jessica Minnis-McClain, Laura Osberger, Kristin Whelan and Yan Zheng.

Chairman Olsen called for a vote to approve the virtual attendance of John Jumper. His virtual attendance was approved.

On a motion by Mr. Olsen and seconded by Ms. Miles the May 12<sup>th</sup> minutes from the Resources and Planning Committee at Randolph Macon were approved unanimously.

**DISCUSSION OF PREPARATION FOR 2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION**

Mr. Andes provided the Committee with a set of potential systemic budget and policy recommendations for the upcoming 2026 General Assembly Session. According to Mr. Andes, the Virginia's Higher Education Strategic Plan should provide guidance in the formulation of all budget and policy recommendations.

Mr. Andes reminded the Committee about one-time money provided in FY 25 and carried forward into FY 26 creates a funding gap in the next biennium. For E&G spending there will be a \$106 million dollar gap between FY 25 and FY 26 and for undergraduate financial aid a \$12 million gap. Just these two items create a \$118 million deficit for FY 26.

Mr. Andes informed the Committee of a state 2004 goal for funding higher education where students would pay 1/3 the cost and the state would fund 2/3 of the cost. The state has not met this goal more than once and Virginia is ranked as the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest state for tuition. Some progress has been made in the last two biennium to make education more affordable. Recommendations for the next biennium may continue the trend.

Mr. Andes cited the 2024 JLARC efficiency study finding that Virginia institutions spend the same or less than similar institutions across the nation. When tuition and fees are adjusted for inflation, the cost per student has declined over the last 3 to 4 years. Data indicates while there may be room for efficiency, institutions have shown restraint.

Mr. Andes stated that prior to the September Council meeting, staff will review upward pressures on tuition and fees including inflationary impacts and salary increases.

General Jumper expressed concern regarding the enrollment cliff and the need to adjust the baseline enrollment references to emphasize that Council is paying attention to this looming problem as well as considering possible solutions. He wanted to make certain the metrics do not hide the severity of the impending decline in enrollment.

Mr. Andes replied that staff often discuss enrollment with the Op-Six and members of the General Assembly. In the next month, institutions, as part of the Six-Year Plan process, will discuss enrollment projections with Op-Six, which consists of the Secretary of Education the Secretary of Finance, members of House and Senate financial committees, Dept of Planning and Budget, and SCHEV.

Mr. Andes and the Committee discussed possible budget considerations for the upcoming biennium.

Mr. Andes stated that budget recommendations will consider increases in operating as well as capital funding. In September, staff will provide a summary of capital requests submitted by institutions to DPB. Mr. King asked if Council could take a position on the \$900 million capital projects that were put on hold. Mr. Andes said that Council could take a position regarding funding those projects prior to consideration of new capital projects.

Additional funding items for consideration include HEETF and increases to financial aid.

A list of possible funding and policy recommendations for Council's consideration are in the agenda book. With Council guidance, SCHEV staff will prepare data to inform specific financial and data initiatives leading to Council action in September. Council's recommendations will be transmitted to the executive and legislative branches in advance of the 2026 session of the General Assembly for Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028.

Mr. Fleming and the Committee discussed the funding needed for SCHEV's operational budget for the next biennium, including staffing needs



## **UPDATE ON ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS**

Mr. Massa provided an update on institutional enrollment projections and degree estimates at the state and sector levels. The Code of Virginia, § 23.1-203(4), assigns to Council the duty to review and approve or disapprove the enrollment projections made by public institutions of higher education. The projection process is conducted biennially and covers the next six academic years.

Mr. Massa presented enrollment projections submitted by institutions. According to Mr. Massa, institutions may need to adjust their projections due to the passage of the Reconciliation Act. Some of the impact from the Federal legislative actions still needs to be evaluated.

Mr. Massa remarked that at the last meeting Mr. Curt asked about the impact of undocumented high schools students who graduated from Virginia high schools and did not enroll in public 4-year institutions. The estimates show over 5,000 undocumented students in Virginia high schools. Mr. Massa believes that institutions would need to increase their enrollment rate from 46% to 54% to maintain projections.

Mr. Massa discussed two changes to the Pell grant as part of the Reconciliation Act. All foreign income is now considered an asset and everyone with a student aid index twice the maximum Pell award will no longer be eligible. Mr. Massa still needs time to model the impact of those changes.

Ms. Montague asked about the impact of recent legislative changes on international students. Mr. Massa responded that one institution, GMU, reported a loss of 40% of international students between fall and spring.

Mr. Massa provided WICHE projections for high school graduation rates out to 2030. Virginia rates will be available in late July. Mr. Curt wants to see updated high school graduation numbers at the next meeting.

Mr. Massa stated that about half of the public institutions in Virginia projected enrollment growth for first time in college students from Virginia and the other half projected static or enrollment loss. Mr. Massa believes these projections are overly optimistic. The competition for out of states will be strong in light of environmental pressures.

Mr. Massa shared the degree estimates produced by institutions. Council members inquired about the possibility of SCHEV producing estimates regarding enrollment and degree completion. Mr. Fleming stated there are limitations on SCHEV's role in those estimates. Mr. Fleming said that there would be an opportunity to look at institution's past projections during the Six Year Planning presentations. Boards of Visitors for the institutions are required to sign off on the projections.

Mr. Massa discussed limitations on student loan debt included in the Reconciliation Act. Graduate students are limited to a lifetime student loan debt limit of \$100,000 and first

professional students are limited to \$200,000. Institutions may also need to track students fitting those categories.

Mr. Massa concluded with one other possible impact of the Reconciliation Act on higher education. Under the Reconciliation Act every program in the nation will be subjected to a measurement of the quality of the program based on wages earned 4 years after completion of the program versus wages earned by someone with only a high school diploma or GED. If graduates from those programs do not meet or exceed those wages 2 out of 3 years, enrolled students in those programs will be excluded from federal student loans. Specific requirements are not available at this time but Mr. Massa will perform modeling to assess the impact.

Given the possible changes at the Federal level, staff are of the opinion that: (i) institutions' enrollment projections and degree estimates may be fundamentally flawed; and therefore, (ii) staff will need to send the initial projections and estimates back to the institutions for review and reconsideration and to report back to SCHEV

Staff will continue to monitor the impacts of federal legislative actions on enrollment.

### **DISCUSSION ON INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND FULL COST REVIEW**

Mr. Andes facilitated discussion within the Committee regarding the potential future review of two state-policy issues: the Institutional Performance Standards or IPS and an expectation that public institutions charge out of state students' tuition of at least the full cost of their education (aka Full Cost Tuition).

Staff suggest that Council conduct a full evaluation and decide whether changes are warranted by forming a work group of Council members and SCHEV staff. The workgroup(s) could report findings by July 2026 in preparation for the 2027 legislative session. If directed, staff will prepare a more formal charge and timeline for the workgroup at the September meeting.

General Jumper suggested that Council take steps to be more active with institutions' Board of Visitors particularly in light of the upcoming training in November by sending a letter to ensure Boards are aware of a range of issues of concern raised by Council such as enrollment projections.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Olsen sought a motion to adjourn at 12:33pm and it was seconded by Ms. Miles.

# State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

**Item:** III.C – Resources and Planning Committee – Discussion on Institutional Performance Standards (IPS) and Full Cost Calculations Review

**Date of Meeting:** September 15, 2025

**Presenter:** Lee Andes  
Director of Finance Policy & Innovation  
[leeandes@schev.edu](mailto:leeandes@schev.edu)

**Most Recent Review/Action:**

**Date:** May 13, 2025

**Review/Action:** Council certified four institutions that had not met the specified set of institutional performance standards as of its initial (September 2024 Council meeting) certification action, but which had since demonstrated sufficient progress toward meeting the standards.

**Purpose of the Agenda Item:**

The purpose of this item is initiate and inform the Committee’s discussion of issues related to two long-standing requirements of the public institutions: (i) a set of standards on which satisfactory performance yields an institution certain limited benefits; and (ii) a set of calculations used to ascertain whether an institution charges its out-of-state students the full cost of their educations.

**Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:**

The *Code of Virginia* and the annual *Act of Appropriation* (state budget) tasks SCHEV with oversight of various institutional requirements. The measures used for these requirements may need to be reviewed periodically to ensure adherence to the Commonwealth’s higher education policy goals amid a shifting landscape.

In recent years, institutions have struggled to comply with two of these requirements – Institutional Performance Measures and Full Cost Tuition calculation – while facing enrollment challenges amid a decline in high school graduates and increasing competition. Staff suggests a review of the history, current status, and possible reevaluation of these two requirements. Led by a member of Council, a work group could conduct an evaluation and report findings by May 2026 in preparation for the next legislative session.

- **Institutional performance standards**

**Background -** SCHEV has assessed institutional performance standards for nearly two decades, beginning with the *Higher Education Restructuring Act* in 2005, the *Virginia*

*Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011 (Top Jobs Act or TJ21) and related Code of Virginia amendments. Chapter 725 of the 2025 Acts of Assembly outlines the assessment process and identifies six education-related measures by which the Council shall base its assessment and certification.*

Of the education-related measures, four assess the institution's ability to provide reliable enrollment, degree, and retention *projections*, not outcomes.

1. **HEADCOUNT** – Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial *projections* for in-state undergraduate headcount enrollment.
2. **DEGREE AWARDS** – Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial *projections* for the number of in-state associate and bachelor degree awards.
3. **STEM-H DEGREE AWARDS** – Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial *projections* for the number of in-state STEM-H (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Health professions) associate and bachelor degree awards.
4. **PROGRESSION AND RETENTION** – Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial *projections* for the number of in-state, upper level – sophomore level for two-year institutions and junior and senior level for four-year institutions – program-placed, full-time equivalent students.

The remaining two education measures review narrowly focused outcomes rather than overall institutional performance.

5. **DEGREES FOR UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS** – Maintain or increase the number of in-state associate and bachelor degrees awarded to students from underrepresented populations.
6. **TWO-YEAR TRANSFERS** – Maintain or increase the number of in-state two-year transfers to four-year institutions. Special Note: Virginia Military Institute (VMI) has an alternative measure, commissioning rate, for this performance measure.

Staff conducts the performance reviews every two years, with the next review scheduled for summer 2026.

**Current Status** - National enrollment trends have rendered full compliance with current performance measures challenging for some institutions. Just two institutions met full compliance in SCHEV's 2024 review, while ten institutions did not meet three or more of the six education-related measures. Institutions cited the ongoing impact of the pandemic, challenges in updating enrollment and degree projections within the current environment of declining enrollment and federal higher education policy changes, and a smaller pool of transfers from the Virginia Community College System among contributing factors.

Since the education-related performance measures were originally adopted twenty years ago, a reassessment of the relevancy of the measures could bring them into better alignment with Virginia's current and future higher education goals. A realignment

would also provide opportunity for the Council to bring greater attention to the limitations of the existing measures, with a particular focus on declining enrollments both in aggregate and across various student demographics.

Staff notes that the IPS requirements include six administrative and financial measures that are reviewed by the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB): 1) Financial, 2) Debt Management, 3) Human Resources, 4) Procurement, 5) Capital Outlay, and 6) Information Technology. Staff defers to DPB on whether to review of these six requirements.

- **Full cost calculations**

**Background** - Since 1990, each Act of Appropriation has set forth a tuition policy regarding nonresident (out-of-state) students. (Item 4-2.01.b.2). The most recent version directs SCHEV to calculate the average cost of education by institution and monitor whether tuition charges to out-of-state students meet the requirement to “cover at least 100 percent of the average cost of their education” annually.

- b) The Boards of Visitors or other governing bodies of institutions of higher education may set tuition and fee charges at levels they deem to be appropriate for all nonresident student groups based on, but not limited to, competitive market rates, provided that: i) the tuition and mandatory educational and general fee rates for nonresident undergraduate and graduate students cover at least 100 percent of the average cost of their education, as calculated through base adequacy guidelines adopted, and periodically amended, by the Joint Subcommittee Studying Higher Education Funding Policies, and ii) the total revenue generated by the collection of tuition and fees from all students is within the nongeneral fund appropriation for educational and general programs provided in this act.*
- c) For institutions charging nonresident students less than 100 percent of the cost of education, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia may authorize a phased approach to meeting this requirement, when in its judgment, it would result in annual tuition and fee increases for nonresident students that would discourage their enrollment.*

Budget language provides guidance on the methodology to calculate the cost of education based on an institution’s adjusted E&G funding, divided by projected FTE. Staff compares the resulting dividend to the institution’s weighted average nonresident tuition (accounting for undergraduate and graduate tuition rates). If the institution’s nonresident tuition charges are less than the calculated cost of education, the institution is deemed out of compliance.

**Current status** - Per current methodology, seven institutions – Norfolk State University, Radford University, University of Mary Washington, University of Virginia at Wise, Virginia State University, Richard Bland College, and Virginia Community College

System – did not meet the full cost requirements in FY 2025. SCHEV staff notified these institutions and issued three follow-up questions:

- How/why did the institution fail to meet full cost requirements?
- How can the institution prevent the numbers declining further over the next year?
- What is a realistic time frame to get back to 100% compliance, and what are the obstacles to doing so?

Please refer to the September 2024 agenda items for more information about the 2024 findings. The collective responses indicate that compliance with the standards would be difficult and take time to achieve.

For AY 2025-26, these seven institutions continue to fall below the full cost standard. Reasons vary, but a common theme lies in an inadvertent challenge presented by recent increases in state support. While the General Assembly has recently provided an influx of E&G support, doing so amid stagnating or, in some cases, declining enrollments has the unintended effect of raising the average “cost to educate” per student. At the same time, heightened competition for out-of-state students limits the institutions’ ability to increase tuition and fees without undercutting admissions.

National enrollment projections show a trend in declining college enrollment through 2030, meaning there will be a smaller pool of students for institutions to recruit. While Virginia may experience a more limited impact than other states, the competition from out-of-state institutions for both Virginia students and out-of-state students will increase. Under current circumstances, it will be extremely difficult for several institutions to regain conformity with the full cost standard over the next biennium or even beyond.

- **For Council consideration**

Staff proposes that the Council Chair establish a workgroup consisting of one or two Council members, appropriate SCHEV staff members, and any other groups or individuals as deemed appropriate by the Council lead.

This work group would be charged with the following goals:

- Review Virginia Code, budget language, SCHEV policy, history, available best practices, and any other relevant information on the Institutional Performance Standards and the Full Cost Tuition calculation.
- Provide an analysis of potential updates or changes to each respective program detailing the reason for proposing the update, the steps to accomplish change, and any other relevant information by no later than May 2026. The work group can consider legislative action and/or steps that Council can undertake unilaterally.
- Consider intermediate steps to bring a sharper focus on institutional performance standards that can be expedited by SCHEV without legislation.

**Materials Provided:**

See the Background/Summary section above. Additional detail on the 2024 report on institutional performance standards appears in the agenda item from the Committee's [September, 2024](#) meeting.

**Financial Impact:** None

**Relationship to the Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:**

Improvements on both of these procedures support Goal 2: Affordability, Strategy 6: *Update and reform funding models and policies to improve equity, affirm return on investment and encourage increased and consistent levels of state funding* – by providing better information and evaluation of institutional performance and affordability,

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

If a workgroup is created, updates can be provided as needed with the anticipation of formal recommendations by no later than May, 2026.

**Resolution:** None

# State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

**Item:** V.E. – Action on Systemwide Budget and Policy Recommendations for the 2026 Legislative Session

**Date of Meeting:** September 16, 2025

**Presenter:** Lee Andes

Director of Finance Policy and Innovation  
[leeandes@schev.edu](mailto:leeandes@schev.edu)

**Most Recent Review/Action:**

- ☒ No Previous Council review/action  
☐ Previous review/action

**Date:** July 15, 2025

**Review:** The Resources and Planning Committee and the full Council discussed cost items.

**Purpose of the Agenda Item:**

The purpose of this item is to inform and facilitate Council action to approve a set of proposed systemwide budget and policy recommendations for the 2026-28 biennium. Once Council acts, staff will transmit Council's recommendations to the executive and legislative branches in advance of the 2026 legislative session.

**Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:**

The Commonwealth of Virginia operates on a two-year budget cycle, which provides funding for an individual biennium. In preparation for the next biennial budget, covering FY 2027 and FY 2028, Council will consider budget and policy recommendations for higher education. This process began with a discussion of priority areas at the July Council meeting and is scheduled to conclude with September's vote on official Council recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly.

The decision process for making these recommendations is rooted in the statewide strategic plan - *Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*. As Council considers projected upcoming needs for higher education, members will consider several contributing factors, including funding imbalances, projected cost increases and student needs.

Complicating this process, the 2024-26 biennium ends with an embedded funding imbalance, in which policymakers appropriated additional resources to public institutions in FY 2025, but not in FY 2026 (which began on July 1, 2025). This strategy allowed the Commonwealth to support statewide higher education goals with surplus revenues while retaining flexibility in the event of



limited state resources in future years, signaling the potential for a tight state budget in the upcoming session.

**Materials Provided:**

The pages that follow provide a lengthy “SCHEV Budget and Policy Considerations” document, which summarizes scenarios prepared by staff to inform Council budget and/or policy recommendations.

**Financial Impact:**

The financial impact of each budgetary item is detailed within its description. Staff have prepared a sample budget, see table at the end of this item, to facilitate Council discussion. This table currently reflects increases of \$102.2 million in FY 2027 and \$114.7 million in FY 2028.

**Timetable for Further Review:**

Council action in September is necessary to meet deadlines for the executive branch’s development of an Introduced Budget for the 2026 legislative session.

**Relationship with the Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:**

Council’s budget and policy recommendations relate to all goals of *The Virginia Plan*.

**Resolution:**

The resolution below will be expanded and revised to reflect Council’s final action and approval, including specific funding recommendations.

**WHEREAS, *Pathways to Opportunity*, the statewide strategic plan for higher education, seeks to make Virginia the best state for education by 2030; and**

**WHEREAS, Virginia’s higher education system is a shared responsibility of the state, institutions, and students and families to reach the highest levels of performance and accountability; and**

**WHEREAS, budget recommendations for the 2026-28 biennium focus on improving access, affordability, student success, labor market outcomes and institutional efficiencies and effectiveness; now therefore,**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves budget and policy recommendations for the 2026-28 biennium as discussed and agreed upon on September 16, 2025.**

## SCHEV BUDGET AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS FOR FY 2027 AND FY 2028

Section 23.208 of the [Code of Virginia](#) charges the Council with the annual development and submission of systemwide budget and policy recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly:

*A. The Council shall develop policies, formulae, and guidelines for the fair and equitable distribution and use of public funds among the public institutions of higher education, taking into account enrollment projections and recognizing differences and similarities in institutional missions. Such policies, formulae, and guidelines shall include provisions for operating expenses and capital outlay programs and shall be utilized by all public institutions of higher education in preparing requests for appropriations.*

In forming policy and budget recommendations, Council is guided by the *Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education* throughout the process, ensuring a student-centric approach that also reflects sensitivity to budget considerations.

As approved by the Council in January 2021, the current strategic plan aims to achieve and preserve the following:

1. Equitability: Close access and completion gaps
2. Affordability: Lower costs for students
3. Transformation: Expand prosperity

### **Results from the 2024-2026 Biennial Budget**

During the 2024 Session, the General Assembly reviewed and amended the 2024-26 biennial budget, providing similarly sized cumulative increases each year of the biennium. In total, higher education received \$177.4 million in FY 2025 and \$184.1 million in FY 2026.

The 2025 Session of the General Assembly provided additional one-time general fund support for FY 2025, with language allowing institutions to carry balances forward into FY 2026. The resulting difference in general fund dollars between FY 2025 and FY 2026 preserves lower base budgets leading into the next biennium. The table below illustrates the current year-over-year difference in general fund support in two major program areas.

Additional General Fund Appropriations in 2024-2026 (in millions)			
Program	2024-25	2025-26	Difference
E&G	\$212	\$106	(\$106)
Undergraduate Financial Aid	\$32	\$20	(\$12)

## **Summary of key areas of consideration for FY 2026-28**

**Institutional operations and capital outlay:** Staff analysis finds three key areas of cost increases that will have systemwide impact in the coming biennium: (1) institutions' share of anticipated salary increases for state employees; (2) inflationary impacts on nonpersonal service costs; and (3) new operations and maintenance costs associated with bringing new facilities online.

Staff have prepared an estimate for these costs and options for the Commonwealth to limit the impacts on student tuition and fees, in alignment with the strategic plan's goal to provide Equitable and Affordable higher education.

**Student financial aid:** In recent years, the Commonwealth has significantly increased its investment in student financial aid. However, data indicates that the average unmet need for Virginia students remains high due to cost increases. Budget actions that reduce average unmet need will support growth in college access, as well as in retention and graduation rates, supporting the strategic plan's goals for Equitable and Affordable education.

**Statewide priority areas/initiatives and SCHEV budget:** In recent years, the Commonwealth has focused both budget and legislative efforts around support for key priority areas, including the state internship program, financial aid, workforce alignment and on-campus mental health services. Within these areas, Council recommendations can support any one or all three of the primary goals under the strategic plan.

**Policy considerations:** Particularly in the period between 2021 and the 2025 Session, both the Governor and General Assembly have approved policy reviews and updates around campus safety, food insecurity and accessibility for students with disabilities. For the 2026-2028 biennium, Council could recommend an approach to various policy topics.

## **Key Areas for Potential Funding Recommendations**

Staff continue to collect and refine information in the areas above. The following topical areas have emerged for consideration by Council:

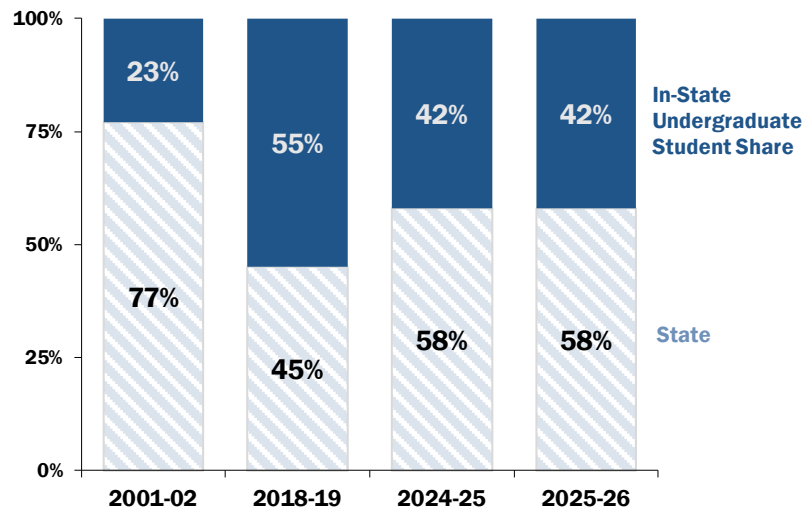
### ***1. Institutional operations and capital outlay***

#### ***a. Educational and General Programs (E&G) Operations***

The E&G component of each institution's operational budget is funded through two main sources, tuition and fees paid by students and general funds from the state budget. The 2004 Session of the General Assembly established a statewide goal of maintaining a 33/67 cost-share relationship between in-state undergraduate students and the Commonwealth. While the state fund share has largely fallen short of meeting its target, the chart below reflects the state's recent progress in

relation to its highest and lowest years of investment toward the cost-share formula.

### Cost-Share Relationship between the State and In-State Undergraduate Students



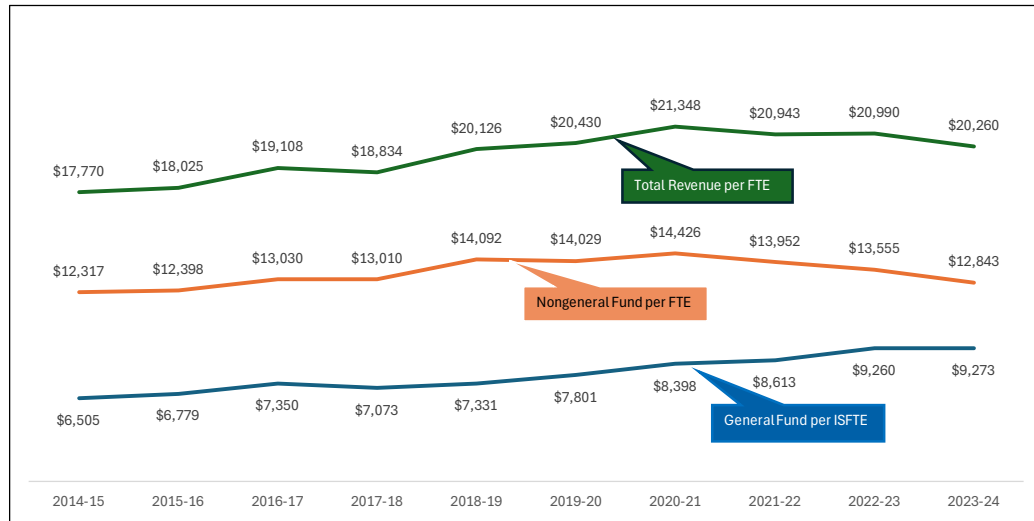
(1) In 2000, the state set the goal of the tuition policy for in-state undergraduate students to pay 25% of the cost.

The 2001-02 calculation was based on the average appropriated cost of education.

(2) In 2004, the goal of the tuition policy was set for in-state students to pay 33% of the cost. Since then, the cost share was calculated based on the average guideline cost of education.

Tuition at Virginia institutions ranks among the highest in the country: for AY 2024-25, Virginia's tuition rates ranked second among comprehensive institutions, fifth among doctoral/research institutions, and 22<sup>nd</sup> among two-year colleges. In recent years, Virginia's public institutions have begun to lower average charges based on 2024 constant dollars. According to the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), Virginia's state funding per FTE ranks 27<sup>th</sup>, and its total revenue (combining state funding and tuition revenue) per FTE ranks 28<sup>th</sup>. JLARC's 2024 study, [\*Spending and Efficiency in Higher Education\*](#), found that "the majority of institutions spend about the same or less than similar institutions nationwide."

Funding per FTE by Fund FY2015-FY2024  
in 2024 Constant Dollars



Note: Total Revenue per FTE is not the sum of General Funding per ISFTE and Nongeneral Fund per FTE as two measures use different denominators.

Considering these and additional factors outlined in the following section, staff have calculated the projected impact on in-state undergraduate tuition and fees in comparison with institutions' proposed tuition increases, as outlined in their six-year plans. The Council may consider recommendations to address these costs either on a per-institution or on a systemwide basis.

#### b. Institutional operations

- i. **Salary impacts:** In the state's cost-share model, public institutions are expected to support a portion – roughly half – of salary increases. When drafting their six-year plans this summer, institutions were advised to project costs reflecting an annual 2 percent increase in salaries and 1 percent increase in health insurance premiums.
- ii. **Inflation impacts on non-personal services:** On average, non-personal services make up approximately 24% of institutions' budgets. Staff have applied a projected annual inflation rate to calculate the increase in unavoidable costs in 2026-28. The latest economic update from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that, in June 2025, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) grew 2.7% from June 2024. Moody projects CPI annual growth of 2.4% in FY 2027 and 2.3% in FY 2028.

Based on the above factors and before taking into consideration potential new general funds, institutions have projected average tuition increases of 3.8% in FY 2027 and 3.5% in FY 2028.

The Commonwealth can consider providing general fund appropriations to mitigate further tuition increases. Based on the current fund split, to cover the state's share of anticipated state salary and health insurance premiums as well as address inflation, the state would need to increase base budgets systemwide by a

total of \$64.0m GF in FY 2027 and \$127.9m GF in FY 2028. Due to continued uncertainty over the state budget, for operational funding Council could recommend a first-year increase with level funding into the second year and then revisit the recommendations when preparing for the 2027 session.

**iii. Operation costs of new facilities:**

The Commonwealth supports a portion of the cost to operate and maintain educational space within campus facilities. As institutions periodically bring new and renovated academic space online, their overall operation and maintenance (O&M) costs increase accordingly.

In keeping with past methodology, the Commonwealth's general fund portion of O&M for FY27 is \$4.7 million and \$10.3 million for FY 28 which will provide assistance for the opening, maintenance or demolition of 29 buildings.

FY 26-28 O&M Recommendations		
Institution	FY 2027	FY 2028
CNU	\$1,021,049	\$1,115,222
GMU	\$0	\$0
JMU	\$508,687	\$508,687
LU	\$0	\$0
NSU	\$0	\$523,600
ODU	\$229,038	\$614,611
RBC	\$0	\$0
RU	\$0	\$0
UMW	\$101,190	\$106,370
UVA	\$1,300,373	\$3,043,971
UVAW	\$0	\$0
VCU	\$0	\$888,413
VIMS	\$0	\$0
VMI	\$7,100	\$107,715
VSU	\$517,544	\$562,589
VT	\$0	\$735,028
VT Ext.	\$229,926	\$472,827
W&M	\$66,307	\$392,385
VCCS	\$730,556	\$1,142,409
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,711,770</b>	<b>\$10,213,827</b>

### **c. Capital outlay and HEETF**

#### **i. Capital outlay:**

[Section 23.1-208, Code of Virginia](#) also directs the Council to consider recommendations for state contributions to institutions' capital outlay.

Since 2020, Council's capital outlay recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly categorized projects based on several factors including, life safety, critical maintenance needs, enrollment projections, and programmatic justification. The 6-PAC (Secretary of Education, leadership from House and Senate money committees, Department of Planning and Budget, Department of General Services and SCHEV) could then review all projects based on the criteria above for funding consideration.

For the 2026-28 biennium, institutions have submitted capital funding requests for a total of 76 projects. At the direction of 6-PAC, staff prepared a summary of capital projects submitted by institutions, including project type, scope and cost, for comparison against priorities identified in institutions' Six-Year Plan submissions, as well as proposed criteria for funding decisions, including:

- Relative age of the facility;
- Critical maintenance components (e.g., campus safety, ADA compliance);
- Historic disparities in funding;
- Enrollment; and
- Programmatic justification.

At the conclusion of the 2025 Session of the General Assembly, the Governor vetoed ten capital projects for higher education with the explanation that should the Commonwealth realize projected budget surpluses, the Administration may address these projects in the 2026-28 Introduced Budget through either cash or bonds. SCHEV staff recommends the funding of those vetoed projects prior to new capital requests along with projects that prioritize:

1. life and safety,
2. refurbish and repurpose over new construction, and
3. projects that address historical disparities between institutions.

## Projects vetoed in Chapter 725 of the 2025 General Assembly Session

Institution	Capital Project Title
GMU	Priority Facility Improvements
JMU	Renovate Johnston Hall
LU	Replace Roof, Windows, and External Doors Lankford Hall
VCCS	Renovate Amherst/Campbell Hall, Central Virginia
VCU	Acquire Altria Building
VIMS	Construct Marine Operations Administration Complex
VSU	Renovate Virginia Hall
VT	Expand Virginia-Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Fralin Biomedical Research Institute
UVA	Center for the Arts
W&M	Replace Law School Central Utility Plant

- ii. **HEETF:** The Higher Education Equipment Trust Fund (HEETF), first established by the General Assembly in 1986, supplements the cost for institutions to upgrade equipment for instruction and research. Budget language directs the Virginia College Building Authority to distribute funds, following review and approval by staff based on agency-developed guidelines for eligible use and general program procedures.

Council last recommended a systemwide funding increase for FY 2018; however, until a more thorough review of inventory and systemic needs can be conducted and analyzed, Council may consider maintaining current HEETF funding levels of \$95.2m in the first year and \$97.7m for the second year for the upcoming biennium.

## 2. *Student financial aid*

- a. **Undergraduate need-based financial aid:** The Virginia Student Financial Assistance Program provides direct appropriations to public institutions to disburse to in-state students via either the Virginia Commonwealth Award or the Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program. Award methodology prioritizes the greatest demonstrated need to increase access and affordability and promote timely progress to graduation.

Driven largely by rising auxiliary expenses (e.g., room and board, books and supplies, travel and personal expenses), both the cost of a four-year degree and the corresponding increase in students' unmet need have outpaced increases in general fund support for financial aid. The following table breaks out changes



observed between AY 2019-20 and AY 2023-24 for Virginia students by family income level.

**Average Unmet Need Comparison –  
Public Four-Year Institutions: 2019-20 and 2023-24**

	Income Range	# Cohort	Avg. COA	Avg. Gift Aid	Avg. Net Price	Avg. EFC	Avg. Unmet Need
<b>2019-20</b>							
<b>Total Public Four-Year Institutions</b>	All	87,333	\$27,370	\$7,019	\$20,353	\$11,366	\$9,605
<b>Total Public Four-Year Institutions</b>	Lower	29,745	\$26,001	\$11,353	\$14,654	\$728	\$13,947
<b>Total Public Four-Year Institutions</b>	Middle	23,866	\$27,258	\$7,420	\$19,840	\$7,561	\$12,445
<b>2023-24</b>							
<b>Total Public Four-Year Institutions</b>	All	85,528	\$33,662	\$10,061	\$23,607	\$13,824	\$10,521
<b>Total Public Four-Year Institutions</b>	Lower	30,295	\$32,568	\$15,940	\$16,640	\$890	\$15,768
<b>Total Public Four-Year Institutions</b>	Middle	23,019	\$33,547	\$11,119	\$22,434	\$9,517	\$13,169

- From SCHEV FA34A report
- COA = Cost of Attendance
- EFC = Expected Family Contribution

Changes enacted by the federal FAFSA Simplification Act are projected to result in more Pell-eligible students and increases in calculated financial need beginning in 2024-25. Finally, many four-year institutions have recently undertaken initiatives to increase low-income, Pell-eligible enrollments. For these reasons, the Commonwealth should remain aggressive in providing further increases to student financial assistance.

Chapter 725 from the 2025 Session includes one-time increases totaling \$15.0M GF. This provided temporary support for financial assistance as it added funds to FY 2025 only, creating a \$12 million gap in funding for FY 2026 (FY 2025 was previously \$3 million under the FY 2026 appropriation) going into the 2026-28 biennium.

### Undergraduate student aid

Institution	FY 2025 GF	FY 2026 GF	Difference
Christopher Newport University	\$8,580,347	\$8,240,297	(\$340,050)
William & Mary	\$5,625,292	\$5,420,162	(\$205,130)
George Mason University	\$79,164,353	\$77,342,233	(\$1,822,120)
James Madison University	\$22,851,055	\$22,199,045	(\$652,010)
Longwood University	\$10,007,185	\$9,676,665	(\$330,520)
Norfolk State University	\$27,572,785	\$26,889,685	(\$683,100)
Old Dominion University	\$63,557,754	\$62,222,634	(\$1,335,120)
Radford University	\$29,226,765	\$28,447,365	(\$779,400)
University of Mary Washington	\$7,294,189	\$7,091,069	(\$203,120)
University of Virginia	\$12,115,539	\$11,855,729	(\$259,810)
University of Virginia - Wise	\$6,476,755	\$6,289,175	(\$187,580)
Virginia Commonwealth University	\$59,037,822	\$57,218,222	(\$1,819,600)
Virginia Military Institute	\$1,691,568	\$1,630,388	(\$61,180)
Virginia State University	\$19,843,720	\$19,335,150	(\$508,570)
Virginia Tech	\$31,808,771	\$30,958,151	(\$850,620)
Four-Year Institution Totals	\$384,853,900	\$374,815,970	(\$10,037,930)
Richard Bland College	\$2,471,810	\$2,414,630	(\$57,180)
Virginia Community College System	\$93,238,555	\$91,333,665	(\$1,904,890)
Two-Year Institution Totals	\$95,710,365	\$93,748,295	(\$1,962,070)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$480,564,265</b>	<b>\$468,564,265</b>	<b>(\$12,000,000)</b>

Two of the primary goals of the Virginia Plan are Affordability and Access. Accordingly, reducing costs to students is a primary objective for Council to consider when forming recommendations. Projected increases in student need can be addressed through additional general fund support to mitigate or eliminate the need for tuition increases, increases in student financial assistance or a combination of the two. The reinstatement of the one-time \$12 million plus another \$9.2m in FY 2027 and \$10.0m in FY 2028 will enable the Commonwealth to keep pace with rising tuition and mitigate rising unmet need.

#### **b. State non-need-based student assistance:**

- i. Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant Program (TAG):** TAG provides grants to Virginia residents enrolled at private, non-profit colleges and universities. While not a need-based program, approximately 80% of recipients are low- and middle-income students.

The following table outlines increases in maximum TAG awards and corresponding general fund appropriations over the past decade. During this

time, the tuition among private institutions has increased at a rate lower than that of the public four-year institutions in eight of the last ten years.

Year	Maximum TAG Award	Annual Appropriations
2016-17	\$3,200	\$65,812,665
2017-18	\$3,300	\$65,812,665
2018-19	\$3,270	\$65,812,665
2019-20	\$3,400	\$71,098,303
2020-21	\$3,750	\$71,098,303
2021-22	\$4,000	\$79,598,303
2022-23	\$4,500	\$90,813,320
2023-24	\$5,000	\$100,325,881
2024-25	\$5,150	\$104,125,881
2025-26	\$5,250	\$112,325,881

Additional targeted increases adopted over this period include:

- FY 2023: \$7,500 supplements for in-state students at HBCUs.
- FY 2025: One-time \$2,500 supplements for in-state students at Hispanic-serving institutions.

In 2024, the TAG priority deadline was moved from July 31 to September 15, giving institutions more time to identify eligible students as they matriculated at the beginning of the year and help with application completion. With this change, TAG participation has increased by 5.4 percent for undergraduate residential students after a decade of declining participation. Staff expect this growth trend to continue for at least one more year before settling back into historical trends.

The unexpected increase in TAG participation did not require a reduction in the TAG award due to accumulated unused funds during years of the TAG award due to accumulated unused funds during years of decreased participation. Raising the TAG award would improve affordability and retention as well as encourage students to consider enrolling at a Virginia private institution.

Council can consider whether to maintain FY 2026 award amounts through the 2026-2028 biennium. Doing so would require an additional \$7.7m in the first year and \$9.6m in the second year. To increase the annual award, each \$50 increase to the undergraduate award requires approximately an additional \$1.0m GF, so a \$100 award increase would require a \$2.0m GF increase to the annual budget.

- ii. ***Virginia Military Survivors and Dependent Education Program (VMSDEP)***: VMSDEP waives tuition and required fees for eligible family

members of veterans who have paid a significant personal sacrifice, including loss of life, liberty (prisoner of war or missing in action), or “limb” (90% or more disabled as a result of service). Some of these students will also qualify for a program stipend to apply towards educational expenses. Over the past six years, program participation rates have risen dramatically, following implementation of enhanced marketing and eligibility verification strategies by other state and federal offices. While the growth rate for tuition waivers has been uneven across institutions, the speed and amount of the increase has strained each institution’s budget.

### Virginia Military Survivors and Dependent Education Program - Tuition Waivers

Institution	2018-19		2021-22		* 2024-25 - Estimated	
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
Christopher Newport University	21	\$286,468	112	\$1,571,083	303	\$4,846,828
William & Mary	25	\$554,555	108	\$2,378,841	316	\$7,612,009
George Mason University	110	\$1,012,307	474	\$5,781,487	1,231	\$16,650,212
James Madison University	63	\$673,618	249	\$2,833,476	663	\$8,743,517
Longwood University	25	\$298,720	92	\$1,043,183	179	\$2,308,769
Norfolk State University	41	\$364,619	160	\$1,456,116	310	\$2,855,547
Old Dominion University	229	\$2,025,338	738	\$6,784,639	1,547	\$16,556,086
Radford University	60	\$570,221	138	\$1,413,480	285	\$3,217,426
University of Mary Washington	30	\$331,335	96	\$1,072,830	238	\$3,006,580
University of Virginia	35	\$579,552	142	\$3,043,302	374	\$8,861,162
Univ. of Virginia - College at Wise	7	\$59,738	12	\$120,971	24	\$240,123
Virginia Commonwealth University	194	\$2,582,823	623	\$9,003,358	1,300	\$21,731,056
Virginia Military Institute	12	\$210,856	40	\$725,965	76	\$1,516,516
Virginia State University	47	\$357,949	118	\$939,059	579	\$1,990,186
Virginia Tech	53	\$702,899	334	\$4,851,179	865	\$14,060,883
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>\$10,610,997</b>	<b>3,436</b>	<b>\$43,018,969</b>	<b>8,290</b>	<b>\$114,196,900</b>
 Eastern Virginia Medical School	 2	 \$60,479	 13	 \$340,202	 34	 \$847,588
 Richard Bland College	 12	 \$88,364	 26	 \$138,456	 64	 \$441,262
 Virginia's Community Colleges	 421	 \$1,228,761	 974	 \$2,806,747	 2,393	 \$7,320,651
<b>System Totals</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>\$11,988,601</b>	<b>4,449</b>	<b>\$46,304,374</b>	<b>10,781</b>	<b>\$122,806,401</b>

FY19 - FY24 Data from SCHEV FA22 reports

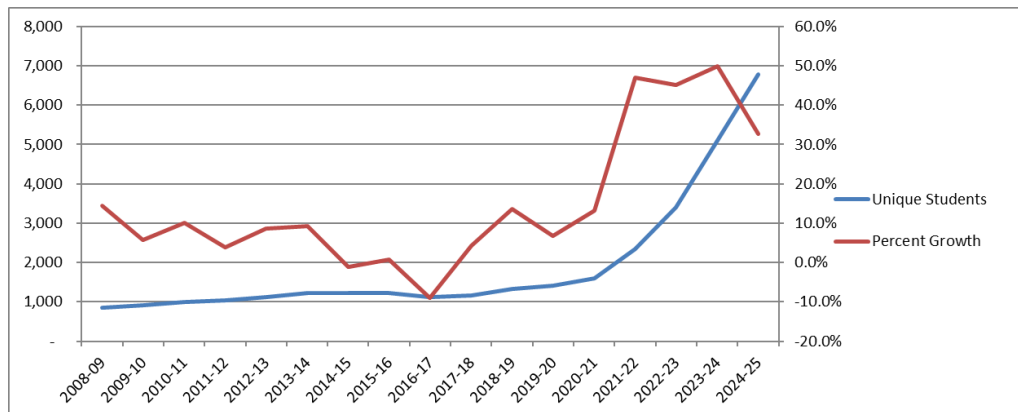
[https://research.schev.edu/fair/fa22\\_report.asp](https://research.schev.edu/fair/fa22_report.asp)

Currently, no reliable early projection indicator exists as the pool of eligible students is not tied to high school completion rates or other standard measures. While staff anticipate an approaching plateau in participation

rates, perhaps during the next biennium, each year's participation growth continues to exceed previously unprecedented rates. With even modest growth, the total value of the tuition waivers could approach \$200 million by the end of the upcoming biennium.

Policymakers have explored long-term viability options over the past two General Assembly sessions. Chapter 2 of the 2025 Session introduced partial offsets to lost tuition revenue for institutions, adding \$75.0m GF in FY 2025 and up to \$85.0m in FY 2026. For FY 2026-28, \$65.0m is the current baseline. Following the October 2024 JLARC [report](#), discussions are likely to continue in 2026.

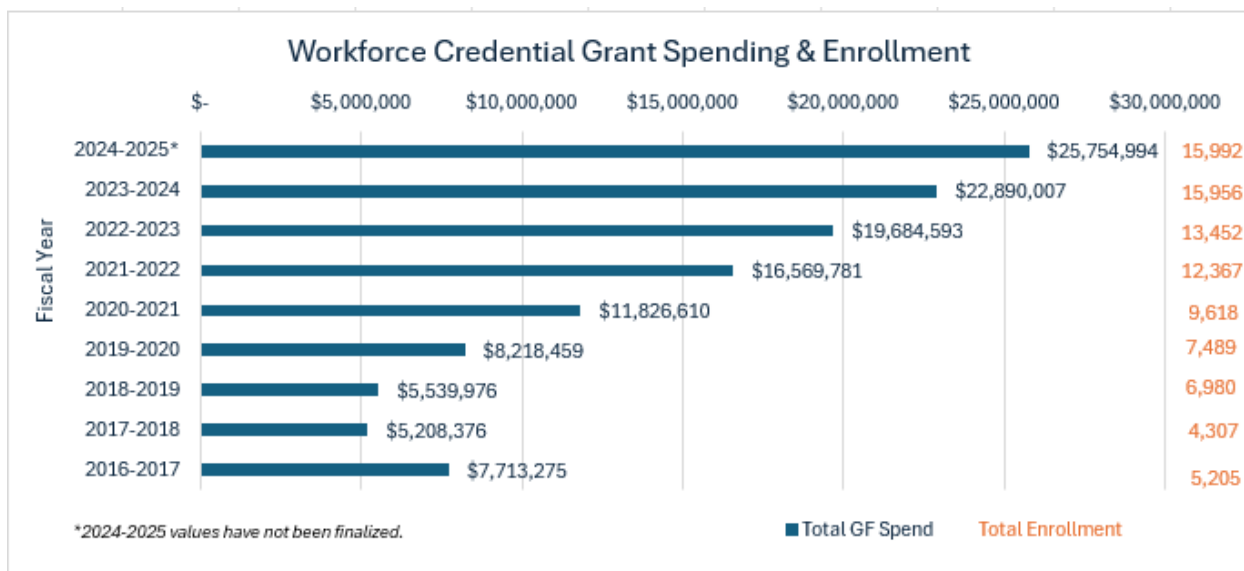
VMSDEP also offers qualifying dependents a stipend, currently authorized at a maximum of \$1,900 per year, supported by general fund appropriations to SCHEV's budget. Stipend recipients have increased at rates similar to that of broader program participation.



At current growth rates, the stipend could reach over 12,000 recipients by AY 2027-28, requiring an additional \$2.5m GF in FY 2028 to maintain the current award level of \$1,900 for full-time full-year students.

- iii. **Workforce Credential Grant:** The Workforce Credential Grant, a.k.a. FastForward, is one of the most successful post-secondary programs initiated in the last decade and has grown substantially over the past three years. This growth has been fueled by the addition of new programs as well as increased participation in current programs, several doubling and tripling participation state-wide year-over-year.

As reported in the SCHEV [New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Annual Report 2024](#), annual expenditures exceeded appropriations and depleted surpluses accumulated earlier in the program's history in the last two years alone. Accordingly, Chapter 725 provided an additional one-time allocation of \$15.0m in non-general funds in FY 2025 to be disbursed over FY 2025 and FY 2026.



About \$12 million of the new funding is committed to FY 2025 costs, leaving just \$3 million to roll forward into FY 2026. The program is projected to exhaust funding by spring 2026, with continued enrollment growth projected over the next biennium.

Since it was provided in FY 2025, the new funding does not carry over into the next biennium; therefore, the program faces a \$8.4 million funding deficit (\$32.1 million disbursed in FY 2025 compared to the \$23.75 million base going into the next budget) prior to accounting for continuing program growth.

Applying the average 20% annual growth over the past three years, the program will need a minimum of \$7.15m and \$13.33m increases over the next biennium. These new funds are not assured of meeting future demand as the VCCS requests a minimum of \$35.6 million for FY 2027 and \$39.1 million for FY 2028. Alternatively, program offerings could be selectively reduced to provide the best use of funds under current levels or more modest increases in funding.

### 3. Statewide priority areas and initiatives and SCHEV budget

#### a. Statewide priority areas

##### i. Mental Health Workforce Pilot:

According to a 2024 Lumina and [Gallup poll](#), emotional stress and personal mental health are two of the top barriers to college enrollment and degree completion. About one-third (35%) of currently enrolled students pursuing a certificate, certifications, associate or bachelor's degree recently considered stopping their program.

To address this, the General Assembly began funding the Higher Education Mental Health Workforce pilot program in FY 2023. SCHEV used the allotted funds to award pilot grants, which enabled institutions to underwrite the salary and benefits of an onsite, licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) or licensed professional counselor (LPC) candidate for two years. In turn, the hosting universities hire, train and supervise the LCSW/LPC candidates over the two-year period to work at on-campus mental health care facilities until licensed. The pilot program seeks to address immediate student demand for services and long-term campus behavioral health workforce development.

SCHEV staff's [Higher Education Mental Health Workforce Pilot 2025 Annual Report](#) indicates that the pilot is increasing counseling capacity and reducing staff burnout at counseling centers. Staff recommend Council consider supporting expanding the program to all four-year public higher education institutions (approximately \$1.0m GF each year).

- ii. *Constructive Dialogue Institute (CDI)*:** The Constructive Dialogue Institute (CDI) is a research-based non-profit organization that helps educational institutions improve the free exchange of ideas by providing tools and resources that demonstrably improve students' willingness and ability to communicate across differences.

SCHEV entered into a partnership with CDI in 2023 to offer its online learning program to students, faculty and staff at Virginia public colleges and universities at a considerable discount. SCHEV has subsidized institutional participation out of its agency budget, spending \$58,333 to support 14 institutions in 2024-25. In that year, nearly 10,500 Virginia students completed the program and demonstrated significant improvement on measures of affective polarization, intellectual humility, and the ability to find common ground. Furthermore, nearly three-quarters of the students credited CDI's program with helping them gain valuable skills that they practice in both their personal and professional life.

In anticipation of an increase in CDI's participation fees, staff recommend Council consider recommending an annual appropriation of \$100,000 GF to continue and expand program participation.

- iii. *Data Collection of Non-Credit Credential Programs*.** Virginia envisions post-secondary education that prepares an individual for an in-demand occupation that provides a pathway to sustainable wages and is recognized by employers and society as having measurable value. The Commonwealth's strategic plan for postsecondary education includes a goal of 70% attainment of a credential (degree, diploma, or certification) by 2030. While Virginia has made significant strides in the non-credit space and is recognized as a national leader because of the innovative Workforce Credential Grant, more data collection is necessary. SCHEV staff, through participation in multiple

multi-state communities of practice, realize that the Commonwealth could benefit from a greater understanding of noncredit offerings and the return on investment of those credentials. To improve understanding and better support students and attract industry to the Commonwealth, the establishment of a noncredit education data collection (at the program and student levels) would be necessary. Through data analysis, credentials that provide a strong return on investment for students could be identified, categorized and evaluated for additional funding support opportunities. By identifying the return on investment, students can make informed decisions regarding educational opportunities that would allow for greater economic mobility and enhance Virginia's status as an attractive state for industry.

## ***b. SCHEV budget***

- i. Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS):*** The VLDS is a powerful tool for Virginia's future, giving the Commonwealth an unprecedented and cost-effective tool for extracting and analyzing insightful education and workforce development data within a secure environment. Funding dedicated to this tool has not kept up with the costs of administration, requiring SCHEV to contribute from its own general fund operating budget.

SCHEV staff recommend Council consider additional funding to maintain the cost of the current operating capacity of VLDS which includes software contracts, storage, and VITA-governed services.

- ii. Support for Operations:*** SCHEV has operated at its limit for general funds for the past several years, while taking on additional responsibilities. As the number of mandates has grown, the number of employees at SCHEV has stayed relatively constant, while operating costs continue to increase. SCHEV's current operating budget places constraints on hiring new staff to meet required assignments. Activity that would benefit from additional operating funds are:
  - Enhanced data analysis and reporting from VLDS
  - Expanded management of the revised program productivity process
  - Expanded participation in regional data collaborative efforts, national communities of practice, and statewide policy development
  - Stronger workforce alignment and relevance of SCHEV activities
  - Operational excellence and budget management
  - Development of learning outcomes assessment measures
- iii. Pathways Project:*** After publishing the online fact packs in November 2024, staff have begun efforts to make similar data tools available to prospective students and families to promote in-state enrollment. Like the online outcomes portal, this project would be a leading initiative nationally as we enter a period with a declining number of students graduating from high school with a continued demand for postsecondary-trained students. Costs



to initially build and maintain the product are in development, but could benefit from state support.

- iv. ***Postsecondary Access Advising:*** A record 36% of Virginia's graduating high school class of 2023, or approximately 31,598 students, did not enroll in a postsecondary program within 16 months of graduation. Given that 71% of jobs in the Commonwealth are projected to require education or training beyond high school by 2031, such trends pose a significant risk to Virginia's long-term economic vitality.

In recent budget proposals, the federal GEAR UP and other access programs have been targeted for defunding. These potential reductions in federal support for college access programs will leave many schools with fewer resources to provide students with high-quality postsecondary advising resources. This presents a particular hardship for schools serving high percentages of students receiving free and reduced-price lunch and low college enrollment rates. With state funding for these advisors, the Commonwealth can mitigate the impact on current access efforts if federal support is withdrawn. A modest state investment can help fill this void and ensure that more students, particularly those who are low-income or first-generation, receive the support they need to pursue post-secondary education or training.

Staff recommend \$2.5 million in the first year and \$2.5 million second year to fund an evidence-based, statewide network of full-time, near-peer advisors to serve high-need high schools across the Commonwealth to deliver personalized, high-touch support to guide students in exploring postsecondary education and workforce options. Advisors would also amplify the reach of Level Up Virginia (LUV), SCHEV's statewide initiative that equips students and families with tools for post-secondary exploration, planning, financing and decision-making.

Together, these efforts would boost Virginia's college-going rate, strengthen alignment with workforce needs and expand economic opportunity for more students across the Commonwealth.

- v. ***Pilot program to provide degree completion to adult learners.*** SCHEV data indicates that, in Virginia, 13% of first-year students at public four-year institutions do not return the following fall (compared to 18% nationally). Of these, 28% have accrued more than \$10,000 in student loan debt.

As institutions contemplate ways to increase degree and credential completion, staff recommend a statewide pilot program to limit duplication of efforts while identifying best practices in recruiting and supporting returning students. Funding of \$500,000 in the first year could be used to explore best

practices to provide degree-completion opportunities to adult students with some college but no degree.

- vi. **Space Grant** The Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC) requests an additional \$217,000 GF annually to support the 1) Virginia Pilot Pathways Program and 2) Online Remote Pilot Ground School project. Both programs are oversubscribed and work to meet Virginia's labor market demand for commercial pilots. Industry partners highlight a critical shortage of commercial pilots, with 18,500 job openings anticipated over the next 10 years and 123,000 pilots needed through 2043. The current median annual salary for a professional pilot is \$171,210.

Additional funds would support 20 additional participants in the Pathways Flight Academies program and 100 participants in the online Private Pilot Ground School each year.

- vii. **Sea Grant** The Virginia Sea Grant (VASG) requests \$779,249 GF in annual support to sustain its core staff and programming, including workforce and professional development, and to advance a statewide platform for resilience. The investment would expand fellowship and internship opportunities for Virginia's graduate and undergraduate students and support enhanced efforts to identify, develop and grow new partnerships with key stakeholders.
- viii. **The Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA)** The Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) is the consortium of 70 college and university libraries in Virginia, offering a national model of collaboration in higher education that combines industry-specific procurement expertise with a robust suite of services to achieve efficiency and cost containment. In FY 2024 alone, VIVA's shared resources program netted more than \$50,000,000 in savings to institutions.

VIVA requests \$350,000 GF in FY 2027 and \$700,000 GF in FY 2028 to support current shared resource subscriptions and membership levels. Further, VIVA requests an annual increase of \$100,000 GF to the Pooled Funds program to mitigate inflationary impacts on costs of core academic resources shared across member institutions.

## **4. Policy Consideration**

### ***Two-to-Four Year College Transfer Incentive:***

In 2008, the state authorized the current Two-Year College Transfer Grant (CTG) to incentivize enrollment in the Commonwealth's two-plus-two track and increase statewide degree attainment. Since AY 2020-21, the CTG program has experienced a decrease in participation, mirroring the reduction in enrollments at Virginia's two-year colleges. To increase student affordability, the Commonwealth can consider either increasing financial support for the CTG or creating a separate transfer grant program, either as a replacement or companion program to the CTG.

This new program should strengthen the financial incentive for students, encourage four-year institutions to be more aggressive in pursuing transfer students, and address the procedural and academic challenges associated with transfer. This program could offer state inducements to either provide continued two-year college pricing or a financial aid package to cover the tuition differential and ensure that students participating in the program minimize the “non-applicable credits” phenomenon often experienced by transfer students and instead receive maximum applicability of their two-year college credits towards completion of their four-year degree. Such a proposal should be created in coordination with the various stakeholders, including Council, staff, OP-6, two-year college representatives, and representatives from four-year institution with enrollment and academic expertise.

To enhance affordability and access for Virginia students, Council directs staff to review the current status of transfer between public two-year institutions and four-year non-profit institutions of higher education, including: the enrollment trends among two-year colleges; enrollment trends among four-year non-profit institutions; transfer trends between two-year, and four-year institutions; current articulation agreements in place among the institution; performance of the Two-Year College Transfer Grant (CTG) program; state, regional and national best practices for encouraging the 2+2 model; and potential barriers for students to consider and participate in transfer.

Staff shall then pursue legislation in the upcoming session and appropriate agency activities consistent with improving communication, affordability and policies that will encourage both student and institution participation in transfer.

Staff has prepared the following table to facilitate Council budget discussion.

**SCHEV Supports the Continuation of FY 2025 One-Time General Fund in 2026-28 Biennium**  
(in millions)

Category	Item	FY 2027	FY 2028	Biennial Total
Tuition and Fee Mitigation	FY2025 one-time general fund for E&G	\$106.0	\$106.0	\$212.0
Financial Aid	FY2025 one-time general fund for financial aid	\$12.0	\$12.0	\$24.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$118.0</b>	<b>\$118.0</b>	<b>\$236.0</b>

**Summary of SCHEV Budget Recommendations for General Fund Support in 2026-28 Biennium**  
(in millions)

Category	Item	FY 2027	FY 2028	Biennial Total
Tuition and Fee Mitigation (operational support)	State portion of salaries and health premiums	\$46.0	\$46.0	\$92.0
	State portion of inflationary cost	\$18.0	\$18.0	\$36.0
	State portion of operations & maintenance	\$4.7	\$4.7	\$9.4
Affordability and Access	Undergraduate need-based financial aid	\$9.2	\$10.0	\$19.2
	Tuition Assistance Grant program - fill gap and increase annual award by \$50 per year	\$8.7	\$11.5	\$20.2
	Military Survivors and Dependent Education	-	\$2.5	\$2.5
Student Success and Labor Market Outcomes	New Economy Workforce Credential Grant	\$7.2	\$13.3	\$20.5
	Mental health workforce pilot program	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$2.0
	Constructive Dialogue Initiative	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.2
	Degree productivity	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.2
	Pathways to Adventure	\$1.5	\$1.5	\$3.0
	Student Advising and Access	\$2.5	\$2.5	\$5.0
	Adult non-completers pilot evaluation	\$0.5	\$0.5	\$1.0
Collaborative Initiatives	Virginia Longitudinal Data System	\$0.5	\$0.5	\$1.0
	SCHEV Operating Budget	\$0.7	\$0.7	\$1.4
	Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC)	\$0.2	\$0.2	\$0.4
	Virginia Sea Grant (VASG)	\$0.8	\$0.8	\$1.6
	Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA)	\$0.5	\$0.8	\$1.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$102.2</b>	<b>\$114.7</b>	<b>\$216.9</b>

- All values reflect incremental change above the FY 2026 base budget.

# State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

**Item:** III.E – Resources and Planning Committee – Briefing on Review Process for Public Institutions’ Six-Year Plans

**Date of Meeting:** September 15, 2025

**Presenter:** Grace Khattar  
Assistant Director for Finance Policy & Government Relations  
[gracekhattar@schev.edu](mailto:gracekhattar@schev.edu)

**Most Recent Review/Action:**

- ☐ No previous Council review/action  
☒ Previous review/action

**Date:** May 12, 2025

**Review:** The committee received a staff update on the process for public institutions’ preparation and submission to state reviewers of preliminary six-year operating plans.

**Purpose of the Agenda Item:**

The purpose of this item is to inform Council’s understanding of the 2025 process for review of public institutions’ six-year operating plans. Staff’s briefing will summarize the general findings and themes across the plans.

**Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:**

**Statutory Requirements:** As prescribed in [§ 23.1-306](#) of the *Code of Virginia*, the governing board of each public institution of higher education is required to develop and adopt a six-year plan for its institution. The statute vests responsibility largely with SCHEV for facilitating the process at the state level. The plans serve as an opportunity to facilitate meaningful strategic dialogue between public higher education institutions and the Commonwealth about each institution’s enrollment, programmatic, and financial plans.

As specified in the statute, institutions’ draft plans are reviewed by a six-member group referred to informally as Op-Six, which includes the Director of the Department of Planning and Budget, the Secretary of Finance, the Secretary of Education, the Staff Director of the House Committee on Appropriations, the Staff Director of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, and the Executive Director of SCHEV. The statute stipulates that the plans “shall be in a form and manner prescribed by the

Council.” Following review by Op-Six and potential revisions in response to that review, each board adopts its institution’s six-year plan.

Via their boards, the public institutions develop their six-year plans in each odd-year, such as 2025, in conjunction with the state’s preparations for the next biennial budget. In even-numbered years, the boards affirm or update the plans, if/as necessary.

Process: The templates provided to the institutions for their plans contain two parts. Part I has been an Excel workbook; Part II, a narrative document. Part I includes five spreadsheets to capture the following data:

1. In-state Undergraduate Tuition and Fee Plan. In this section, the institution provides any planned annual increases in in-state undergraduate tuition and mandatory Educational and General (E&G) fees and mandatory non-E&G fees for the biennium.
2. Tuition and Other Nongeneral Fund (NGF) Revenue. Based on assumptions of no new general fund, enrollment changes and other institution-specific conditions, the institution provides total collected or projected-to-collect revenues (after discounts and waivers) by student level and domicile (including tuition revenue used for financial aid), and other NGF revenue for E&G programs; and mandatory non-E&G fee revenues from in-state undergraduates and other students, as well as the total auxiliary revenue.
3. Academic-Financial Plan. This section captures the academic, financial and support-service strategies that the institution intends to employ in meeting state needs/goals as found in the statewide strategic plan. Traditionally, institutions have been advised to use a planning assumption of no new general fund to support the strategies.
4. General Fund (GF) Request. Each institution provides information here about items for which it anticipates making a request for state general fund support in the upcoming biennium. The item can be a supplement to a strategy or an item from the academic and financial plan, or it can be a free-standing request for which no tuition revenue would be used.
5. Financial Aid. In this section, the institution provides a breakdown of the projected source and distribution of tuition and fee revenue redirected to financial aid.

Part II contains more detailed information about the data provided in Part 1, as well as about additional topics such as enrollment projections, new academic programs, major capital outlay projects, status update of previous plans’ strategies, suggestions for improving efficiencies, commitments to and economic development efforts.

In 2023 the Commonwealth issued an emergency request for proposals (RFP) that sought a consultant (contract awarded to the Boston Consultant Group, or BCG) to facilitate the required biennial planning and review process. SCHEV staff worked

closely with the consultant team to make the following changes to the plans (first included in the 2023 templates).

- Addition of out-of-state tuition and fee charges.
- Extension of the financial plan to six years, with assumptions of no new general fund or tuition changes for years three through six.
- Addition of an assumption of a 2% salary increase and 1% health insurance premium increase.
- Addition of a Pro Forma tab that allows the user to change the proportion of funds that come from the general fund and from nongeneral funds, and reallocation.

Since 2023, SCHEV took the BCG developed institution-specific fact packs (PDF's) and added them to our SCHEV outcomes portal, which allows for a more streamlined data updating process. The fact packs include data visualizations on three topics: Enrollment Volume and Composition; Program Alignment and Performance; and Financial Effectiveness and Sustainability.

Similar to prior years, SCHEV conducted two webinars to help orient institutional staff around the revised templates. SCHEV staff also made themselves available for direct conversations.

Instructions were sent to the institutions on May 5th. Institutions were required to submit their six-year plans by July 3.

Throughout August and September, Op-Six and SCHEV staff held a 75-minute meeting with the leaders of each of the public institutions to review and discuss the institution's six-year plan. On September 12, on behalf of Op-Six, SCHEV staff submitted questions and comments (both institution-specific and systemic) to the institutions.

Institutions' responses to Op-Six's questions and comments are due on October 10. Thereafter, each governing board will approve its institution's six-year plan; on December 1, the board-approved plans will be posted publicly on the SCHEV website and in the General Assembly's Division of Legislative Automated Systems (DLAS).

#### **Materials Provided:**

A list of staff's general findings and common themes from the preliminary 2025 six-year plans appears on the following page.

#### **Financial Impact:**

This briefing carries no financial impact.

**Relationship to Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:**

Since 2015, institutions have organized their six-year plans around the goals of the statewide strategic plan. In that year, joint resolutions (HJR 555 and SJ 228) required that the mission, vision, goals and strategies expressed in *The Virginia Plan* should guide the public institutions' development of their six-year plans.

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

NA

**Resolution:**

NA



## **Summary Findings and Themes from the Draft 2025 Six-year Plans**

1. Assuming no new general fund, institutions propose raising tuition and educational and general fees on average by 3.8% in 2027 and 3.5% in 2028.
2. The general fund (GF) portion of the cost of assumptions regarding salary and health insurance are \$48 million in FY 2027 and \$96 million in FY 2028.
3. Institutions requested \$595 million in FY 2027 and \$664 million in FY 2028 in new GF.
4. The most common categories of GF requests were Continuation of FY 2025 one-time funds, Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents waiver program, Career Readiness and Placement; Economic Development; and Financial Aid.
5. Many institutions included a proposal of some sort for AI programming.

## State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

**Item:** III.F. – Resources and Planning Committee – Report of the Staff Liaison to the Resources and Planning Committee

**Date of Meeting:** September 15, 2025

**Presenter:** Lee Andes  
Director of Finance Policy & Innovation  
[Leeandes@schev.edu](mailto:Leeandes@schev.edu)

**Most Recent Review/Action:**

- ☒ No previous Council review/action  
☐ Previous review/action

**Date:**

**Action:**

**Purpose of Agenda Item:**

Staff activities report.

**Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:**

N/A

**Materials Provided:**

“Report of the Staff Liaison to the Academic Affairs Committee,” by Lee Andes.

**Financial Impact:**

N/A

**Relationship to Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:**

N/A

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

N/A

**Resolution:**

N/A

## Report of the Staff Liaison to the Academic Affairs Committee, September 15, 2025

Lee Andes  
Director of Finance Policy & Innovation

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### **State Presentations/Activities**

- Presented to the House Emergency Committee on Federal Workforce and Funding Reductions.
- Hosted a virtual meeting of the Finance Advisory Committee.
- Presented to the GPAC (General Practitioners Advisory Committee).
- Presented to DHRM Management Fellows on Student Loan Repayment and Forgiveness provisions.

### **2025 Six-Year Plans**

- The Finance Policy & Innovation team had a busy summer preparing templates, coordinating with Op-Six, institutions, and reviewing completed Six-Year plans from the institutions. The team also coordinated 18 in-person meetings with institutions and Op-Six to discuss their Six-Year plan submissions.
- Staff continues to review and update the fact packs, including numerous updates on the display and improvement of the data.

### **Campus Visits**

- SCHEV's Finance Policy & Innovation team has coordinated agency-wide visits to 9 of our public institutions with the remaining to be scheduled for later this fall and into 2026.

### **Grant Programs**

- The Finance Policy & Innovation team completed reviews of the Pell Initiative for Virginia for each public institution.
- Staff attended the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) national conference and a panel discussion at the Varying Degrees 2025: Americans Find Common Ground in Higher Education and presented on the Pell Initiative for Virginia at the Student Financial Aid Research Network (SFARN).
- The team has also begun working on the guidelines for a \$500,000 total grant from the General Assembly for institutions to address food insecurity on campus.

### **Data Analysis and Processing**

- The Finance Policy team completed the biennial reviews of institutions' space need and space utilization analysis to be provided to the 6-PAC group as a part of the capital outlay recommendation process.
- The team worked with other SCHEV sections to collect the data and publish the SCHEV annual Tuition & Fee report.
- This unit processes HEETF (higher education equipment trust fund) requisitions and met the year-end deadline to process requisitions in June.

## **Financial Aid**

- The financial aid team has been working this summer in closing out the 2024-25 award year and preparation for 2025-26 for programs administered by SCHEV staff:
  - Two Year College Transfer Grant Program
  - Virginia Military Survivors and Dependent Education Program – stipends
  - GEAR UP Scholarship
  - Granville P. Meade Scholarship program
  - Brown v Board of Education Scholarship
  - Optometry Grant program
  - Academic Common Market
- Staff have been working with SCHEV's Research section to prepare for receipt and review of the financial aid data file from the 69 institutions participating in state financial aid programs.
- Staff prepared and presented domicile training at the annual Domicile Workshop attended by two additional SCHEV staff and over 120 attendees from Virginia institutions providing in-state tuition and state financial aid to students.
- Staff is completing its review of the Tuition Assistance Grant program administration by three participating institutions. On-site review is completed and the follow up on findings is being completed.
- Advertised for and then interviewed 7 candidates for the open position of Assistant Director for Financial Aid.

## **GEAR UP Virginia**

- Organized and hosted the EmpowerED Educator Wellness Retreat at William and Mary, serving 41 educators from 17 school divisions.
- GEAR UP Virginia has supported academic engagement and postsecondary exposure throughout the summer months, including the activities below:
  - Nandua and Arcadia High Schools (Accomack) Genius Potential STEM Camp
  - Accomack County Schools Overnight college tour to Randolph-Macon College, Norfolk State University, and University of Virginia
  - Osbourn High School (Manassas City) Mason STEM Camp at George Mason University
  - Osbourn High School (Manassas City) Summer recovery program
  - Lancaster High School Summer Mentoring program
  - Lancaster High School STEM Professional Development
  - Westmoreland High School Science Museum trip
  - Brunswick High School STEM Camp at Southside Community College
  - Brunswick High School iFly STEM trip
  - Halifax County High School Say it with Music Camp
  - Bethel High School (Hampton) GEAR UP on the Go! Summer College Trips
  - Kecoughtan High School (Hampton) Genius Potential STEM Camp
  - Kecoughtan High School (Hampton) College and cultural trip to Virginia Union University and Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

- Phoebus High School (Hampton) College tour trip to Virginia Tech
- Phoebus High School (Hampton) College tour trip to Virginia Military Institute
- Hampton High School (Hampton) College and cultural trip to Georgetown University, Howard University, and the Museum of African American History
- Teacher and Administrators from Hampton, Hopewell, Halifax, Danville, and Harrisonburg attendance at the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships Annual Conference
- Innovative Teaching Strategies Conference attendance from Nottoway
- Overnight Pharmacy Camp at Hampton University for Hampton and Accomack students
- Brunswick, Petersburg, Halifax, Nottoway, and Accomack Overnight Academic Camp at University of Mary Washington
- Danville, Hopewell, Lancaster, Westmoreland, and Harrisonburg Overnight STEM Camp at James Madison University
- Accomack, Brunswick, Danville, Halifax, Harrisonburg, Hopewell, Lancaster, Nottoway, Petersburg, and Westmoreland College Prep Camp at Virginia State University

### **Level Up Virginia (LUV) Statewide College Access Campaign**

- Provided recognition to LUV Champions, high schools that fully participate in all four LUV events (College Nights in Virginia, Virginia College Application Week, FAFSA Next and Decision Day VA).
- Presented on LUV events at the Virginia Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (VACRAO) annual conference in August in Norfolk.
- Hosted kickoff webinar for 2025-2026 LUV events, with 150 participants
- Hosted Middle School Campus Visit technical assistance webinar with \_\_\_\_ participants from 17 institutions.
- Evaluated the LevelUpVirginia.org website.

### **FAFSA Initiatives**

- Expanded the Virginia FAFSA Completion Portal to all participating school divisions statewide in partnership with VDOE, providing secure student-level FAFSA completion data.
- Provided a FAFSA assistance text line to students and families through June 2025, serving 76 individuals with 1,108 texts and 11 Zoom sessions.

### **College Access Partnerships**

- Partnered with the Virginia Community College System to host 4 community college “Spring Roadshow” visits for 252 students, resulting in 230 applications and 121 enrollments.
- Continued collaboration with Accenture Song and Commonwealth Savers on the Pathways to Adventure student portal project.
- Continued collaboration with the Virginia College Advising Corps for AdviseVA, a statewide college advising corps.

## **Staff Activities and Recognition**

### **Jessica Minnis-McClain**

- Jessica Minnis-McClain, Associate for Finance Policy, is co-leading the Virginia delegation in two national communities of practice focused on workforce alignment, credentials of value and ROI. The communities of practice provide support for states learning to demonstrate measurable economic mobility for learners and assist in the aligning of education and workforce systems.

### **Rebecca Lystash**

- Rebecca Lystash, GEAR UP Virginia Project Director, was invited to serve on the national NCCEP/GEAR UP Advisory Commission, where she will represent Virginia and provide insight on federal college access initiatives over a three-year term.

### **Scott Kemp**

- Nominated and selected as a primary negotiator representing state officials for the federal Reimagining and Improving Student Education Committee (RISE Committee). This federal negotiated rulemaking process will address changes to federal student loan programs under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

### **Lee Andes**

- Nominated, selection pending, to the Accountability in Higher Education and Access through Demand-driven Workforce Pell (AHEAD) Committee, to represent state officials in the negotiated rulemaking process to address institutional and program accountability, Pell Grants, and other issues involved in implementing the recent statutory changes under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

## **Finance Policy & Innovation Staff:**

### ***Finance Policy***

Mr. Lee Andes, Director, Finance Policy & Innovation  
Dr. Grace Khattar, Assistant Director, Finance Policy & Government Relations  
Ms. Jessica Madden, Program Policy Specialist, Finance Policy & Innovation  
Ms. Jessica Minnis-McClain, Associate, Finance Policy & Innovation  
Dr. Barry Simmons, Program Admin. Specialist, Finance Policy & Innovation  
Dr. Yan Zheng, Assistant Director, Finance Policy

### ***Financial Aid***

Ms. Abbie Handford, Associate, Financial Aid  
Ms. Hillary Hinkle, Associate, Financial Aid  
Ms. Tierney Jackson, Senior Associate, Financial Aid  
Mr. Scott Kemp, Student Loan Advocate, Financial Aid

*College Access & PK12 Outreach*

Ms. Erin McGrath, Associate Director, College Access & PK12 Outreach  
Ms. Melissa Benavidez, Senior Associate for College Access  
Ms. Brittany Everett, Postsecondary Access and Success Specialist (shared position between SCHEV and the VDOE)  
Ms. Rebecca Lystash, Project Director, Gear Up Virginia  
Ms. Sarahbeth Dreis, North Central Regional Manager, Gear Up  
Ms. Jamie Porter, Eastern Regional Manager, Gear Up  
Ms. Linda Staylor, Regional Manager, Gear Up  
Ms. Anne Lowe, College Access Data Management Specialist, College Access & PK12 Outreach  
Ms. Melissa Martinko, Access Fiscal Specialist, College Access & PK12 Outreach  
Ms. Cassie Morrison, Financial Services Specialist, College Access & PK12 Outreach  
Ms. Emma Eakes, College Access Communications Specialist

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
COUNCIL MEETING  
July 15, 2025**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Ms. Miles called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. in the Event Space on the first floor of the Woodrow W. Bolick Building at Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Council members present: Walter Curt, Eric Chewning, Jason El Koubi, Lindsay Fryer, Charlie King, Delceno Miles, Jennifer Montague, Cheryl Oldham, John Olsen, Doug Straley and Steven Taylor.

Council members attending virtually: John Jumper.

Council members absent: William Harvey.

Staff members present: Lee Andes, Alisha Bazemore, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Jodi Fidler, Grace Khattar, Tod Massa, Jessica Minnis-McClain, Laura Osberger, Kirstin Pantazis, Paula Robinson, Emily Salmon and Kristin Whelan.

Notable attendees: Zach Jacobs, Deputy Secretary of Education and Deb Love from the Office of Attorney General.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Mr. Curt and seconded by Mr. Olsen, the minutes of the May 12, 2025, Private College Advisory Board meeting and the May 13, 2025, Council meeting were approved unanimously.

**DISCUSSION OF DRAFT GOALS OF THE STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION**

Ms. Salmon presented an update on the draft goals of the strategic plan. She reviewed the work the Council has done with the project earlier this year.

Mr. El Koubi asked Ms. Salmon to discuss other agencies in the Commonwealth that create strategic plans. He also asked if there are any other state-required education plans in code.

Ms. Salmon reviewed the goal concepts and related themes and shared updates. She noted that the order of the goals changed. They are now ready, responsive and relevant. She also noted that the draft vision statement added the words “brightest talent.”

Ms. Salmon shared slides for each goal with the latest changes highlighted. Ms. Salmon pointed out that the strategies have been updated to include research and innovation.



She also pointed out the addition of scholarship information and support of non-traditional pathways toward credential completion.

Mr. El Koubi suggested that the goal of alignment be stated more explicitly in the document.

Ms. Salmon concluded by stating that the final plan will be presented to Council in September for Council's endorsement. After the September meeting, staff will write and publish the plan.

### **REMARKS FROM PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT JEAN RUNYON**

Ms. Miles introduced Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) President Jean Runyon.

Dr. Runyon joined the meeting and thanked the Council for holding the meetings at PVCC. She mentioned that she read the agenda and appreciates the goals as presented in the Strategic Plan for Higher Education.

Dr. Runyon shared her biography and her path to becoming president of Piedmont Virginia Community College. She lauded the role of community colleges in enhancing readiness, responsiveness and relevance to student success in the Commonwealth.

President Runyon introduced Brian Emerson, an employee at PVCC who shared his path to working at PVCC. After a false start in college and working for a while, he decided that he wanted to attend UVA. He began at PVCC to show his commitment to attending UVA. After interning for a year post-graduation, Brian now works as the PVCC federal work study coordinator.

Ms. Miles introduced a resolution to allow General Jumper to participate in the meeting virtually as he was located more than 60 miles from the meeting. On a motion from Dr. Taylor, that was seconded by Ms. Fryer, all members located at the meeting voted unanimously to approve General Jumper's remote participation.

### **REPORT FROM AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Fleming briefly described the Items Delegated to Staff. These items are included at the end of this document. He shared that the operating environment for higher education has changed and that the Council and staff must adapt.

Mr. Fleming briefly discussed the new responsibilities that SCHEV staff are working on. He stated that the staff are tasked with an expanded and expanding list of responsibilities. Mr. Fleming noted that higher education is at a crossroads, and Council and staff will need to make deliberate decisions to maintain Virginia's status as one of the best educated states.

The full Executive Director's report is available on page 104 of the July 2025 agenda book.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### *Report from the Academic Affairs Committee*

Dr. Taylor shared a report of the Academic Affairs committee.

The committee discussed modifications to SCHEV's program productivity policy. Dr. DeFilippo will report on the changes in September to the committee and present a new policy to the full Council for approval in October.

The committee also discussed SCHEV's responsibilities in relation to Virginia's workforce needs. The committee discussed the need to align SCHEV strategies to help fill Virginia workforce gaps.

### *Report from the Resources and Planning Committee*

Mr. Olsen described the committee's discussions.

The committee discussed the preparations for the 2026 General Assembly Session. The discussion included a discussion of institutional operations, capital outlay, financial aid and SCHEV's budget.

The committee heard an update from Mr. Massa on the current enrollment projections as reported by the institutions.

The committee discussed the institutional performance standards and full cost calculations. The committee discussed creating a task force that will include two council members to address possible changes to the institutional performance standards.

## **DISCUSSION OF THE 2026 SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Ms. Osberger introduced the proposed 2026 schedule and location for the Council meetings. She requested that Council members review the following proposed dates and location in preparation for a vote in September.

### **PROPOSED 2026 SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS:**

- **January 13, 2026** – Virtual
- **March 16-17, 2026** – Norfolk State University (Norfolk)
- **May 11-12, 2026** (with Private College Advisory Board) – Hampden-Sydney College (Hampden Sydney)
- **July 21, 2026** – Blue Ridge Community College (Weyers Cave)
- **September 21-22, 2026** (with Council of Presidents) – Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond)

## **ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS FOR DEPARTING COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Council voted and approved on bloc resolutions recognizing the three departing Council members – Micah Edmond, Jennie O’Holleran and Carlyle Ramsey.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was voiced.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Fryer read into the record the following statement on behalf of the Council regarding effective governance and oversight of all institutions of higher education. The statement was issued by SCHEV staff to its distribution list on July 15, 2024.

“Recent events at several Virginia universities underscore the importance of effective governance and oversight across all institutions of higher education. Boards of Visitors (BOVs) play a critical role in ensuring their institutions comply with federal and state laws—including those related to nondiscrimination and equal opportunity—and fulfill their missions with integrity.

SCHEV takes seriously its statutory responsibility to train BOV members to promote strong governance, responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds, and full compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies at all Virginia colleges and universities.

These topics will be addressed directly at SCHEV’s upcoming BOV orientation and training on November 12–13. As a reminder, attendance is mandatory for new appointees within their first two years of service. In light of recent developments, we strongly encourage all BOV members to attend to ensure these critical issues are discussed and understood by those charged with shaping institutional policy.

We look forward to continuing annual trainings, as required by law, that will address these and any other emerging policy issues head on and help equip all BOV members with the tools and knowledge needed to support a vibrant and safe campus environment—one that is free from discrimination, grounded in merit, and rich with opportunity for all students across Virginia’s higher education system.”

Dr. Taylor asked Ms. Fryer for details on which issues SCHEV should be highlighting at the board orientation. Ms. Fryer stated that SCHEV should cover all current pressing issues in state and federal higher education policy. She also mentioned that she discussed the statement with the Governor’s office. General Jumper stated that he would like to concentrate on issues related to demographics and funding.

Dr. Taylor motioned for Council to approve the statement; Mr. Olsen seconded the motion. Mr. El Koubi questioned how the statement will be distributed and after a brief discussion, the Council voted unanimously to affirm the statement.

### ***Action on October 2025 Council Meeting Date Change***

Mr. Fleming described the October meeting change to a one-day meeting on October 21, instead of a two-day meeting October 20-21. Ms. Miles asked for a vote to affirm the meeting change. The Council voted unanimously to approve.

### *Action on Antisemitism Resolution*

Ms. Miles called for a motion to approve the Antisemitism Resolution as presented in the agenda book. Mr. Olson motioned, and Ms. Fryer seconded. The resolution was approved unanimously.

### *Action on Title IV Resolution*

Ms. Fryer read the following action on Title IV, including and her recommended updates, into the record. The updated resolution is included below. Ms. Fryer noted that she had conferred with the Governor's office on the changes to this resolution.

Ms. Miles asked for a motion to approve. Ms. Fryer motioned, and Dr. Taylor seconded. Dr. Taylor suggested adding a few words reaffirming the importance of free speech on campus. Council members voted unanimously to affirm the updates and the resolution. Dr. Taylor made a suggested substitute motion, Mr. Olsen seconded, and the Council voted unanimously to pass the following amended resolution.

WHEREAS, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) is by law the designated coordinating body for higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, SCHEV is committed to full compliance with all applicable laws, including the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other federal and state civil rights statutes;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia reaffirms its commitment to nondiscrimination and equal opportunity and shall continue to observe and comply with all applicable laws and statutes in administering its responsibilities, including but not limited to the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other relevant federal and state civil rights laws.

**Be it further resolved** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia affirms its statutory responsibility to train Boards of Visitors (BOV) appointees to promote effective governance, responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds, and full compliance with all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and policies—including those related to nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and protection of free speech—at all Virginia public colleges and universities. Virginia is a leader in higher education governance efforts, as it is one of only 10 states that require trustee training by law and one of only three states that provide training on how board members have a duty to the citizens of their state when appointed.

SCHEV commits to addressing any relevant and emerging policy issues at its annual BOV trainings. These trainings help equip all BOV members with the knowledge and tools necessary to support a vibrant and safe campus environment—one that is free from discrimination, grounded in merit, and rich with opportunity for all students across Virginia's higher education system.

### **RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment had been requested, and none was provided spontaneously.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Ms. Miles read a resolution to approve the convening of the Council in a closed session to discuss personnel matters. A rollcall vote was taken and was approved unanimously.

At the conclusion of the closed session, Ms. Miles read a resolution asking each member to affirm that no business other than what was stated in the convening resolution was discussed during the closed session. A roll call vote was taken and no member stated a departure from the approved discussion.

Ms. Miles read a resolution announcing the decision to authorize the Chair to meet with the Director to discuss his performance. After a roll call vote, the resolution was passed unanimously.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Ms. Miles adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m.

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Delceno Miles  
Council Vice Chair

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Kristin Whelan  
Coordinator of Board and Executive  
Operations

### **Items Delegated to Director/Staff**

Items Delegated to Director/Staff

Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia*, § 23.1-203 and Council's "Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes," the following items approved/not approved as delegated to staff:

#### **Academic Program Actions**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Degree/Program/CIP</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Christopher Newport University	<b>Undergraduate Certificate Program Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability (30.3301)</li></ul>	Fall 2025
Danville Community College	<b>Certificate Programs Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Airframe Maintenance (47.0607)</li><li>• Powerplant Maintenance (47.0608)</li></ul>	Summer 2025

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Degree/Program/CIP</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Danville Community College	<b>Facilitated Approval:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associate of Applied Science degree program (AAS) in Aviation Maintenance Technology (47.0607)</li> </ul>	Summer 2025
George Mason University	<b>Graduate Certificate Programs Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affordable Housing (52.1501)</li> <li>Artificial Intelligence in Health (51.2799)</li> <li>Marketing (52.1401)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025
George Mason University	<b>Graduate Certificate Program Not Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Justice and Human Rights (05.0212)</li> </ul>	May 16, 2025
Germanna Community College	<b>Program Name Changes Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certificate in Administration of Justice to Criminal Justice (43.0103)</li> <li>Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree program in Administration of Justice to Criminal Justice (43.0103)</li> </ul>	Summer 2025
Laurel Ridge Community College	<b>Facilitated Approval:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associate of Applied Science degree program (AAS) in Physical Therapist Assistant (51.0806)</li> </ul>	Summer 2025
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	<b>Graduate Certificate Program Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical and Scientific Communication (09.0908)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025

Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia*, § 23.1-203 and Council's "Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes," and the "Framework for Associate Transfer Degree Programs," the following item approved as delegated to staff:

**VCCS Inventory of New Transfer Degree Programs  
Effective Date, Summer 2025**

Community College	Degree	Degree Title	CIP Code
Germanna Community College	Associate of Science	Science	30.0101

Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia*, § 23.1-203 and Council's "Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes," the following items approved as delegated to staff:

**Four-Year Publics' Academic Programs Discontinued**

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
George Mason University	<b>Program Discontinuance Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Master of Science (MS) degree program in Marketing (52.1401)</li> </ul> [Council Approval Date: 08/15/2022]	Fall 2025
George Mason University	<b>Graduate Certificate Programs Discontinuances Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applied Behavior Analysis (42.2814)</li> <li>Specialized Reading Instruction for Students with Specific Learning Disabilities (13.1011)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025
Virginia Commonwealth University	<b>Program Discontinuances Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Advanced Media Production Technology (10.0304)</li> <li>Master of Education (MEd) degree program in Adult Learning (13.1201)</li> <li>Graduate Certificate in Care Coordination (51.1504)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	<b>Graduate Certificate Programs Discontinuances Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human Factors of Transportation Safety (30.0000)</li> <li>Leadership for an Aging Society (19.0702)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025

Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia*, § 23.1-203 and Council's "Policies and Procedures for Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes," the following items approved as delegated to staff:

### Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
George Mason University	<p>Rename the School of Computing in the College Engineering and Computing to the <b>Long Nguyen and Kimmy Duong School of Computing</b>. The school has been renamed to recognize a \$20 million gift from the Kimmy Duong Foundation. The financial gift is to provide scholarships to "undergraduate students" enrolled in degree programs offered in the school and "for undergraduate majoring in journalism, education, and nursing" at George Mason University.</p> <p>The university will also be responsible for fulfilling the gift agreement which stipulates: "If the School of Computing ceases to exist, an appropriate marker will be displayed on campus in commemoration, and the University will transfer the name to another area of equal prestige, value, and purpose in consultation with the donor."</p>	July 15, 2025
The College of William and Mary in Virginia	<p>Rename the Department of Kinesiology to the <b>Department of Health Sciences</b>. William &amp; Mary indicates the name change is to "remove reference to a degree program" no longer offered by the department or at the institution. The name "health sciences" will "highlight the degree programs and other academic programs" located in the department."</p>	July 15, 2025
The College of William and Mary in Virginia	<p>Rename the Faculty of Arts and Sciences to the <b>College of Arts and Sciences</b>. William &amp; Mary indicates the name change will remove a word that focuses on one group in the unit and utilizes a word that "ensures the name of unit is inclusive" of all stakeholders in the unit. The name will also "bring William &amp; Mary's nomenclature into alignment with terminology used by the SCHEV designated peer institutions."</p>	July 15, 2025



Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
University of Mary Washington	Rename the Department of Classics, Philosophy, and Religion to the <b>Department of Cultural and Philosophical Inquiry</b> . The Department is in the College of Arts and Sciences. Given that all the resources, including the faculty in anthropology and art history, have been relocated to the department, the department needs to be renamed to “succinctly capture the five (5) disciplines” in the department. The new name will “reflect the focus of the disciplines,” and “the core areas of overlap between the five (5) disciplines.”	August 25, 2025
University of Mary Washington	<p>Create the <b>School of the Arts</b>. The School will reside in the College of Arts and Sciences. Four departments will be in the school: 1) the Department of Historic Preservation, 2) the Department of Music, 3) the Department of Studio Art, and 4) the Department of Theatre and Dance.</p> <p>The establishment of a school in the college “will improve the workload balance and oversight of academic units of the dean of the college.” The dean will have “one direct report instead of four department chairpersons.”</p>	July 1, 2025
University of Mary Washington	<p>Create the <b>School of Science</b>. The School will reside in the College of Arts and Sciences. Three departments will be in the school: 1) the Department of Biology, 2) the Department of Chemistry and Physics, and 3) the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences.</p> <p>The establishment of a school in the college “will improve the workload balance and oversight of academic units of the dean of the college.” The dean will have “one direct report instead of three department chairpersons.”</p>	July 1, 2025
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Reorganize the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and close the <b>Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management</b> . All resources in the department, including the existing budget of \$3,098,422, will be reallocated and moved to the School of Design. The department	July 1, 2025

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
	<p>closure will “allow the faculty to join other faculty with similar scholarly interests.” The university will have “all resources” dedicated to the area of “design in the same academic unit” and in the same college.</p> <p>The department closure will also allow the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences to create a clear identity for the college.</p>	

Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia* § 23.1-213 to 230 and 8VAC-40-31-90 of the *Virginia Administrative Code*, the following items were approved as delegated to staff:

**Postsecondary, Non-Degree Institutions Certified to Operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia**

Institution	Location	Effective Date
Bedford County School of Practical Nursing	Bedford, VA	05/19/2025
NextUp Solutions Training	Arlington, VA	04/17/2025
NOVA Dental Assisting Institute	Woodbridge, VA	05/29/2025

**Institutions of Higher Education Certified to Operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia—Approval of Additional Location**

Institution	Location	Effective Date
Eastern Virginia Career College	Glen Allen, VA	5/7/2025



On February 20, 2018, William & Mary's Board of Visitors unanimously elected Katherine A. Rowe as the 28th president of the university. A nationally recognized innovator in higher education, Rowe champions the liberal arts, entrepreneurship and pathways to careers. She was sworn in as president on July 1, 2018, and inaugurated during the Charter Day Ceremony in February 2019. In 2021, the Board of Visitors unanimously approved an early extension of Rowe's contract.

Rowe oversaw the creation of William & Mary's strategic plan, Vision 2026 — the result of an inclusive, multi-year planning process, which included crafting the university's first-ever values statement. Built on four cornerstone initiatives — data, water, democracy and careers — Vision 2026 invests in the capacities required for leadership in the 21st century.

At William & Mary, Rowe has advanced access and affordability, including covering full tuition and fees for all in-state Pell Grant recipients. Under her leadership, the university founded a new School of Computing, Data Sciences & Physics and received R1 designation by the Carnegie Classification system. Rowe's cross-university initiatives include a university-wide civics curriculum, a central Entrepreneurship Hub, and the restoration of the Williamsburg Bray School — the oldest extant schoolhouse for Black children in the hemisphere. Major gifts during her tenure include support for military and veteran students and conservation science. A \$100 million gift in 2024 established William & Mary's Batten School & VIMS as the national leader in coastal resilience. A \$50 million scholarship gift in 2025 provides full tuition support for students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Coastal and Marine Sciences for all times coming.

Rowe successfully closed the university's \$1.1B *For the Bold* campaign in 2020 and a dedicated campaign for Athletics, *All In*, in 2023. As fan-in-chief for William & Mary's 23 Division I athletics teams, Rowe frequently leads the cheering section during competitions. In March 2025, she traveled with the women's basketball team to Austin, Texas, for the university's first NCAA Tournament run.

An award-winning teacher and scholar, Rowe is also an entrepreneur. She serves on numerous technology and workforce boards in Virginia. She is a past president of the Shakespeare Association of America.

Rowe holds a bachelor's degree from Carleton College and a master's and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. She has completed graduate work in Cinema and Media Studies at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

Rowe spent more than a decade coaching Ultimate Frisbee. She was a World Ultimate Club Finalist and a Women's Nationals Finalist. She co-founded the nonprofit Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance and the Carleton College women's Ultimate team.

Rowe shares her love of Ultimate with her spouse, Bruce Jacobson, William & Mary's First Gentleman. They have two adult children, Daniel and Beah.

# State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

## Agenda Item

**Item:** V.D. – Action on 2026 Meeting Schedule and Locations for Council Meetings

**Date of Meeting:** September 16, 2025

**Presenter:** Laura Osberger  
Director of Board and Executive Operations  
[lauraosberger@schev.edu](mailto:lauraosberger@schev.edu)

**Most Recent Review/Action:**

- ☐ No previous Council review/action  
☒ Previous review/action

**Date:** July 15, 2025

**Action/Review:** Council reviewed staff's proposed locations and dates.

**Purpose of the Agenda Item:**

The purpose of this item is to facilitate Council action on dates and locations for its meetings in calendar year 2026.

**Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:**

Traditionally, Council meets in the months of January, March, May, July, September and October. In 2026, Council will not hold an October meeting.

The January meeting is virtual; the other four meetings, at colleges and universities, per Council's statutory duty to "visit and study the operations of each public institution of higher education."

With reasonable public notice, the Council chair may call for a meeting of an ad hoc committee of Council members and/or a retreat for the full Council membership.

Since 2009, Council has included in its schedule a meeting with public-institution chief executives, who convene as the Council of Presidents (COP). The date generally coincides with Council's September meeting, and the location is determined in coordination with the COP.

Council meets annually with the Private College Advisory Board (PCAB). The date generally coincides with Council's May meeting, and the location is determined in coordination with the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia (CICV).

Council usually meets at a public two-year institution in July and at public four-year institutions in March and September.

Council meetings usually take place over two days – the afternoon of one day (committee meetings) and the morning (or more) of the following day (full membership). In the proposed schedule for 2026, Council's January and July meetings would be single-day convenings (committees for much of the morning and the full Council for as much of the remaining day as necessary) in lieu of the usual day-and-a-half.

Council meetings generally are held on the third Monday and Tuesday of the month. All-day meetings (January and July; see above) are held on Tuesdays. For 2026, the January meeting is proposed for the second Tuesday of the month, prior to the opening of the General Assembly session.

**Materials Provided:** Proposed 2026 schedule appears within the resolution below.

**Financial Impact:** None.

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:** None

**Resolution:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the meeting schedule below for calendar year 2026 and directs staff to distribute the dates and locations to members:

- January 13, 2026 – Virtual
- March 16-17, 2026 – Norfolk State University (Norfolk)
- May 11-12, 2026 (with Private College Advisory Board) – Hampden-Sydney College (Hampden Sydney)
- July 21, 2026 – Blue Ridge Community College (Weyers Cave)
- September 21-22, 2026 (with Council of Presidents) – Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond)

# State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

**Item:** V.E. – Action on Systemwide Budget and Policy Recommendations for the 2026 Legislative Session

**Date of Meeting:** September 16, 2025

**Presenter:** Lee Andes

Director of Finance Policy and Innovation  
[leeandes@schev.edu](mailto:leeandes@schev.edu)

**Most Recent Review/Action:**

- ☒ No Previous Council review/action  
☐ Previous review/action

**Date:** July 15, 2025

**Review:** The Resources and Planning Committee and the full Council discussed cost items.

**Purpose of the Agenda Item:**

The purpose of this item is to inform and facilitate Council action to approve a set of proposed systemwide budget and policy recommendations for the 2026-28 biennium. Once Council acts, staff will transmit Council's recommendations to the executive and legislative branches in advance of the 2026 legislative session.

**Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:**

The Commonwealth of Virginia operates on a two-year budget cycle, which provides funding for an individual biennium. In preparation for the next biennial budget, covering FY 2027 and FY 2028, Council will consider budget and policy recommendations for higher education. This process began with a discussion of priority areas at the July Council meeting and is scheduled to conclude with September's vote on official Council recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly.

The decision process for making these recommendations is rooted in the statewide strategic plan - *Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*. As Council considers projected upcoming needs for higher education, members will consider several contributing factors, including funding imbalances, projected cost increases and student needs.

Complicating this process, the 2024-26 biennium ends with an embedded funding imbalance, in which policymakers appropriated additional resources to public institutions in FY 2025, but not in FY 2026 (which began on July 1, 2025). This strategy allowed the Commonwealth to support statewide higher education goals with surplus revenues while retaining flexibility in the event of

limited state resources in future years, signaling the potential for a tight state budget in the upcoming session.

**Materials Provided:**

The pages that follow provide a lengthy “SCHEV Budget and Policy Considerations” document, which summarizes scenarios prepared by staff to inform Council budget and/or policy recommendations.

**Financial Impact:**

The financial impact of each budgetary item is detailed within its description. Staff have prepared a sample budget, see table at the end of this item, to facilitate Council discussion. This table currently reflects increases of \$102.2 million in FY 2027 and \$114.7 million in FY 2028.

**Timetable for Further Review:**

Council action in September is necessary to meet deadlines for the executive branch’s development of an Introduced Budget for the 2026 legislative session.

**Relationship with the Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:**

Council’s budget and policy recommendations relate to all goals of *The Virginia Plan*.

**Resolution:**

The resolution below will be expanded and revised to reflect Council’s final action and approval, including specific funding recommendations.

**WHEREAS, *Pathways to Opportunity*, the statewide strategic plan for higher education, seeks to make Virginia the best state for education by 2030; and**

**WHEREAS, Virginia’s higher education system is a shared responsibility of the state, institutions, and students and families to reach the highest levels of performance and accountability; and**

**WHEREAS, budget recommendations for the 2026-28 biennium focus on improving access, affordability, student success, labor market outcomes and institutional efficiencies and effectiveness; now therefore,**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves budget and policy recommendations for the 2026-28 biennium as discussed and agreed upon on September 16, 2025.**

## SCHEV BUDGET AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS FOR FY 2027 AND FY 2028

Section 23.208 of the [Code of Virginia](#) charges the Council with the annual development and submission of systemwide budget and policy recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly:

*A. The Council shall develop policies, formulae, and guidelines for the fair and equitable distribution and use of public funds among the public institutions of higher education, taking into account enrollment projections and recognizing differences and similarities in institutional missions. Such policies, formulae, and guidelines shall include provisions for operating expenses and capital outlay programs and shall be utilized by all public institutions of higher education in preparing requests for appropriations.*

In forming policy and budget recommendations, Council is guided by the *Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education* throughout the process, ensuring a student-centric approach that also reflects sensitivity to budget considerations.

As approved by the Council in January 2021, the current strategic plan aims to achieve and preserve the following:

1. Equitability: Close access and completion gaps
2. Affordability: Lower costs for students
3. Transformation: Expand prosperity

### **Results from the 2024-2026 Biennial Budget**

During the 2024 Session, the General Assembly reviewed and amended the 2024-26 biennial budget, providing similarly sized cumulative increases each year of the biennium. In total, higher education received \$177.4 million in FY 2025 and \$184.1 million in FY 2026.

The 2025 Session of the General Assembly provided additional one-time general fund support for FY 2025, with language allowing institutions to carry balances forward into FY 2026. The resulting difference in general fund dollars between FY 2025 and FY 2026 preserves lower base budgets leading into the next biennium. The table below illustrates the current year-over-year difference in general fund support in two major program areas.

Additional General Fund Appropriations in 2024-2026 (in millions)			
Program	2024-25	2025-26	Difference
E&G	\$212	\$106	(\$106)
Undergraduate Financial Aid	\$32	\$20	(\$12)



## **Summary of key areas of consideration for FY 2026-28**

**Institutional operations and capital outlay:** Staff analysis finds three key areas of cost increases that will have systemwide impact in the coming biennium: (1) institutions' share of anticipated salary increases for state employees; (2) inflationary impacts on nonpersonal service costs; and (3) new operations and maintenance costs associated with bringing new facilities online.

Staff have prepared an estimate for these costs and options for the Commonwealth to limit the impacts on student tuition and fees, in alignment with the strategic plan's goal to provide Equitable and Affordable higher education.

**Student financial aid:** In recent years, the Commonwealth has significantly increased its investment in student financial aid. However, data indicates that the average unmet need for Virginia students remains high due to cost increases. Budget actions that reduce average unmet need will support growth in college access, as well as in retention and graduation rates, supporting the strategic plan's goals for Equitable and Affordable education.

**Statewide priority areas/initiatives and SCHEV budget:** In recent years, the Commonwealth has focused both budget and legislative efforts around support for key priority areas, including the state internship program, financial aid, workforce alignment and on-campus mental health services. Within these areas, Council recommendations can support any one or all three of the primary goals under the strategic plan.

**Policy considerations:** Particularly in the period between 2021 and the 2025 Session, both the Governor and General Assembly have approved policy reviews and updates around campus safety, food insecurity and accessibility for students with disabilities. For the 2026-2028 biennium, Council could recommend an approach to various policy topics.

## **Key Areas for Potential Funding Recommendations**

Staff continue to collect and refine information in the areas above. The following topical areas have emerged for consideration by Council:

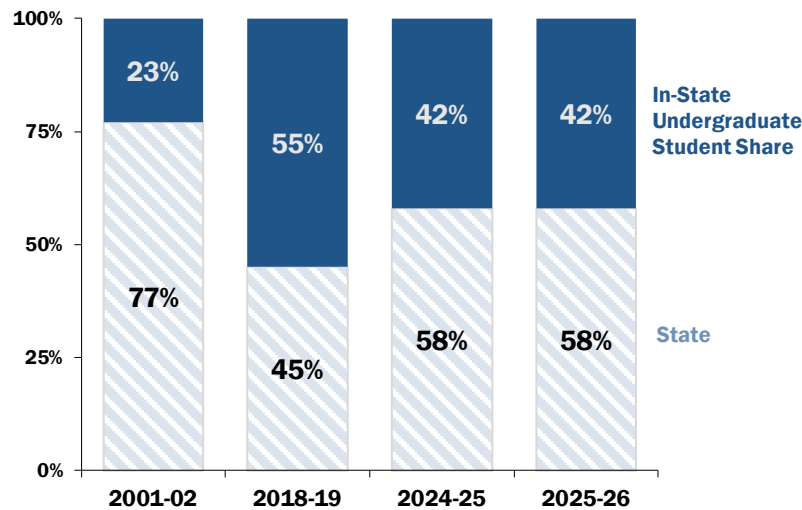
### ***1. Institutional operations and capital outlay***

#### ***a. Educational and General Programs (E&G) Operations***

The E&G component of each institution's operational budget is funded through two main sources, tuition and fees paid by students and general funds from the state budget. The 2004 Session of the General Assembly established a statewide goal of maintaining a 33/67 cost-share relationship between in-state undergraduate students and the Commonwealth. While the state fund share has largely fallen short of meeting its target, the chart below reflects the state's recent progress in

relation to its highest and lowest years of investment toward the cost-share formula.

### Cost-Share Relationship between the State and In-State Undergraduate Students



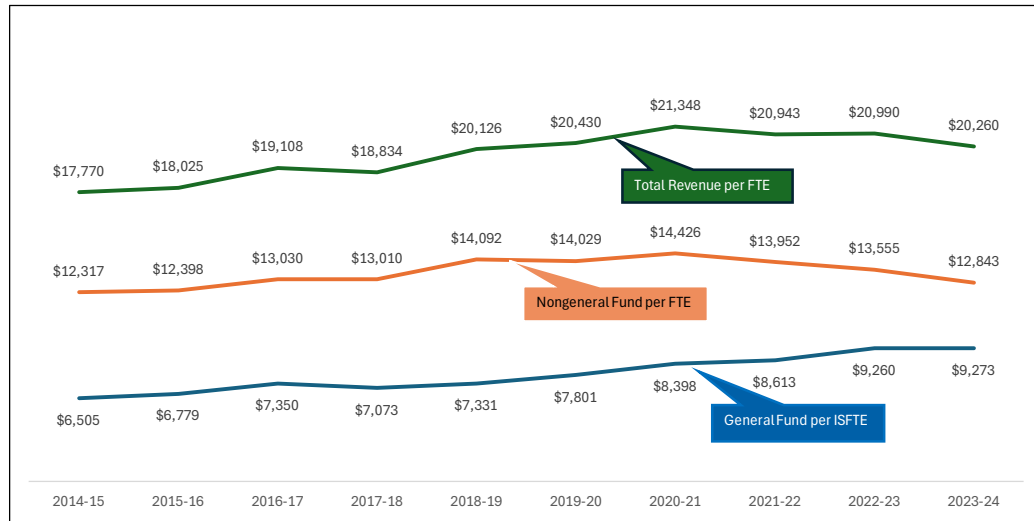
(1) In 2000, the state set the goal of the tuition policy for in-state undergraduate students to pay 25% of the cost.

The 2001-02 calculation was based on the average appropriated cost of education.

(2) In 2004, the goal of the tuition policy was set for in-state students to pay 33% of the cost. Since then, the cost share was calculated based on the average guideline cost of education.

Tuition at Virginia institutions ranks among the highest in the country: for AY 2024-25, Virginia's tuition rates ranked second among comprehensive institutions, fifth among doctoral/research institutions, and 22<sup>nd</sup> among two-year colleges. In recent years, Virginia's public institutions have begun to lower average charges based on 2024 constant dollars. According to the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), Virginia's state funding per FTE ranks 27<sup>th</sup>, and its total revenue (combining state funding and tuition revenue) per FTE ranks 28<sup>th</sup>. JLARC's 2024 study, [\*Spending and Efficiency in Higher Education\*](#), found that "the majority of institutions spend about the same or less than similar institutions nationwide."

Funding per FTE by Fund FY2015-FY2024  
in 2024 Constant Dollars



Note: Total Revenue per FTE is not the sum of General Funding per ISFTE and Nongeneral Fund per FTE as two measures use different denominators.

Considering these and additional factors outlined in the following section, staff have calculated the projected impact on in-state undergraduate tuition and fees in comparison with institutions' proposed tuition increases, as outlined in their six-year plans. The Council may consider recommendations to address these costs either on a per-institution or on a systemwide basis.

#### b. Institutional operations

- i. **Salary impacts:** In the state's cost-share model, public institutions are expected to support a portion – roughly half – of salary increases. When drafting their six-year plans this summer, institutions were advised to project costs reflecting an annual 2 percent increase in salaries and 1 percent increase in health insurance premiums.
- ii. **Inflation impacts on non-personal services:** On average, non-personal services make up approximately 24% of institutions' budgets. Staff have applied a projected annual inflation rate to calculate the increase in unavoidable costs in 2026-28. The latest economic update from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that, in June 2025, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) grew 2.7% from June 2024. Moody projects CPI annual growth of 2.4% in FY 2027 and 2.3% in FY 2028.

Based on the above factors and before taking into consideration potential new general funds, institutions have projected average tuition increases of 3.8% in FY 2027 and 3.5% in FY 2028.

The Commonwealth can consider providing general fund appropriations to mitigate further tuition increases. Based on the current fund split, to cover the state's share of anticipated state salary and health insurance premiums as well as address inflation, the state would need to increase base budgets systemwide by a

total of \$64.0m GF in FY 2027 and \$127.9m GF in FY 2028. Due to continued uncertainty over the state budget, for operational funding Council could recommend a first-year increase with level funding into the second year and then revisit the recommendations when preparing for the 2027 session.

**iii. Operation costs of new facilities:**

The Commonwealth supports a portion of the cost to operate and maintain educational space within campus facilities. As institutions periodically bring new and renovated academic space online, their overall operation and maintenance (O&M) costs increase accordingly.

In keeping with past methodology, the Commonwealth's general fund portion of O&M for FY27 is \$4.7 million and \$10.3 million for FY 28 which will provide assistance for the opening, maintenance or demolition of 29 buildings.

FY 26-28 O&M Recommendations		
Institution	FY 2027	FY 2028
CNU	\$1,021,049	\$1,115,222
GMU	\$0	\$0
JMU	\$508,687	\$508,687
LU	\$0	\$0
NSU	\$0	\$523,600
ODU	\$229,038	\$614,611
RBC	\$0	\$0
RU	\$0	\$0
UMW	\$101,190	\$106,370
UVA	\$1,300,373	\$3,043,971
UVAW	\$0	\$0
VCU	\$0	\$888,413
VIMS	\$0	\$0
VMI	\$7,100	\$107,715
VSU	\$517,544	\$562,589
VT	\$0	\$735,028
VT Ext.	\$229,926	\$472,827
W&M	\$66,307	\$392,385
VCCS	\$730,556	\$1,142,409
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,711,770</b>	<b>\$10,213,827</b>

### **c. Capital outlay and HEETF**

#### **i. Capital outlay:**

[Section 23.1-208, Code of Virginia](#) also directs the Council to consider recommendations for state contributions to institutions' capital outlay.

Since 2020, Council's capital outlay recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly categorized projects based on several factors including, life safety, critical maintenance needs, enrollment projections, and programmatic justification. The 6-PAC (Secretary of Education, leadership from House and Senate money committees, Department of Planning and Budget, Department of General Services and SCHEV) could then review all projects based on the criteria above for funding consideration.

For the 2026-28 biennium, institutions have submitted capital funding requests for a total of 76 projects. At the direction of 6-PAC, staff prepared a summary of capital projects submitted by institutions, including project type, scope and cost, for comparison against priorities identified in institutions' Six-Year Plan submissions, as well as proposed criteria for funding decisions, including:

- Relative age of the facility;
- Critical maintenance components (e.g., campus safety, ADA compliance);
- Historic disparities in funding;
- Enrollment; and
- Programmatic justification.

At the conclusion of the 2025 Session of the General Assembly, the Governor vetoed ten capital projects for higher education with the explanation that should the Commonwealth realize projected budget surpluses, the Administration may address these projects in the 2026-28 Introduced Budget through either cash or bonds. SCHEV staff recommends the funding of those vetoed projects prior to new capital requests along with projects that prioritize:

1. life and safety,
2. refurbish and repurpose over new construction, and
3. projects that address historical disparities between institutions.

## Projects vetoed in Chapter 725 of the 2025 General Assembly Session

Institution	Capital Project Title
GMU	Priority Facility Improvements
JMU	Renovate Johnston Hall
LU	Replace Roof, Windows, and External Doors Lankford Hall
VCCS	Renovate Amherst/Campbell Hall, Central Virginia
VCU	Acquire Altria Building
VIMS	Construct Marine Operations Administration Complex
VSU	Renovate Virginia Hall
VT	Expand Virginia-Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Fralin Biomedical Research Institute
UVA	Center for the Arts
W&M	Replace Law School Central Utility Plant

- ii. **HEETF:** The Higher Education Equipment Trust Fund (HEETF), first established by the General Assembly in 1986, supplements the cost for institutions to upgrade equipment for instruction and research. Budget language directs the Virginia College Building Authority to distribute funds, following review and approval by staff based on agency-developed guidelines for eligible use and general program procedures.

Council last recommended a systemwide funding increase for FY 2018; however, until a more thorough review of inventory and systemic needs can be conducted and analyzed, Council may consider maintaining current HEETF funding levels of \$95.2m in the first year and \$97.7m for the second year for the upcoming biennium.

## 2. *Student financial aid*

- a. **Undergraduate need-based financial aid:** The Virginia Student Financial Assistance Program provides direct appropriations to public institutions to disburse to in-state students via either the Virginia Commonwealth Award or the Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program. Award methodology prioritizes the greatest demonstrated need to increase access and affordability and promote timely progress to graduation.

Driven largely by rising auxiliary expenses (e.g., room and board, books and supplies, travel and personal expenses), both the cost of a four-year degree and the corresponding increase in students' unmet need have outpaced increases in general fund support for financial aid. The following table breaks out changes

observed between AY 2019-20 and AY 2023-24 for Virginia students by family income level.

**Average Unmet Need Comparison –  
Public Four-Year Institutions: 2019-20 and 2023-24**

	Income Range	# Cohort	Avg. COA	Avg. Gift Aid	Avg. Net Price	Avg. EFC	Avg. Unmet Need
<b>2019-20</b>							
<b>Total Public Four-Year Institutions</b>	All	87,333	\$27,370	\$7,019	\$20,353	\$11,366	\$9,605
<b>Total Public Four-Year Institutions</b>	Lower	29,745	\$26,001	\$11,353	\$14,654	\$728	\$13,947
<b>Total Public Four-Year Institutions</b>	Middle	23,866	\$27,258	\$7,420	\$19,840	\$7,561	\$12,445
<b>2023-24</b>							
<b>Total Public Four-Year Institutions</b>	All	85,528	\$33,662	\$10,061	\$23,607	\$13,824	\$10,521
<b>Total Public Four-Year Institutions</b>	Lower	30,295	\$32,568	\$15,940	\$16,640	\$890	\$15,768
<b>Total Public Four-Year Institutions</b>	Middle	23,019	\$33,547	\$11,119	\$22,434	\$9,517	\$13,169

- From SCHEV FA34A report
- COA = Cost of Attendance
- EFC = Expected Family Contribution

Changes enacted by the federal FAFSA Simplification Act are projected to result in more Pell-eligible students and increases in calculated financial need beginning in 2024-25. Finally, many four-year institutions have recently undertaken initiatives to increase low-income, Pell-eligible enrollments. For these reasons, the Commonwealth should remain aggressive in providing further increases to student financial assistance.

Chapter 725 from the 2025 Session includes one-time increases totaling \$15.0M GF. This provided temporary support for financial assistance as it added funds to FY 2025 only, creating a \$12 million gap in funding for FY 2026 (FY 2025 was previously \$3 million under the FY 2026 appropriation) going into the 2026-28 biennium.

### Undergraduate student aid

Institution	FY 2025 GF	FY 2026 GF	Difference
Christopher Newport University	\$8,580,347	\$8,240,297	(\$340,050)
William & Mary	\$5,625,292	\$5,420,162	(\$205,130)
George Mason University	\$79,164,353	\$77,342,233	(\$1,822,120)
James Madison University	\$22,851,055	\$22,199,045	(\$652,010)
Longwood University	\$10,007,185	\$9,676,665	(\$330,520)
Norfolk State University	\$27,572,785	\$26,889,685	(\$683,100)
Old Dominion University	\$63,557,754	\$62,222,634	(\$1,335,120)
Radford University	\$29,226,765	\$28,447,365	(\$779,400)
University of Mary Washington	\$7,294,189	\$7,091,069	(\$203,120)
University of Virginia	\$12,115,539	\$11,855,729	(\$259,810)
University of Virginia - Wise	\$6,476,755	\$6,289,175	(\$187,580)
Virginia Commonwealth University	\$59,037,822	\$57,218,222	(\$1,819,600)
Virginia Military Institute	\$1,691,568	\$1,630,388	(\$61,180)
Virginia State University	\$19,843,720	\$19,335,150	(\$508,570)
Virginia Tech	\$31,808,771	\$30,958,151	(\$850,620)
Four-Year Institution Totals	\$384,853,900	\$374,815,970	(\$10,037,930)
Richard Bland College	\$2,471,810	\$2,414,630	(\$57,180)
Virginia Community College System	\$93,238,555	\$91,333,665	(\$1,904,890)
Two-Year Institution Totals	\$95,710,365	\$93,748,295	(\$1,962,070)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$480,564,265</b>	<b>\$468,564,265</b>	<b>(\$12,000,000)</b>

Two of the primary goals of the Virginia Plan are Affordability and Access. Accordingly, reducing costs to students is a primary objective for Council to consider when forming recommendations. Projected increases in student need can be addressed through additional general fund support to mitigate or eliminate the need for tuition increases, increases in student financial assistance or a combination of the two. The reinstatement of the one-time \$12 million plus another \$9.2m in FY 2027 and \$10.0m in FY 2028 will enable the Commonwealth to keep pace with rising tuition and mitigate rising unmet need.

#### **b. State non-need-based student assistance:**

- i. Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant Program (TAG):** TAG provides grants to Virginia residents enrolled at private, non-profit colleges and universities. While not a need-based program, approximately 80% of recipients are low- and middle-income students.

The following table outlines increases in maximum TAG awards and corresponding general fund appropriations over the past decade. During this



time, the tuition among private institutions has increased at a rate lower than that of the public four-year institutions in eight of the last ten years.

Year	Maximum TAG Award	Annual Appropriations
2016-17	\$3,200	\$65,812,665
2017-18	\$3,300	\$65,812,665
2018-19	\$3,270	\$65,812,665
2019-20	\$3,400	\$71,098,303
2020-21	\$3,750	\$71,098,303
2021-22	\$4,000	\$79,598,303
2022-23	\$4,500	\$90,813,320
2023-24	\$5,000	\$100,325,881
2024-25	\$5,150	\$104,125,881
2025-26	\$5,250	\$112,325,881

Additional targeted increases adopted over this period include:

- FY 2023: \$7,500 supplements for in-state students at HBCUs.
- FY 2025: One-time \$2,500 supplements for in-state students at Hispanic-serving institutions.

In 2024, the TAG priority deadline was moved from July 31 to September 15, giving institutions more time to identify eligible students as they matriculated at the beginning of the year and help with application completion. With this change, TAG participation has increased by 5.4 percent for undergraduate residential students after a decade of declining participation. Staff expect this growth trend to continue for at least one more year before settling back into historical trends.

The unexpected increase in TAG participation did not require a reduction in the TAG award due to accumulated unused funds during years of the TAG award due to accumulated unused funds during years of decreased participation. Raising the TAG award would improve affordability and retention as well as encourage students to consider enrolling at a Virginia private institution.

Council can consider whether to maintain FY 2026 award amounts through the 2026-2028 biennium. Doing so would require an additional \$7.7m in the first year and \$9.6m in the second year. To increase the annual award, each \$50 increase to the undergraduate award requires approximately an additional \$1.0m GF, so a \$100 award increase would require a \$2.0m GF increase to the annual budget.

- ii. ***Virginia Military Survivors and Dependent Education Program (VMSDEP)***: VMSDEP waives tuition and required fees for eligible family

members of veterans who have paid a significant personal sacrifice, including loss of life, liberty (prisoner of war or missing in action), or “limb” (90% or more disabled as a result of service). Some of these students will also qualify for a program stipend to apply towards educational expenses. Over the past six years, program participation rates have risen dramatically, following implementation of enhanced marketing and eligibility verification strategies by other state and federal offices. While the growth rate for tuition waivers has been uneven across institutions, the speed and amount of the increase has strained each institution’s budget.

### Virginia Military Survivors and Dependent Education Program - Tuition Waivers

Institution	2018-19		2021-22		* 2024-25 - Estimated	
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
Christopher Newport University	21	\$286,468	112	\$1,571,083	303	\$4,846,828
William & Mary	25	\$554,555	108	\$2,378,841	316	\$7,612,009
George Mason University	110	\$1,012,307	474	\$5,781,487	1,231	\$16,650,212
James Madison University	63	\$673,618	249	\$2,833,476	663	\$8,743,517
Longwood University	25	\$298,720	92	\$1,043,183	179	\$2,308,769
Norfolk State University	41	\$364,619	160	\$1,456,116	310	\$2,855,547
Old Dominion University	229	\$2,025,338	738	\$6,784,639	1,547	\$16,556,086
Radford University	60	\$570,221	138	\$1,413,480	285	\$3,217,426
University of Mary Washington	30	\$331,335	96	\$1,072,830	238	\$3,006,580
University of Virginia	35	\$579,552	142	\$3,043,302	374	\$8,861,162
Univ. of Virginia - College at Wise	7	\$59,738	12	\$120,971	24	\$240,123
Virginia Commonwealth University	194	\$2,582,823	623	\$9,003,358	1,300	\$21,731,056
Virginia Military Institute	12	\$210,856	40	\$725,965	76	\$1,516,516
Virginia State University	47	\$357,949	118	\$939,059	579	\$1,990,186
Virginia Tech	53	\$702,899	334	\$4,851,179	865	\$14,060,883
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>\$10,610,997</b>	<b>3,436</b>	<b>\$43,018,969</b>	<b>8,290</b>	<b>\$114,196,900</b>
 Eastern Virginia Medical School	 2	 \$60,479	 13	 \$340,202	 34	 \$847,588
 Richard Bland College	 12	 \$88,364	 26	 \$138,456	 64	 \$441,262
 Virginia's Community Colleges	 421	 \$1,228,761	 974	 \$2,806,747	 2,393	 \$7,320,651
<b>System Totals</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>\$11,988,601</b>	<b>4,449</b>	<b>\$46,304,374</b>	<b>10,781</b>	<b>\$122,806,401</b>

FY19 - FY24 Data from SCHEV FA22 reports

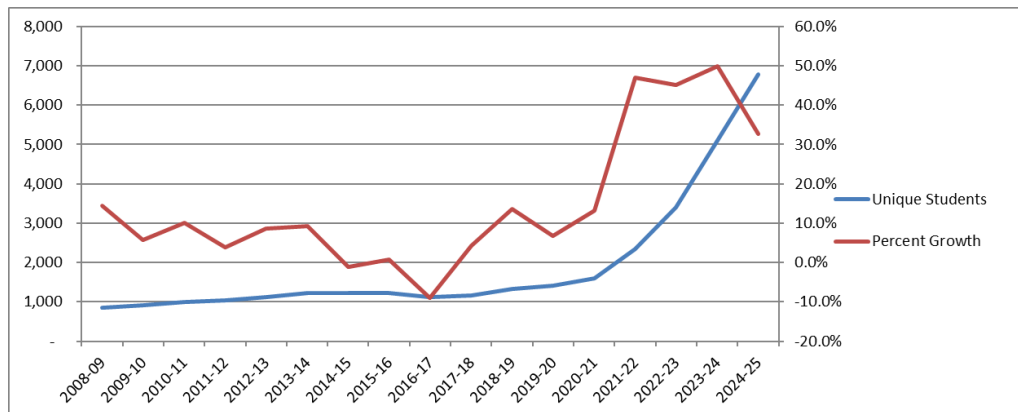
[https://research.schev.edu/fair/fa22\\_report.asp](https://research.schev.edu/fair/fa22_report.asp)

Currently, no reliable early projection indicator exists as the pool of eligible students is not tied to high school completion rates or other standard measures. While staff anticipate an approaching plateau in participation

rates, perhaps during the next biennium, each year's participation growth continues to exceed previously unprecedented rates. With even modest growth, the total value of the tuition waivers could approach \$200 million by the end of the upcoming biennium.

Policymakers have explored long-term viability options over the past two General Assembly sessions. Chapter 2 of the 2025 Session introduced partial offsets to lost tuition revenue for institutions, adding \$75.0m GF in FY 2025 and up to \$85.0m in FY 2026. For FY 2026-28, \$65.0m is the current baseline. Following the October 2024 JLARC [report](#), discussions are likely to continue in 2026.

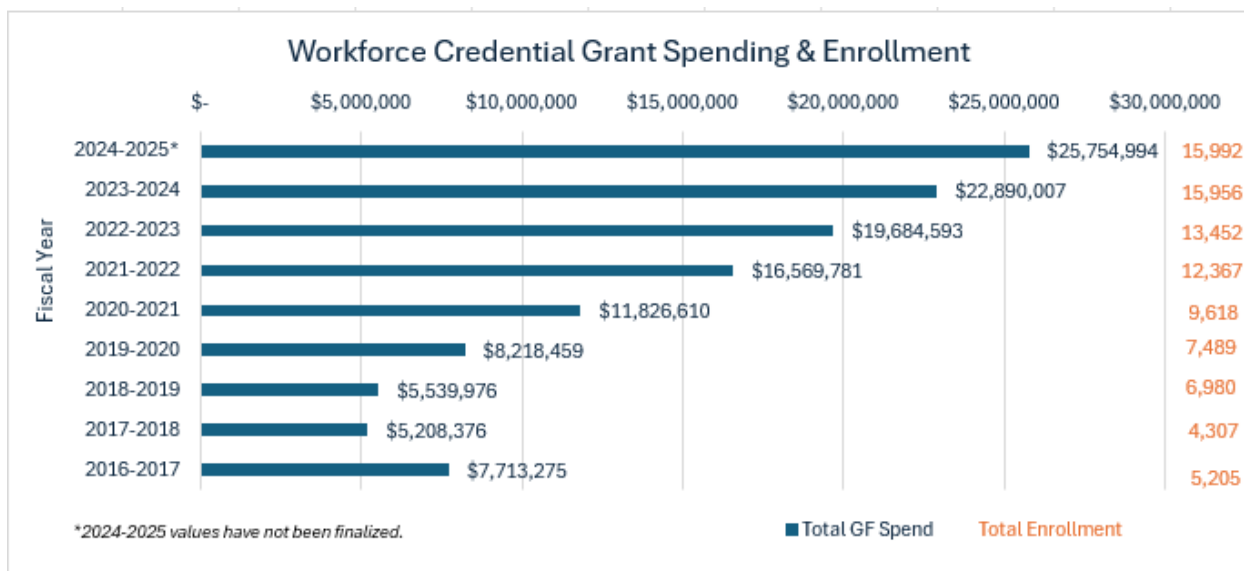
VMSDEP also offers qualifying dependents a stipend, currently authorized at a maximum of \$1,900 per year, supported by general fund appropriations to SCHEV's budget. Stipend recipients have increased at rates similar to that of broader program participation.



At current growth rates, the stipend could reach over 12,000 recipients by AY 2027-28, requiring an additional \$2.5m GF in FY 2028 to maintain the current award level of \$1,900 for full-time full-year students.

- iii. **Workforce Credential Grant:** The Workforce Credential Grant, a.k.a. FastForward, is one of the most successful post-secondary programs initiated in the last decade and has grown substantially over the past three years. This growth has been fueled by the addition of new programs as well as increased participation in current programs, several doubling and tripling participation state-wide year-over-year.

As reported in the SCHEV [New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Annual Report 2024](#), annual expenditures exceeded appropriations and depleted surpluses accumulated earlier in the program's history in the last two years alone. Accordingly, Chapter 725 provided an additional one-time allocation of \$15.0m in non-general funds in FY 2025 to be disbursed over FY 2025 and FY 2026.



About \$12 million of the new funding is committed to FY 2025 costs, leaving just \$3 million to roll forward into FY 2026. The program is projected to exhaust funding by spring 2026, with continued enrollment growth projected over the next biennium.

Since it was provided in FY 2025, the new funding does not carry over into the next biennium; therefore, the program faces a \$8.4 million funding deficit (\$32.1 million disbursed in FY 2025 compared to the \$23.75 million base going into the next budget) prior to accounting for continuing program growth.

Applying the average 20% annual growth over the past three years, the program will need a minimum of \$7.15m and \$13.33m increases over the next biennium. These new funds are not assured of meeting future demand as the VCCS requests a minimum of \$35.6 million for FY 2027 and \$39.1 million for FY 2028. Alternatively, program offerings could be selectively reduced to provide the best use of funds under current levels or more modest increases in funding.

### 3. Statewide priority areas and initiatives and SCHEV budget

#### a. Statewide priority areas

##### i. Mental Health Workforce Pilot:

According to a 2024 Lumina and [Gallup poll](#), emotional stress and personal mental health are two of the top barriers to college enrollment and degree completion. About one-third (35%) of currently enrolled students pursuing a certificate, certifications, associate or bachelor's degree recently considered stopping their program.

To address this, the General Assembly began funding the Higher Education Mental Health Workforce pilot program in FY 2023. SCHEV used the allotted funds to award pilot grants, which enabled institutions to underwrite the salary and benefits of an onsite, licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) or licensed professional counselor (LPC) candidate for two years. In turn, the hosting universities hire, train and supervise the LCSW/LPC candidates over the two-year period to work at on-campus mental health care facilities until licensed. The pilot program seeks to address immediate student demand for services and long-term campus behavioral health workforce development.

SCHEV staff's [Higher Education Mental Health Workforce Pilot 2025 Annual Report](#) indicates that the pilot is increasing counseling capacity and reducing staff burnout at counseling centers. Staff recommend Council consider supporting expanding the program to all four-year public higher education institutions (approximately \$1.0m GF each year).

- ii. *Constructive Dialogue Institute (CDI)*:** The Constructive Dialogue Institute (CDI) is a research-based non-profit organization that helps educational institutions improve the free exchange of ideas by providing tools and resources that demonstrably improve students' willingness and ability to communicate across differences.

SCHEV entered into a partnership with CDI in 2023 to offer its online learning program to students, faculty and staff at Virginia public colleges and universities at a considerable discount. SCHEV has subsidized institutional participation out of its agency budget, spending \$58,333 to support 14 institutions in 2024-25. In that year, nearly 10,500 Virginia students completed the program and demonstrated significant improvement on measures of affective polarization, intellectual humility, and the ability to find common ground. Furthermore, nearly three-quarters of the students credited CDI's program with helping them gain valuable skills that they practice in both their personal and professional life.

In anticipation of an increase in CDI's participation fees, staff recommend Council consider recommending an annual appropriation of \$100,000 GF to continue and expand program participation.

- iii. *Data Collection of Non-Credit Credential Programs*.** Virginia envisions post-secondary education that prepares an individual for an in-demand occupation that provides a pathway to sustainable wages and is recognized by employers and society as having measurable value. The Commonwealth's strategic plan for postsecondary education includes a goal of 70% attainment of a credential (degree, diploma, or certification) by 2030. While Virginia has made significant strides in the non-credit space and is recognized as a national leader because of the innovative Workforce Credential Grant, more data collection is necessary. SCHEV staff, through participation in multiple

multi-state communities of practice, realize that the Commonwealth could benefit from a greater understanding of noncredit offerings and the return on investment of those credentials. To improve understanding and better support students and attract industry to the Commonwealth, the establishment of a noncredit education data collection (at the program and student levels) would be necessary. Through data analysis, credentials that provide a strong return on investment for students could be identified, categorized and evaluated for additional funding support opportunities. By identifying the return on investment, students can make informed decisions regarding educational opportunities that would allow for greater economic mobility and enhance Virginia's status as an attractive state for industry.

## ***b. SCHEV budget***

- i. Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS):*** The VLDS is a powerful tool for Virginia's future, giving the Commonwealth an unprecedented and cost-effective tool for extracting and analyzing insightful education and workforce development data within a secure environment. Funding dedicated to this tool has not kept up with the costs of administration, requiring SCHEV to contribute from its own general fund operating budget.

SCHEV staff recommend Council consider additional funding to maintain the cost of the current operating capacity of VLDS which includes software contracts, storage, and VITA-governed services.

- ii. Support for Operations:*** SCHEV has operated at its limit for general funds for the past several years, while taking on additional responsibilities. As the number of mandates has grown, the number of employees at SCHEV has stayed relatively constant, while operating costs continue to increase. SCHEV's current operating budget places constraints on hiring new staff to meet required assignments. Activity that would benefit from additional operating funds are:
  - Enhanced data analysis and reporting from VLDS
  - Expanded management of the revised program productivity process
  - Expanded participation in regional data collaborative efforts, national communities of practice, and statewide policy development
  - Stronger workforce alignment and relevance of SCHEV activities
  - Operational excellence and budget management
  - Development of learning outcomes assessment measures
- iii. Pathways Project:*** After publishing the online fact packs in November 2024, staff have begun efforts to make similar data tools available to prospective students and families to promote in-state enrollment. Like the online outcomes portal, this project would be a leading initiative nationally as we enter a period with a declining number of students graduating from high school with a continued demand for postsecondary-trained students. Costs

to initially build and maintain the product are in development, but could benefit from state support.

- iv. ***Postsecondary Access Advising:*** A record 36% of Virginia's graduating high school class of 2023, or approximately 31,598 students, did not enroll in a postsecondary program within 16 months of graduation. Given that 71% of jobs in the Commonwealth are projected to require education or training beyond high school by 2031, such trends pose a significant risk to Virginia's long-term economic vitality.

In recent budget proposals, the federal GEAR UP and other access programs have been targeted for defunding. These potential reductions in federal support for college access programs will leave many schools with fewer resources to provide students with high-quality postsecondary advising resources. This presents a particular hardship for schools serving high percentages of students receiving free and reduced-price lunch and low college enrollment rates. With state funding for these advisors, the Commonwealth can mitigate the impact on current access efforts if federal support is withdrawn. A modest state investment can help fill this void and ensure that more students, particularly those who are low-income or first-generation, receive the support they need to pursue post-secondary education or training.

Staff recommend \$2.5 million in the first year and \$2.5 million second year to fund an evidence-based, statewide network of full-time, near-peer advisors to serve high-need high schools across the Commonwealth to deliver personalized, high-touch support to guide students in exploring postsecondary education and workforce options. Advisors would also amplify the reach of Level Up Virginia (LUV), SCHEV's statewide initiative that equips students and families with tools for post-secondary exploration, planning, financing and decision-making.

Together, these efforts would boost Virginia's college-going rate, strengthen alignment with workforce needs and expand economic opportunity for more students across the Commonwealth.

- v. ***Pilot program to provide degree completion to adult learners.*** SCHEV data indicates that, in Virginia, 13% of first-year students at public four-year institutions do not return the following fall (compared to 18% nationally). Of these, 28% have accrued more than \$10,000 in student loan debt.

As institutions contemplate ways to increase degree and credential completion, staff recommend a statewide pilot program to limit duplication of efforts while identifying best practices in recruiting and supporting returning students. Funding of \$500,000 in the first year could be used to explore best

practices to provide degree-completion opportunities to adult students with some college but no degree.

- vi. **Space Grant** The Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC) requests an additional \$217,000 GF annually to support the 1) Virginia Pilot Pathways Program and 2) Online Remote Pilot Ground School project. Both programs are oversubscribed and work to meet Virginia's labor market demand for commercial pilots. Industry partners highlight a critical shortage of commercial pilots, with 18,500 job openings anticipated over the next 10 years and 123,000 pilots needed through 2043. The current median annual salary for a professional pilot is \$171,210.

Additional funds would support 20 additional participants in the Pathways Flight Academies program and 100 participants in the online Private Pilot Ground School each year.

- vii. **Sea Grant** The Virginia Sea Grant (VASG) requests \$779,249 GF in annual support to sustain its core staff and programming, including workforce and professional development, and to advance a statewide platform for resilience. The investment would expand fellowship and internship opportunities for Virginia's graduate and undergraduate students and support enhanced efforts to identify, develop and grow new partnerships with key stakeholders.
- viii. **The Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA)** The Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) is the consortium of 70 college and university libraries in Virginia, offering a national model of collaboration in higher education that combines industry-specific procurement expertise with a robust suite of services to achieve efficiency and cost containment. In FY 2024 alone, VIVA's shared resources program netted more than \$50,000,000 in savings to institutions.

VIVA requests \$350,000 GF in FY 2027 and \$700,000 GF in FY 2028 to support current shared resource subscriptions and membership levels. Further, VIVA requests an annual increase of \$100,000 GF to the Pooled Funds program to mitigate inflationary impacts on costs of core academic resources shared across member institutions.

## **4. Policy Consideration**

### ***Two-to-Four Year College Transfer Incentive:***

In 2008, the state authorized the current Two-Year College Transfer Grant (CTG) to incentivize enrollment in the Commonwealth's two-plus-two track and increase statewide degree attainment. Since AY 2020-21, the CTG program has experienced a decrease in participation, mirroring the reduction in enrollments at Virginia's two-year colleges. To increase student affordability, the Commonwealth can consider either increasing financial support for the CTG or creating a separate transfer grant program, either as a replacement or companion program to the CTG.



This new program should strengthen the financial incentive for students, encourage four-year institutions to be more aggressive in pursuing transfer students, and address the procedural and academic challenges associated with transfer. This program could offer state inducements to either provide continued two-year college pricing or a financial aid package to cover the tuition differential and ensure that students participating in the program minimize the “non-applicable credits” phenomenon often experienced by transfer students and instead receive maximum applicability of their two-year college credits towards completion of their four-year degree. Such a proposal should be created in coordination with the various stakeholders, including Council, staff, OP-6, two-year college representatives, and representatives from four-year institution with enrollment and academic expertise.

To enhance affordability and access for Virginia students, Council directs staff to review the current status of transfer between public two-year institutions and four-year non-profit institutions of higher education, including: the enrollment trends among two-year colleges; enrollment trends among four-year non-profit institutions; transfer trends between two-year, and four-year institutions; current articulation agreements in place among the institution; performance of the Two-Year College Transfer Grant (CTG) program; state, regional and national best practices for encouraging the 2+2 model; and potential barriers for students to consider and participate in transfer.

Staff shall then pursue legislation in the upcoming session and appropriate agency activities consistent with improving communication, affordability and policies that will encourage both student and institution participation in transfer.

Staff has prepared the following table to facilitate Council budget discussion.

**SCHEV Supports the Continuation of FY 2025 One-Time General Fund in 2026-28 Biennium**  
(in millions)

Category	Item	FY 2027	FY 2028	Biennial Total
Tuition and Fee Mitigation	FY2025 one-time general fund for E&G	\$106.0	\$106.0	\$212.0
Financial Aid	FY2025 one-time general fund for financial aid	\$12.0	\$12.0	\$24.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$118.0</b>	<b>\$118.0</b>	<b>\$236.0</b>

**Summary of SCHEV Budget Recommendations for General Fund Support in 2026-28 Biennium**  
(in millions)

Category	Item	FY 2027	FY 2028	Biennial Total
Tuition and Fee Mitigation (operational support)	State portion of salaries and health premiums	\$46.0	\$46.0	\$92.0
	State portion of inflationary cost	\$18.0	\$18.0	\$36.0
	State portion of operations & maintenance	\$4.7	\$4.7	\$9.4
Affordability and Access	Undergraduate need-based financial aid	\$9.2	\$10.0	\$19.2
	Tuition Assistance Grant program - fill gap and increase annual award by \$50 per year	\$8.7	\$11.5	\$20.2
	Military Survivors and Dependent Education	-	\$2.5	\$2.5
Student Success and Labor Market Outcomes	New Economy Workforce Credential Grant	\$7.2	\$13.3	\$20.5
	Mental health workforce pilot program	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$2.0
	Constructive Dialogue Initiative	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.2
	Degree productivity	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.2
	Pathways to Adventure	\$1.5	\$1.5	\$3.0
	Student Advising and Access	\$2.5	\$2.5	\$5.0
	Adult non-completers pilot evaluation	\$0.5	\$0.5	\$1.0
Collaborative Initiatives	Virginia Longitudinal Data System	\$0.5	\$0.5	\$1.0
	SCHEV Operating Budget	\$0.7	\$0.7	\$1.4
	Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC)	\$0.2	\$0.2	\$0.4
	Virginia Sea Grant (VASG)	\$0.8	\$0.8	\$1.6
	Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA)	\$0.5	\$0.8	\$1.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$102.2</b>	<b>\$114.7</b>	<b>\$216.9</b>

- All values reflect incremental change above the FY 2026 base budget.

## State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

**Item:** V.F. – Council – Action on Framework for the next Statewide Strategic Plan for Virginia Higher Education

**Date of Meeting:** September 16, 2025

**Presenters:** Scott Fleming  
SCHEV Director  
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Emily Salmon  
Assistant Director of Strategic Planning and Policy Studies  
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**Most Recent Review/Action:**

☐ No previous Council review/action

☒ Previous review/action:

**Date:** July 15, 2025

**Action:** Council provided further feedback on the draft framework.

**Purpose of the Agenda Item:**

The purpose of this item is to facilitate Council action on a framework for the next statewide strategic plan, as discussed in prior meetings and updated with Council's ongoing input and feedback. Council's endorsement of this framework (vision, goals, objectives and strategies) at its September meeting will initiate the plan-development process's final phase - staff development of the full text of the plan.

**Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:**

Per statute, Council is responsible for developing the Commonwealth's state-level strategic plan for higher education (*The Virginia Plan*) and reviewing that plan at least every six years to ensure its relevance in addressing critical issues. SCHEV is charged with developing a plan that: (i) reflects statutory goals for higher education in the Commonwealth (§23.1-301 and §23.1-1002); (ii) identifies a coordinated approach to such state and regional goals; and (iii) emphasizes the future needs for higher education in Virginia.

January 2025 marked the fifth year of the plan's most-recent iteration, "*Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*," and at the behest of the agency executive director and Council chair, the start of a year-long process to develop the next *Virginia Plan for Higher Education*.

Since Council's July meeting and discussion, staff have completed the following activities:

- Incorporated Council's feedback from its July meeting.
- Convened the internal SCHEV-staff work group for reflection on and discussion of the cohesiveness of the plan's framework.
- Drafted a revised vision statement based on the considerations above.

**Materials Provided:**

Behind these cover pages appear a slate of goals, objectives, and supporting strategies as well as a vision statement for Council's consideration and action.

**Financial Impact:** N/A

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

- If Council endorses the proposed vision/goals/objectives/strategies, then staff will seek to produce a draft plan by Council's October meeting and then a final plan for Council's approval either in late 2025 or at its January 2026 meeting.
- If Council does not endorse the enclosed framework, then staff will provide a revised framework for Council review and action at its October meeting.

**Relationship to the Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:**

This action will establish the framework for the next *Virginia Plan for Higher Education*.

**Resolution:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia adopts the framework (vision statement, goals, objectives, and strategies) for the next statewide strategic plan for Virginia higher education, as discussed and agreed upon on September 16, 2025.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the State Council of Higher Education directs agency staff to develop the text of the next statewide strategic plan for Virginia higher education based on this framework, including a set of measures and targets, and provide the draft to Council by October 21, 2025.

### Council's Statutory Responsibility

Develop a **statewide** strategic plan, per statute, for higher education that seeks to **address critical issues** and:

#### Reflects

**statutory goals  
for higher  
education in the  
Commonwealth**

(§ 23.1-301 - Top Jobs Act of 2011  
and § 23.1-1002 - public institution  
goals).

#### Identifies

**a coordinated  
approach to  
such state and  
regional goals.**

#### Emphasizes

**the future needs  
for higher  
education in  
Virginia.**

### Council Survey Responses - Emergent Themes

Critical issues/themes identified and ranked from prior Council survey responses include:

Virginia Higher Education Issues	Virginia Issues
<i>Talent development and retention (e.g. work-based learning, employer engagement, alternative student pathways).</i>	<i>Talent development and retention (e.g. outmigration, graduate preparedness, barriers to participation).</i>
Relevance of higher education and return on investment (relevance to high school graduates, employers' talent needs, research/innovation as an economic engine).	Economy (jobs, inflation, federal policy and funding changes)
Affordability and access (tuition and fees, student educational pathways).	Societal and cultural dynamics (e.g., mental health, political polarization, declining confidence in institutions).
Declining enrollment (demographic cliff, business model of higher education).	Technological innovation and disruption (e.g. artificial intelligence advancements).
Higher education funding (federal, state and institutional funding models).	
Civil discourse, civic education and civic engagement.	

Note: *Italicized text* = Leading issue (from Council and stakeholder survey responses) which higher education can play a significant role in addressing.

### Draft Goal Concepts, Objectives and Strategies

The below reflect Council's input from May through July and subsequent stakeholder ideas from strategic plan input sessions.

GOALS = What, in broad terms, Virginia should strategically seek to achieve in and via higher education to advance/thrive over the next six years.  
 OBJECTIVES = Why the goals are important to Virginia and on what critical foci the goals should strategically target.  
 STRATEGIES = How, in specific terms, Virginia should proceed to meet the plan's objectives and ultimately achieve its overarching theme and goals.

**Draft Vision Statement** - The Virginia Plan for Higher Education: Leading the nation in talent from campus to careers.

Virginia Higher Ed Goal and Objectives	Supporting Strategies
<p><b>Goal 1: Ready</b>            Prepare students to learn, work, contribute, and lead.</p> <p>Objectives related to <i>students' readiness</i>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To learn (postsecondary education readiness)</li> <li>2. To work (employment/career readiness)</li> <li>3. To contribute (civic discourse, civic knowledge)</li> <li>4. To lead (civic leadership, workplace leadership, innovation)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. Establish formal partnerships between VDOE, SCHEV and institutions to align exit and entry standards regarding college readiness. Topics include academic skills, soft skills, life skills, career exploration and SOL alignment to work/careers.</li> <li>1.2. Increase collaboration and commitments between Virginia K-12, post-secondary institutions, and employers to improve pathways alignment and enhance career readiness via career-focused education and work-based learning (e.g., certifications in high-demand fields, apprenticeships, and internships).</li> <li>1.3. Incorporate civic knowledge, civic discourse, service-learning opportunities and leadership development into the Virginia college experience - what it means to be part of a community and what it means to lead in an environment of diverse perspectives.</li> </ol>

Virginia Higher Ed Goal and Objectives	Supporting Strategies
<p><b>Goal 2: Responsive</b> Align to the needs of students, industry, labor markets, regional economies, and Virginians.</p> <p>Objectives related to <i>institutions’ responsiveness</i>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To student needs (mental health, basic supports, alternative pathways, etc.)</li> <li>2. To industry needs (technological and other innovations), alignment to labor market needs and regional economies</li> <li>3. To Virginians’ needs (higher ed finance, demographic changes)</li> <li>4. To societal and cultural needs (research and innovation, political polarization and declining confidence in institutions)</li> </ol>	<p>2.1 Expand mental health training and services as well as basic need supports to students, faculty and staff.</p> <p>2.2.a. Foster sustainable industry partnerships and commitments to co-develop training, re-skilling, work-based learning and credentialing programs, and integrate technological literacy and ethics, especially regarding AI and other advancing technologies, into the college experience.</p> <p>2.2.b. Encourage development of agile, responsive, student-centered curriculum policies for faster adaptation to industry and technological shifts.</p> <p>2.3.a. Champion innovative funding strategies and efficiencies (e.g., enrollment and infrastructure management) that support affordable access to public higher education.</p> <p>2.3.b. Increase outreach and supports to engage and retain non-traditional students (e.g., adult learners, military, incarcerated, etc.).</p>

## Virginia Higher Ed Goal and Objectives

### Goal 3: Relevant

Articulate and emphasize the value of higher education.

Objectives related to *higher education's pertinence and value*:

1. To students – sense of belonging/access (males, low income and under-represented populations)
2. To students/families (affordable and alternative pathways)
3. To Virginians (the broad value of Virginia higher ed, its efficiency and effectiveness)

2.4. Establish new and strengthen existing innovation ecosystems around research conducted by Virginia universities to commercialize research discoveries that address societal needs and advance entrepreneurship and startup formation.

### Supporting Strategies

3.1. Implement a cross-sector communication campaign on the value of Virginia higher ed that links existing resources for ease of use; expand access programming (including FAFSA completion, college advising and career coaches for K-12 and college students) as well as enhance the college application process for Virginians.

3.2.a. Improve transparency to students and families: Provide cost transparency and more consistent financial aid award and scholarship information, and education earlier in the college decision-making process.

3.2.b. Promote non-traditional pathways toward credential completion: Credit for prior learning/experience; stackable credentials as package toward completion; consider 3-year degree pathways and transfer agreements for high school dual enrollment and advanced placement courses.

3.3. Improve transparency to Virginians on institutions' outcomes and return on investment including graduate employment rates, and their economic impact.



Undergirding principle – RESILIENT: Fostering a resilient, student-centered ecosystem of higher education in Virginia through innovation.

# State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

**Item:** V.G – Council – Action to Modify Council’s Model Resolution on Antisemitism

**Date of Meeting:** September 16, 2025

**Presenter:** Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo  
Director of Academic Affairs & Planning  
[joedefilippo@schev.edu](mailto:joedefilippo@schev.edu)

**Most Recent Review/Action:**

- ☐ No previous Council review/action  
☒ Previous review/action

**Date:** July 15, 2025

**Action:** Council approved a model resolution on antisemitism for institutional governing boards to consider for adoption.

**Purpose of the Agenda Item:**

The purpose of this item is to seek modification of the model resolution approved by Council in July, such that it more accurately reflects Governor Youngkin’s Executive Order 48, *Combatting Antisemitism and Anti-religious Bigotry in Virginia Public Schools and Institutions of Higher Education*.

**Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:**

Governor Youngkin released EO 48 on May 19, 2025, with the stated intention to “reaffirm the Commonwealth’s commitment to safe educational environments free from discrimination and continue to act against antisemitism and anti-religious bigotry in Virginia’s public schools and institutions of higher education.” EO 48 directs the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to:

*A. Publish a model resolution for institutions of higher education which shall when adopted:*

- i. Include in all Student Codes of Conduct the definition of antisemitism, found in Chapter 471 of the 2023 Acts of Assembly, being the same as defined by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in its working definition of antisemitism, including its contemporary examples, as it was adopted on May 26, 2016;*
- ii. Treat harassment and discrimination that is motivated by or includes antisemitic intent, or bigotry against any religion, by any individual or as a result of school policies or programs on the school campus in the same manner as any other form of discrimination prohibited by state or federal law;*

- iii. *Include in all campus Codes of Conduct prohibited conduct as it specifically relates to antisemitism and anti-religious bigotry, which shall include, but not be limited to:*
  - 1. *harassment and discrimination against Jewish individuals in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Pub. L. No. 88-352;*
  - 2. *antidiscrimination regulations provided by the United States Department of Education and the United States Department of Justice; and*
  - 3. *relevant state-level antidiscrimination laws.*
- iv. *The model resolution shall make clear that the prohibition and other uses of the definition cannot diminish or infringe upon any right protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or the Constitution of Virginia.*

The model resolution approved by Council in July omitted reference to “contemporary examples” of antisemitism in EO 48 (see the clause highlighted in yellow above). The resolution below corrects this omission.

**Materials Provided:** The modified model resolution, revised per above, appears at the end of the Council resolution below.

**Financial Impact:** N/A

**Relationship to Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:** N/A

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:** N/A.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS, Governor Youngkin has released Executive Order 48, *Combatting Antisemitism and Anti-religious Bigotry in Virginia Public Schools and Institutions of Higher Education*, with the stated intention to “reaffirm the Commonwealth’s commitment to safe educational environments free from discrimination and continue to act against antisemitism and anti-religious bigotry in Virginia’s public schools and institutions of higher education;” and**

**WHEREAS, Executive Order 48 directs the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to publish a model resolution for institutions of higher education to adopt, and specifies four provisions to be included in the model resolution;**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council adopts the following as a model resolution for governing boards of Virginia public institutions to adopt in accord with Executive Order 48:**

### **Model Resolution**

**WHEREAS, Governor Youngkin has released Executive Order 48, *Combatting Antisemitism and Anti-religious Bigotry in Virginia Public Schools and Institutions of Higher Education*, with the stated intention to “reaffirm the Commonwealth’s commitment to safe educational environments free from discrimination and continue to act against antisemitism and anti-religious bigotry in Virginia’s public schools and institutions of higher education;” and**

**WHEREAS, Executive Order 48 directed the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to publish a model resolution for institutions of higher education to adopt, and specified four provisions to be included in the model resolution;**

**WHEREAS, [Institution Name] is committed to promoting and fostering an environment free of antisemitism and anti-religious bigotry;**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that [Board name] adopts the following provisions and directs the [president/chancellor/superintendent] of [institution name] to incorporate each provision in relevant and applicable policies of [institution name]:**

- i. (a) In accord with Chapter 471 of the 2023 Acts of Assembly, [institution name] adopts the Working Definition of Antisemitism as adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance on May 26, 2016, including the contemporary examples of antisemitism set forth therein.**

**This states that antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.**

**(b) The definition of antisemitism referenced in (a) above shall be incorporated into all student codes of conduct of [institution name];**

- ii. [Institution name] shall treat harassment and discrimination that is motivated by or includes antisemitic intent, or bigotry against any religion, by any individual or as a result of school policies or programs on the school campus in the same manner**

**as any other form of discrimination prohibited by state or federal law;**

- iii. [Institution name] shall include in all codes of conduct prohibited conduct as it specifically relates to antisemitism and anti-religious bigotry, which shall include, but not be limited to:**
  - 1. harassment and discrimination against Jewish individuals in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Pub. L. No. 88-352;**
  - 2. antidiscrimination regulations provided by the United States Department of Education and the United States Department of Justice; and**
  - 3. relevant state-level antidiscrimination laws.**
- iv. In no case shall provisions i.-iii. above be implemented in any way that diminishes or infringes upon any right protected under the United States Constitution, including but not limited to the First Amendment to the Constitution, or under the Constitution of Virginia.**

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the [president/chancellor/superintendent] shall submit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Education and the Executive Director of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia no later than December 31, 2025.**

## State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

**Item:** V.H. – Council – Report of the Agency Executive Director

**Date of Meeting:** September 16, 2025

**Presenter:** A. Scott Fleming  
Executive Director  
[scottfleming@schev.edu](mailto:scottfleming@schev.edu)

**Most Recent Review/Action:**

☒ No previous Council review/action

☐ Previous review/action

Date:

Action:

**Purpose of the Agenda Item:**

The purpose of this item is to inform Council of recent and upcoming work in which staff is involved.

**Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:** N/A

**Materials Provided:** Director's Report.

**Financial Impact:** N/A

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:** N/A

**Relationship to Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:** N/A

**Resolution:** N/A

**Executive Director's Report  
State Council of Higher Education  
September 16, 2025**

**Public Institutions' Preliminary Six-year Operating Plans:** In July and August, the OpSix group – Secretaries of Education and Finance, Staff Directors of House Appropriations and Senate Finance & Appropriations, Director of the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB), and Executive Director of SCHEV – held meetings with administrators of all the public institutions of higher education, including VIMS and the regional higher-ed centers, to discuss their preliminary six-year operating plans. (For more information, see Item III.E on the agenda of the Resources and Planning Committee.) Council member Curt attended the meeting with Radford University. SCHEV coordinates the process, including developing and distributing the plan templates, scheduling the meetings, facilitating/leading the meetings, collecting and providing feedback from OpSix to the institutions, and receiving the board-approved versions of the plans, which are due by December 1.

**Planning for the Boards of Visitors (BOV) Orientation:** Since Council's July meeting, staff assembled and convened multiple times a planning group to assist with developing the "education program" required annually in statute for recent appointees to the governing boards of the public institutions of higher education. Chair Jumper and Secretary Guidera are members of the planning group. A robust, if not ambitious, agenda resulted, which includes on Day One "the basics" of higher-ed-board service for new appointees and on Day Two more advanced topics/information for all board members. Recruitment of speakers and panelists continues for the event, which is slated for November 12-13 in Richmond.

**Annual Report on Tuition and Fees at Public Institutions:** On August 1, SCHEV published its [report on public institutions' 2025-26 tuitions and fees](#), as required annually by statute. At the system level, tuition and mandatory E&G fees increased by 2.1% (\$206) for in-state undergraduates, while mandatory non-E&G fees increased by 3.9% (\$180). For the public four-year institutions, the average sum of in-state undergraduate tuition, all mandatory fees, and room and board is \$29,538 for the 2025-26 academic year, an increase of 3.1% (\$898) over last year.

**Legislative Presentations:** On August 14, Lee Andes, Director of Finance Policy and Innovation, and Tod Massa, Director of Policy Analytics, presented to the House of Delegates's Emergency Committee on the Impacts of Federal Workforce and Funding Reductions regarding impacts of federal changes on higher education, with foci on budgetary and enrollment impacts. On September 4, Sarah Beth Dreis, GEAR UP Virginia Regional Manager, presented to the Virginia Disability Commission on Postsecondary Transition for Students with Disabilities. The presentation summarized the findings

and draft recommendations in fulfillment of SCHEV's study charge outlined in HB 1805; the final report will be submitted by November 1.

**Virginia Intern Day:** On July 31, SCHEV and V-TOP celebrated Virginia Intern Day, as proclaimed by Governor Youngkin, with a ceremony in Richmond and events coordinated with regional partners across the Commonwealth. Deputy Secretary of Education Zach Jacobs, Virginia Chamber President Cathie Vick, VEDP Vice President Megan Healy, and I provided remarks at the ceremony, which included student presentations, employer panels, and networking.

**Resources for Disability-/Accessibility-Services Officers:** Recently, SCHEV's [Disabilities Access to Higher Ed Advisory Committee](#) provided to relevant institutional staff a collection of resources that further its goals to: (i) identify and promote best-practice accommodation practices; and (ii) inform disability-services officers how students are experiencing campus services and accommodations broadly in ways that impact their success. These resources include an action plan, best-practice guidelines, and a template for student-survey questionnaires.

**Updated SCHEV “Model Policy” on Hazing:** In mid-August, SCHEV notified public institutions that the *SCHEV Model Hazing Policy*, as per COV § 18.2-56, had been updated and posted publicly [here](#). The updates incorporate the feedback received from institutions as a result of the consultation session that SCHEV staff held at the end of May and the following review period.

**Draft “Advisory Guidance Documents” on Stackable Certificates and Micro-credentials:** In mid-August, SCHEV provided to public institutions’ chief academic officers two draft, advisory documents for review and feedback. The documents represent Council’s interest in alternate-mode credentials, and the final versions will promote uniformity, clarity, and truth-in-advertising in public institutions’ development and offering of stackable certificates and micro-credentials. Institutions’ feedback was due by August 29.

**FAC Meeting:** On July 22, Finance Policy and Innovation Director Lee Andes convened public institutions’ CFOs as the Finance Advisory Committee. The agenda included: an update from JLARC staff on their studies of capital and the VCCS; an update from the institutions on TTIP; a review of Council’s considerations at its July meeting of potential budget and policy recommendations; and discussion of VMSDEP funding.

**VHEEAC (formerly GPAC) Meeting:** On August 25, I convened the public-institution chief executives as the Virginia Higher Education Executive Advisory Committee. Education Secretary Aimee Guidera participated. The agenda included discussion of development of workforce-ready skills in students, as well as updates from staff on Council’s potential budget and policy recommendations, the ongoing review of the program-productivity policy, the forthcoming RFP on



internship/WBL partnerships in GO Virginia regions, and the upcoming joint meeting of Council and the Council of Presidents.

**IPAC Meeting:** On September 5, Academic Affairs Director Joe DeFilippo convened public institutions' chief academic officers as the Instructional Programs Advisory Committee. The agenda included discussion of potential modifications to the program-productivity policy, with a focus on return on investment (ROI) and an update on the development of the next statewide strategic plan.

**SCHEV Talk:** On July 25, agency staff received a lunch-and-learn briefing on research into selected countries' higher-ed issues and strategies of redress, which SCHEV contracted from Austin Global Strategies to inform development of the statewide strategic plan.

**Out and About:** Since Council's July meeting, I joined staff from SCHEV and DPB on visits to numerous public institutions, where we viewed their infrastructures and discussed their realities in advance of the six-year-plan meetings. I also met with several legislators and legislative staffers. I chaired the 18 six-year-plan meetings and the VHEEAC meeting. I participated in the meetings of the Commonwealth Savers board and the Virginia College Building Authority (VCBA). I attended the SHEEO Annual Meeting (Washington, DC; in July), where I served on a panel on postsecondary data. I also attended the SHEEO Policy Conference (Minneapolis, MN; in August), where I co-presented on expanding experiential learning as a state-level strategy for improving students' and graduates' workforce readiness.

## Items Delegated to Director/Staff

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, § 23.1-203 and Council's "*Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes*," the following items approved/not approved as delegated to staff:

### Academic Program Actions

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
George Mason University	<b>Facilitated Approval:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree program in Robotics (14.4201)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025
Germanna Community College	<b>Certificate Program Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paramedic (51.0904)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025
James Madison University	<b>Degree Designation Discontinuance Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Master of Arts (MA) degree designation in the Master of Arts/Master of Fine Arts (MA/MFA) degree program in Art (50.0701)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025
J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College	<b>Program Name Change Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree program in Management to Business Management (52.0299)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025
James Madison University	<b>Graduate Certificate Program Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entrepreneurship and Leadership in the Arts and Design (50.1099)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025
Piedmont Virginia Community College	<b>Certificate Program Approved</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Substance Abuse Counseling (51.1599)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025
Radford University	<b>Graduate Certificate Programs Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health Professions Education (51.3202)</li> <li>Mathematics (27.9999)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025
Radford University	<b>Post-Professional Certificate Program Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nursing Education (51.3203)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025
The College of William and Mary in Virginia	<b>Degree Designation Discontinuance Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doctor of Education (EdD) degree designation in the Doctor of Education/Doctor of Philosophy (EdD/PhD) degree program in Counselor Education (13.1101)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025
University of Virginia	<b>Graduate Certificate Program Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intercollegiate Athletics Administration (13.0406)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
University of Virginia	<b>Program Modifications Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modify the credit hours of the Post-Professional Certificate in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (51.3814) with 20 credit hours to 24 credit hours</li> <li>• Modify the credit hours of the Post-Professional Certificate in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Clinical Nurse Specialist (51.3813) with 20 credit hours to 24 credit hours</li> <li>• Modify the credit hours of the Post-Professional Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner (51.3805) with 23 credit hours to 26 credit hours</li> <li>• Modify the credit hours of the Post-Professional Certificate in Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (51.3806) with 22 credit hours to 25 credit hours</li> <li>• Modify the credit hours of the Post-Professional Certificate in Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Acute Care (51.3899) with 21 credit hours to 25 credit hours</li> <li>• Modify the credit hours of the Post-Professional Certificate in Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Primary Care (51.3809) with 19 credit hours to 23 credit hours</li> <li>• Modify the credit hours of the Post-Professional Certificate in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (51.3810) with 19 credit hours to 24 credit hours</li> </ul>	Fall 2025
University of Virginia's College at Wise	<b>Graduate Certificate Program Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technology Management and Data Analytics (52.1399)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025
Virginia Commonwealth University	<b>Graduate Certificate Program Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Educational Statistics (13.0603)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025
Virginia Commonwealth University	<b>Program Modifications Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change the delivery format from traditional, face-to-face to a hybrid delivery format for the Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program in Nursing (51.3801)</li> <li>• Modify the credit hours of the Master of Arts (MA) degree program in History</li> </ul>	Fall 2025

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
	(54.0101) with 30-36 credit hours to 30 credit hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modify the credit hours of the Master of Science (MS) degree program in Sociology (45.1101) with 36 credit hours to 30 credit hours</li> </ul>	
Virginia Commonwealth University	<b>Program Modification Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add an online delivery format to the Master of Public Health (MPH) in Public Health (51.2201)</li> </ul>	Spring 2026
Virginia State University	<b>Program Modification Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add an online delivery format to the Bachelor of Individualized Studies (BIS) degree program in Individualized Studies (30.9999)</li> </ul>	Fall 2025
Virginia State University	<b>Program Modifications Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modify the credit hours of the Master of Interdisciplinary Studies (MIS) degree program in Interdisciplinary Studies (30.9999) with 36 credit hours to 30 credit hours</li> <li>Add an online delivery format</li> </ul>	Fall 2025

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, Section § 23.1-211 and Council's "Commonwealth of Virginia Policy on the Reciprocal Authorization of Distance Education and Related Activities," the following items approved as delegated to staff:

#### National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) Approvals

Institution	Effective Date
Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine	July 30, 2025
Virginia Christian College	July 15, 2025

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, § 23.1-203 and Council's "Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes," the following item approved and reported:

#### Programs Discontinued

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
University of Virginia	<b>Program Discontinuance Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Master of Arts (MA) degree program in Asian Studies (05.0104) [Council Approval Date: June 5, 1985]</li> </ul>	Fall 2025

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, § 23.1-203 and Council’s *“Policies and Procedures for Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes,”* the following items approved as delegated to staff:

### Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
Christopher Newport University	<p>Rename the Department of Accounting, Economics, and Finance to the <b>Department of Accounting and Finance</b>. The department is located in the College of Social Sciences. The Department has been renamed to “accurately reflect the academic programs” in the department.</p> <p>The department will administer two (2) degree programs: Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts (BS/BA) in General Business and, the Master in Financial Analysis (MFINA) in Financial Analysis. CNU will not request “new resources from the state to initiate or sustain the organizational change to rename” the department.</p>	August 1, 2025
Christopher Newport University	<p>Create the Department of Economics. The Department will reside in the College of Social Sciences. The establishment of “a standalone academic unit will provide appropriate visibility of the economics education” at the university.</p> <p>All resources supporting the degree program, faculty, and operational expenses for economics education will be reallocated from the Department of Accounting, Economics, and Finance to the new department. No new resources are needed to support the new department. CNU has adequate and sufficient resources to support the proposed organizational change. “No resources will be requested from the state to establish or sustain” the new department.</p>	August 1, 2025
Christopher Newport University	<p>Create the <b>Joseph W. Luter, III School of Business</b>. The Joseph W. Luter, III School of Business will operate as a standalone academic unit and will not reside under any other academic unit. The dean will report to the provost. No new departments will be established in the first three years of operation. Two existing departments will be relocated to the school: 1) Department of Accounting and</p>	October 1, 2025

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
	<p>Finance and 2) Department of Management and Marketing.</p> <p>The establishment of the Joseph W. Luter, III School of Business as a standalone school will provide the “appropriate support and visibility of the academic programs in business offered by the university.” The School is needed to ensure the university has an academic unit designed to “meet and maintain” accreditation standards set by Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the accrediting organization for business schools.</p> <p>No new resources are needed to support this change. CNU has adequate and sufficient resources to support the proposed organizational change. “No resources will be requested from the state to establish or sustain” the new standalone school.</p>	
Virginia Commonwealth University	<p>Rename the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology to the <b>Department of Neuroscience and Anatomy</b>. The Department is located in the School of Medicine. The Department has been renamed to reflect degree programs in the department and research in neuroscience conducted by faculty in the department. The new name will also reflect “the department’s emphasis on the study of neuroscience” and, demonstrate “the importance of the anatomical sciences education in the department and the department’s oversight of anatomy education in the School of Medicine.”</p> <p>The department will administer two (2) degree programs: M.S. in Anatomy and Neurobiology and the Ph.D. in Neuroscience.</p> <p>VCU will not request “new resources from the state to initiate or sustain the organizational change to rename” the department.</p>	July 15, 2025
Virginia Commonwealth University	<p>Reorganize and close the Department of Endodontics and Oral Diagnostic Sciences to establish two departments: the <b>Department of Endodontics</b> and the <b>Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences</b>. The Departments will be located in the School of Dentistry.</p>	July 1, 2025

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
	<p>The establishment of separate departments will allow the university “to reverse an organizational change that incorrectly reorganized and closed two (2) departments to establish one (1) department.” The organizational structure will “support the faculty’s desire to restore two (2) independent departments” for their respective discipline areas. Further, the reorganization will ensure “the organizational structure of VCU’s School of Dentistry aligns with the university’s SCHEV peer institutions.”</p> <p>Resources supporting the existing Department of Endodontics and Oral Diagnostic Sciences will be used to support the proposed two new departments. “VCU has adequate and sufficient resources to support the proposed organizational change. No new resources will be requested from the state to establish or sustain” the two new departments.</p>	
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	<p>Rename the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics to the <b>Department of Biomedical Engineering</b>. The Department is located in the College of Engineering. Given that all of the resources, including the faculty and degree programs in engineering science and mechanics, have been relocated to the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the department needs to be renamed to “remove an unsuitable term in the department’s name.” The new name will “ensure the department has a name that accurately reflects the academic focus of the unit.” Further, the new name will “align the department’s name” with “similar departments at Virginia Tech’s SCHEV peer institutions.”</p> <p>The department will administer three (3) degree programs: 1) B.S. in Biomedical Engineering, 2) M.S. in Biomedical Engineering, and 3) Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering, Virginia Tech will not request “new resources from the state to initiate or sustain the organizational change to rename” the department.</p>	January 1, 2026

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia § 23.1-213 to 230 and 8VAC-40-31-90 of the Virginia Administrative Code, the following items were approved as delegated to staff:

**Postsecondary, Non-Degree Institutions Certified to Operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Bear River Institute of Healing Arts	Fredericksburg, VA	July 2, 2025
Chesapeake School of Practical Nursing	Chesapeake, VA	August 7, 2025
Norfolk Dental Assistant School	Norfolk, VA	July 1, 2025
Pathway Medical Institute	Pulaski, VA	August 12, 2025
Phlebotomy Training Specialists - Glen Allen	Glen Allen, VA	July 18, 2025
Phlebotomy Training Specialists - Norfolk	Norfolk, VA	July 18, 2025
Williamsburg Skin Institute	Williamsburg, VA	August 15, 2025

**Institutions of Higher Education Provisionally Certified to Operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia—Limited Physical Presence**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Johns Hopkins University	Ashburn, VA	June 30, 2025
Mercy College of Ohio (Provisional)	Chesapeake, VA	June 23, 2025



**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2025**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

General Jumper called the virtual meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Subcommittee members present: Walter Curt, Lindsey Fryer, John Jumper, John Olsen, Doug Straley and Steven Taylor.

Staff members present: Laura Osberger and Kristin Whelan.

Notable attendees: Deb Love from the Office of Attorney General.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Chair of the subcommittee, Mr. Olsen read a resolution to approve the convening of the Council in a closed session to discuss personnel matters. Ms. Osberger conducted a roll-call vote, and the resolution was approved unanimously.

At the conclusion of the closed session, Mr. Olsen read a resolution asking each member to affirm that no business other than what was stated in the convening resolution was discussed during the closed session. Ms. Osberger conducted a roll-call vote, and no member stated a departure from the approved discussion.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Olsen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

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John Olsen  
Subcommittee on Personnel Evaluation Chair

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Kristin Whelan  
Coordinator of Board and Executive  
Operations