

# Pathways to Meet Student and Schools Needs in 2024 Virginia Budget

Severe underfunding of our schools is depriving our students of highly-qualified educators and resources they need. The state has the resources to meet our needs.

Our education sector in Virginia is in crisis mode: educators are leaving in droves, students are facing significant mental health challenges, and the rate of burnout in the field is higher than ever. We need a budget that changes this trajectory, supports struggling families and their students, and raises the needed revenue to make sure all communities can thrive. There's [no evidence](#) to support Governor Youngkin's assertion that income tax drives people to leave Virginia. Quite the contrary, high-quality schools and communities with ample public resources attract families and businesses. We can move out of the [bottom tier for state spending on students](#) and create the communities we all want to live in by asking those who have benefited most from Virginia's economy to pay their fair share.

<b>Critical Funding for Schools and Families (Cost over Biennium)</b>	<b>Revenue Options to Meet Needs (Over Biennium)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Rebenchmarking - Youngkin budget shortchanges schools (<b>\$388 million</b>) by supplanting the last round of federal pandemic aid they received</li> <li>→ Move VA's teacher pay to at least national average (<b>\$708 million</b>) - 3% next year, and 7% the following</li> <li>→ Fully lift arbitrary cap on school support staff (<b>\$240 million</b>)</li> <li>→ Hold divisions harmless, as promised, for changes in the grocery sales tax last year (<b>\$229 million</b>)</li> <li>→ Scale community schools, provide training and resources (<b>\$120 million</b>)</li> <li>→ Fund school counselors and mental health staff at 1:250 ratio (<b>\$240 million</b>)</li> <li>→ Scale NBCT support and incentives for highly-qualified teachers to \$7,500 a year (<b>\$16 million</b>)</li> <li>→ Assistance for housing insecure families with children - 5000 Families Initiative (<b>\$100 million</b>)</li> <li>→ Child Tax Credit (<b>\$600 million</b>)</li> <li>→ Increase state refundable EITC to 25% of federal credit (<b>\$58 million</b>)</li> <li>→ JLARC recommendations for more adequate special education, English learner, and economically disadvantaged student support (<b>\$1.5 billion</b>)</li> <li>→ JLARC recommendation for near-term technical fixes to fund schools at actual cost (<b>\$470 million</b>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ New tax brackets for highest income earners (possible options):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 10% incomes over \$1,000,000 (<b>\$2.0 billion</b>)</li> <li>◆ 7% for incomes over \$600,000 (<b>\$800 million</b>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>→ Allow elevated Standard Deduction amounts to expire, lowering threshold (<b>\$2.0 billion</b>)</li> <li>→ Youngkin-proposed "New Economy" sales tax expansion (<b>\$714 million</b>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>\$4.67 Billion</b></p>	<p><b>\$5.51 Billion</b></p>