

2027 VEA Legislative Agenda



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VEA WILL INITIATE LEGISLATION AND BUDGET ITEMS TO:

- Strengthen and protect fair labor practices and the right of public employees to organize and collectively bargain.
- Modernize Virginia's school funding formula and fully implement the recommendations of the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding.
- Strengthen support for National Board Certification and professional growth opportunities for educators.
- Provide funding to ensure teacher salaries are at or above the national average and school employees earn a living wage.
- Secure protected planning time for all public school teachers.
- Guarantee all public school employees a duty-free lunch period.
- Ensure public employees have clear, consistent, and enforceable workplace protections against discrimination.
- Ensure school employees receive timely compensation for their work.
- Strengthen retirement security for school employees.
- Protect schools and child care facilities from the impacts of nearby data center development.
- Improve indoor air quality in schools.
- Provide free school meals to all public school students.
- Modernize retirement policies to recognize eligible supplemental compensation.
- Require that the full versions of Spring SOL tests be publicly released statewide at the same time test results are reported in the Fall, increasing transparency for educators, students, and families.
- Modernize state laws affecting school employees to strengthen fairness, due process, and workplace protections.

VEA SUPPORTS LEGISLATION AND BUDGET ITEMS THAT:

- Increase state revenue to more adequately support school systems.
- More adequately fund and support special education services and expand the flexibility of state support.
- Increase the fairness and effort of funding for schools with a high share of students living in households experiencing poverty.
- Address evolving facets of school safety concerns for staff and students.
- Supports development, mentorship and retention policies for alternatively licensed educators.
- Strengthen employee benefits for school personnel.
- Increase funding for mechanisms to support school construction and modernization.
- Reduce and mitigate child poverty, including through policies that strengthen affordable housing access, food security, comprehensive health coverage, targeted refundable tax credits, childcare and early childhood education, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs, and public transportation.
- Support the unique needs and challenges in Virginia's small and rural school divisions.
- Reform Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments to both reduce the total testing time for students annually and better capture student learning/growth.
- Repeal Virginia's ban on public sector strikes, restoring public employees' ability to advocate collectively for improved working conditions and educational outcomes.

- Ensure public school provides a safe, inclusive environment where LGBTQ+ students are free from discrimination, harassment, and bullying - so that all students can focus on learning.
- Promote the responsible, transparent, and ethical use of artificial intelligence in public education while protecting student privacy, preserving educator professional judgement, and supporting AI literacy for students and educators.

VEA OPPOSES LEGISLATION AND BUDGET ITEMS THAT:

- Undermine public-sector labor rights, including collective bargaining rights.
- Threaten public school funding or provide public dollars to unaccountable private and religious schools.
- Transfer the authority for granting charter schools or similar non-traditional public schools away from the local school board.
- Undermine or reduce the health or retirement benefits of school personnel.
- Allow for the arming of school personnel with firearms or repeal/alter any law, rule, or regulation designating school property as a gun-free zone.
- Expose school staff to counterproductive and unreasonable liabilities that limit their autonomy, rights, or safety.
- Seek to repeal or restrict the rights and well-being of marginalized groups.
- Disenfranchise Virginia residents from democratic and civic engagement with state government.
- Supplant any re-benchmarking costs for required technical updates and the supplanting of state lottery proceeds being supplanted within the education budget for general fund uses.



Virginia's Education Union