2026-2027 Fairfax County School Board Government Relations Briefing

10/20/2026 Work Session

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Objective

The School Board will:

Update the School Board's 2027 Legislative Program State and Federal legislative position language

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School Board State and Federal Legislative Program



2027 Fairfax County School Board State and Federal Legislative Program

State and Federal Priority Positions

Annual legislative priorities established by the School Board.

Subset of State & Federal Legislative Positions

Adopted by the Board on October 8, 2026

Joint Positions with Board of Supervisors

Collaborative advocacy positions shared with county leadership.

In Progress

Today's Discussion Focus

State & Federal Legislative Positions

Subject of today's work session and board review.

2027 State Legislative Position Recommendations

Add (All page numbers refer to the agenda item redline draft)

D. College and Workforce Readiness

- Credit for work experience and maintaining industry credential availability (D.3, p.1)
- Work based learning opportunity flexibility (D.4, p.2)
- Additional state funding dedicated to Career and Technical education (D.8, p.1) - **New Recommendation**
- Adult registered apprenticeship and career training program support (D.16, p.2)

H. English Learners

- English Learner content performance flexibility under SPSF (H.7, p.4)

Q. School Calendar

- School holiday local calendar flexibility (Q.1, p.7)

2027 State Legislative Position Recommendations

Add (continued)

S. Special Education

- Restore and continue flexibility for Children's Services Act (CSA) funds (S.11, p.7)

T. Standards of Accreditation and School Accountability

- Support weighting mastery and growth more equitably under SPSF in elementary and middle schools (T.1, p.8)
- Support expanded graduation readiness indicator (T.7, p.8)
- Return to long-term goals and interim measures of progress for accountability (T.10, p.8) - **Priority Position**
- Oppose lowering a school's performance category based on a single student group's performance (T.2 Oppose, p.8)
- Improvements in state assessment result reporting (T.20, p.9)

2027 State Legislative Position Recommendations

Add (continued)

U. Standards of Learning

- Expanded use of national for nationally/internationally benchmarked substitute assessments—including AP, IB, and SAT—for high school accountability performance and participation across subject areas (U.13, p.9)
- Clarification of available SOL testing flexibility for students (U.14, p.9)
- Support cut scores and performance measure transparency and alignment with Virginia's new assessment program implementation timeline (U.19, p.10)
- Return to consistent SOL cut scores across levels, subjects, and years (U.20, p.10)
- Options for students who do not qualify for the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP), but who face barriers accessing grade-level SOL standards (U.22, p.10) - **New Recommendation**

2027 State Legislative Position Recommendations

Add (continued)

AE. Student Safety

- Flexibility in VDOT project approval and increased coordination between state and localities regarding speed limits on state-maintained roads (AE.11, p.14) - **New Recommendation**
- State funding for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and roadway safety improvements (AE. 12, p.14) - **New Recommendation**

2027 State Legislative Position Recommendations

Delete

- School Quality Profiles (T.5, p.8) - obsolete
- Retroactive application of graduation requirements in accountability calculations (T.5 Oppose, p.8 and AC.5 Oppose, p.13) - resolved
- Virginia Growth Assessment (U.2, p.9) - resolved
- Native language versions of academic screening assessments such as EMAS and VALLSS (U.3, p.9) - resolved
- Flexible assessment timing for graduating seniors, summer/semester courses, and SOL and AP/IB test overlaps (U.16, p.9) - resolved
- International Baccalaureate (IB) diplomas and Advanced Studies Diplomas (AC.4, p.13) - resolved

2027 Federal Legislative Position Recommendations

Add

Educational Technology

- Preserve E-Rate eligibility and discount levels (Fed A.2, p.17) - **Priority Position**

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- Allow alternative accountability measures for non-traditional schools (Fed B.2, p.17) - **New Recommendation**

Food and Nutrition Programs

- Restoring SNAP benefits and direct certification provisions (Fed C.2, p.17) - **Priority Position**

2027 Federal Legislative Position Recommendations

Add (continued)

Head Start - Priority Position

- Retain federal minimum Head Start standards (Fed D.1, p.18)
- Retain home language requirements (Fed D.2, p.18)
- Preserve self-attestation as an eligibility option (Fed D.3, p.18)
- Reduce unnecessary administrative burdens and duplicative paperwork (Fed D.4, p.18)
- Oppose reductions in current administrative cost caps (Fed D. Oppose, p.18)

Medicaid - Priority Position

- Avoid federal changes that reduce Medicaid enrollment or hinder school division reimbursements (Fed G.2, p.18)

2027 Federal Legislative Position Recommendations

Add (continued)

Temporary Protected Status - Priority Position

- Clear and timely guidance regarding Temporary Protected Status (TPS), including adequate transition periods when TPS status ends (Fed I.1&2, p.19)
- Pathways to continued employment for eligible, long-term TPS holders (Fed I.3, p.19)

Other Federal Policy Issues

- Continued administration of K-12 related policy issues through the U.S. Department of Education (Fed N.2, p.20)

On The Horizon

- Follow Ups to 10/15 Legislative Briefing Discussions
- Take Your Legislator to School Month - November
- Additional Advocacy Opportunities
  - VEA Lobby Day - January 18, 2027
  - VSBA Capital Conference - January 25 & 26
  - Fairfax County Richmond Reception - February 4 (after crossover)

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Board Discussion
State and Federal Legislative Positions

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