Consensus: That the Board supports VSBA Legislative Proposal #1

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL #1: NEW Binding Arbitration (Proposed New VSBA Legislative Position)

In accordance with Article VIII, Section 7 of the Virginia Constitution and the Virginia Supreme Court's decision in School Bd. of City of Richmond v. Parham, school boards must be entrusted to supervise school divisions, and their decision-making authority must not be transferred to any other officials. Arbitrators may be used to recommend a resolution to an impasse, but school boards must retain the authority to approve or reject any recommendations.

Consensus: That the Board supports VSBA Legislative Proposal #2

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL #2: 3.2 Educational Technological Equipment and Grants Programs (Proposed Amendment to Existing Legislative Position)

The VSBA recognizes the significant instructional improvements and gains in student achievement that can result from the appropriate use of educational technology. Many school divisions are striving to provide students with instruction in the use of technological equipment as computer-assisted instruction is a viable teaching tool. However, school systems are often unable financially to equip their schools with the necessary equipment.

The VSBA supports legislation which would provide incentives to companies donating computers, other state-of-the-art technological equipment, training programs and maintenance services to elementary and secondary schools, including programs for students with disabilities, preschool through age 22.

The VSBA requests the Governor and the General Assembly continue the Educational Technology Grants Program and initiate other programs of assistance so that all local school divisions in the Commonwealth are able to develop and sustain adequate and equitable educational technology plans. Funding for the Educational Technology Grants Program should be tied to the Consumer Price Index inflation rate to account for inflation.

VSBA supports the usage of Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA) funds to lease technology refresh equipment. The usage of these funds should not be limited to only the purchase of such devices.

The VSBA supports identifying a consistent source of revenue for such programs, and that they not rely on a limited and non-recurring source such as bond proceeds.

The VSBA supports such programs that are structured so as to place minimal restrictions on local school divisions related to the use of educational technology assistance, thus allowing the divisions to follow their locally developed, individualized technology plans in meeting specific school and program needs, and that they also be structured so as to prohibit the supplanting of these funds dedicated to the improvement of educational Technology.

The VSBA supports codification into law of a requirement to fully fund and provide a statewide student learning management system.

Consensus: That the Board supports VSBA Legislative Proposal #3

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL #3: NEW Regional CTE center funding (Proposed New VSBA Legislative Position)

The Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) supports the establishment of a dedicated and sustainable state funding model for regional Career and Technical Education (CTE) centers, equivalent to the funding structures provided to other jointly operated regional programs such as Academic Year Governor's Schools (AYGS) and regional Alternative Education programs. Regional CTE centers serve a critical workforce development function, preparing students for high-demand, high-wage careers in healthcare, information technology, manufacturing, and the skilled trades. Like other regional programs, they are jointly operated and governed by multiple school divisions and localities; yet unlike those programs, they currently receive no dedicated state operational funding. The Association urges the General Assembly to close this inequitable funding gap to ensure regional CTE centers can sustain modern equipment, facility infrastructure, High-Quality Work-Based Learning (HQWBL) standards, and the performance requirements of Virginia's 3E framework.

Consensus: That the Board supports VSBA Legislative Proposal #4

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL #4: NEW Support Modernizing Virginia's School Funding Formula (Proposed New VSBA Legislative Position)

Support reforming Virginia's School Funding Formula to reflect the costs of providing services to different student populations by switching to a student-based funding formula.

Consensus: That the Board supports VSBA Legislative Proposal #5

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL #5: NEW Statewide Health Insurance Access for Public School Employees (Proposed New VSBA Legislative Position)

The Virginia School Boards Association supports the research and potential creation and implementation of a statewide health insurance program or an insurance pool for public school employees.

Consensus: That the Board supports VSBA Legislative Proposal #6

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL #6

12.3 Alternative Education Programs (Proposed Amendment to Existing Legislative Position)

The General Assembly has established and provided a measure of state funding for several regional programs that provide alternative education options for students who have violated school board policies relating to weapons, alcohol or drugs, or intentional injury to another person; who have been expelled or long-term suspended; or who have been released from a correctional center. The number of students meeting the state terms for placement in such programs far exceeds the capacity of the regional alternative programs throughout the state.

It is essential that, in addition to the state's regional programs, school boards be permitted to provide a continuum of alternative education services, rather than a single-service option, because students in need of such services exhibit wide differences in age, grade level and educational achievement, nature and seriousness of school board policy violation, court status, degree of danger they represent to the school

community, need for treatment for substance abuse, eligibility for special education services, English language proficiency, and place of residence. The school boards supply the local share of the funding the state considers sufficient for the regional alternative programs, and in most cases, they also supply the additional funding actually required for these programs and for numerous other alternative programs operated solely within the divisions.

The VSBA supports offering alternative programs and conditioned reentry provisions to students who have been suspended or expelled.

The VSBA supports:

- **Changes to the current federal law to permit the local school board, knowledgeable of the individual case, to determine whether a student is suspended or expelled without services, and whether a student is offered placement in a suitable alternative education program or provided an option for reentry to the regular program;**
- **A compulsory school age of 18 for youth committed to the custody of juvenile or adult correctional centers;**
- **State significantly increase funding for local alternative 95 education programs provided by a school board, as well as for collaborative programs among school divisions that**

provide programs and services for students expelled or long-term suspended;

- **No state action be taken that in any way abrogates the authority of local school boards by mandating the categorical placement of students in regional alternative programs or by mandating the provision of educational services to students whom the local school board has suspended or expelled; ~~and~~**
- **The Virginia Board of Education develop individual school accreditation plans to recognize alternative schools that, with creativity, skill, and exceptional dedication, provide individualized educational programs to small and transient populations of students who are struggling to overcome significant personal, school, and behavior problems; and**
- **The Virginia Board of Education is encouraged to provide the Regional Alternative Education Funding using a three-year LCI average to ensure school divisions can continue providing equitable and appropriate services for students with increasing intervention needs.**

Consensus: That the Board supports VSBA Legislative Proposal #7

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL #7

NEW Expanding Statewide School-Based Telehealth and Teletherapy Access
(Proposed New VSBA Legislative Position)

The Virginia School Boards Association supports that the General Assembly provides the full funding for school-based online health services as a core student support.