

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB526 **Patron:** Downey
Bill Title: Nationally Certified School Psychologist Program established; incorporation into National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward Program and Fund.

Bill Summary: Establishes the Nationally Certified School Psychologist Program and incorporates such program into the existing National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward Program. The bill also renames the National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward Program Fund as the National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward Program and Nationally Certified School Psychologist Program Fund (the Fund) and expands the purpose for which disbursements may be made from the Fund to include the award of incentive grants to school psychologists obtaining national certification from the National Association of School Psychologists consisting of an initial state-funded award of \$5,000 and a subsequent award of \$2,500 each year for the life of the certificate.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** 124
Explanation: Additional funding would be required to provide awards for the National Certified School Psychologist Program. Additionally, a language amendment would be needed in Item 124 to amend the existing language for the National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward Program.

Fiscal Summary: The additional state cost under Direct Aid to Public education is estimated at \$2,675,000 general fund in the first year for initial awards and an ongoing cost of approximately \$1,337,500 general fund per year.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>
197 (Direct Aid)	\$0	\$2,675,000	\$1,337,500	\$1,337,500	\$1,337,500	\$1,337,500
TOTAL	\$0	\$2,675,000	\$1,337,500	\$1,337,500	\$1,337,500	\$1,337,500

Fiscal Analysis: This bill amends the existing National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward program to add the National Certified School Psychologist program. The Governor's introduced budget, HB30/SB30, provides \$5,227,500 general fund in FY27 and \$5,170,000 general fund in FY28 to provide bonuses to teachers and staff that have obtained national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. This language could be amended, or additional language could be added, to provide bonuses to school psychologists that have obtained national certification.

Based on an assumption of 535 national certified school psychologists in Virginia, there is an estimated initial cost of \$2,675,000 in FY27 to provide initial \$5,000 dollar awards. In subsequent years the estimated cost is

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\$1,337,500 annually beginning in FY28 to provide ongoing \$2,500 awards. The count of 535 nationally certified school psychologists in Virginia was taken from the National Association of School Psychologists state data dashboard, as the Department of Education does not currently collect information from local school divisions on nationally certified school psychologists. The actual number of nationally certified school psychologists working in local school divisions in Virginia may vary from this amount and the actual fiscal impact would depend on the number of nationally certified school psychologists that each school division reports to DOE each year, as well as the number of newly certified school psychologists.

Other: This bill is identical to SB61 as introduced.