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HOUSE BILL NO. 92**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the House Committee on Education

on February 11, 2026)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Rasoul)

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-97, 22.1-199.1, 22.1-253.13:2, as it shall become effective, and 51.1-617 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public schools; Standards of Quality; certain calculations; At-Risk Program established; state-funded special education add-on.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 22.1-97, 22.1-199.1, 22.1-253.13:2, as it shall become effective, and 51.1-617 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-97. Calculation and reporting of required local expenditures; procedure if locality fails to appropriate sufficient educational funds.

A. The Department of Education shall collect annually the data necessary to make calculations and reports required by this subsection.

At the beginning of each school year, the Department shall make calculations to ensure that each school division has appropriated sufficient funds to support its estimated required local expenditure for providing an educational program meeting the prescribed Standards of Quality, required by Article VIII of the Constitution of Virginia and Chapter 13.2 (§ 22.1-253.13:1 et seq.) of this title. At the conclusion of the school year, the Department shall make calculations to verify whether the locality has provided the required expenditure, based on average daily membership as of March 31 of the relevant school year.

The Department shall report annually to the House Committees on Education and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and on Education and Health (i) the results of such calculations and, (ii) the degree to which each school division has met, failed to meet, or surpassed its required expenditure, and (iii) the total and per pupil annual operating expenditures from local, state, and federal sources in each school division and the change in expenditures from each such source over the immediately preceding two-year, three-year, and five-year timeframes, expressed in both dollar amounts and percentages.

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall report annually to the House Committees on Education and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and on Education and Health the state expenditure provided each locality for an educational program meeting the Standards of Quality.

The Department and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall coordinate to ensure that their respective reports are based upon comparable data and are delivered together, or as closely following one another as practicable, to the appropriate standing committees.

B. Whenever such calculations indicate that the governing body of a county, city or town fails or refuses to appropriate funds sufficient to provide that portion of the cost apportioned to such county, city or town by law for maintaining an educational program meeting the Standards of Quality, the Board of Education shall notify the Attorney General of such failure or refusal in writing signed by the president of the Board. Upon receipt of such notification, it shall be the duty of the Attorney General to file in the circuit court for the county, city or town a petition for a writ of mandamus directing and requiring such governing body to make forthwith such appropriation as is required by law.

The petition shall be in the name of the Board of Education, and the governing body shall be made a party defendant thereto. The court may, in its discretion, cause such other officers or persons to be made parties defendant as it may deem proper. The court may make such order as may be appropriate respecting the employment and compensation of an attorney or attorneys for any party defendant not otherwise represented by counsel. The petition shall be given first priority on the docket of such court and shall be heard expeditiously in accordance with the procedures prescribed in Article 2 (§ 8.01-644 et seq.) of Chapter 25 of Title 8.01 and the writ of mandamus shall be awarded or denied according to the law and facts of the case and with or without costs, as the court may determine. The order of the court shall be final upon entry. Any appeal therefrom shall be heard and disposed of promptly by the Court of Appeals.

§ 22.1-199.1. Programs designed to promote educational opportunities.

A. The General Assembly finds that Virginia educational research supports the conclusion that poor children are more at risk of educational failure than children from more affluent homes and that reduced pupil/teacher ratios and class sizes result in improved academic performance among young children; to this end, the General Assembly establishes a long-term goal of reducing pupil/teacher ratios and class sizes for grades K through three in those schools in the Commonwealth with high or moderate concentrations of at-risk students.

With such funds as are provided in the appropriation act for this purpose, there is hereby established the

60 statewide voluntary pupil/teacher ratio and class size reduction program for the purpose of reaching the long-
61 term goal of statewide voluntary pupil/teacher ratio and class size reductions for grades K through three in
62 schools with high or moderate concentrations of at-risk students, consistent with the provisions provided in
63 the appropriation act.

64 In order to facilitate these primary grade ratio and class size reductions, the Department shall calculate the
65 state funding of these voluntary ratio and class size reductions based on the incremental cost of providing the
66 lower class sizes according to the greater of the division average per-pupil cost of all divisions or the actual
67 division per-pupil cost. Localities shall provide matching funds for these voluntary ratio and class size
68 reductions based on the composite index of local ability to pay. School divisions shall notify the Department
69 of their intention to implement the reduced ratios and class sizes in one or more of their qualifying schools by
70 August 1 of each year. By March 31 of each year, school divisions shall forward data substantiating that each
71 participating school has a complying pupil/teacher ratio.

72 In developing each proposed biennium budget for public education, the Board shall include funding for
73 these ratios and class sizes. These ratios and class sizes shall be included in the annual budget for public
74 education.

75 B. The General Assembly finds that educational technology is one of the most important components,
76 along with highly skilled teachers, in ensuring the delivery of quality public school education throughout the
77 Commonwealth. Therefore, the Board shall strive to incorporate technological studies within the teaching of
78 all disciplines. Further, the General Assembly notes that educational technology can only be successful if
79 teachers and administrators are provided adequate training and assistance. To this end, the following program
80 is established.

81 With such funds as are appropriated for this purpose, the Board shall award to the several school divisions
82 grants for expanded access to educational technology. Funding for educational technology training for
83 instructional personnel shall be provided as set forth in the appropriation act.

84 Funds for improving the quality and capacity of educational technology shall also be provided as set forth
85 in the appropriation act, including (i) funds for providing a technology resource assistant to serve every
86 elementary school in this Commonwealth and (ii) funds to maintain the currency of career and technical
87 education programs. Any local school board accepting funds to hire technology resource assistants or
88 maintain currency of career and technical education programs shall commit to providing the required
89 matching funds, based on the composite index of local ability to pay.

90 Each qualifying school board shall establish an individualized technology plan, which shall be approved
91 by the Superintendent, for integrating technology into the classroom and into schoolwide instructional
92 programs, including career and technical education programs. The first priority for funding shall be consistent
93 with those components of the Board's revised six-year technology plan that focus on (i) retrofitting and
94 upgrading existing school buildings to efficiently use educational technology; (ii) providing (a) one network-
95 ready multimedia microcomputer for each classroom, (b) a five-to-one ratio of pupils to network-ready
96 microcomputers, (c) graphing calculators and relevant scientific probes/sensors as required by the Standards
97 of Learning, and (d) training and professional development on available technologies and software to all
98 levels and positions, including professional development for personnel delivering career and technical
99 education at all levels and positions; and (iii) assisting school divisions in developing integrated voice-,
100 video-, and data-connectivity to local, national and international resources.

101 This funding may be used to implement a local school division's long-range technology plan, at the
102 discretion of the relevant school board, if the local plan meets or exceeds the goals and standards of the
103 Board's revised six-year technology plan and has been approved by the Superintendent.

104 The Department of Education, the Department of General Services, and the Virginia Information
105 Technologies Agency shall coordinate master contracts for the purchase by local school boards of the
106 aforementioned educational technologies and reference materials.

107 A technology replacement program shall be, with such funds as may be appropriated for this purpose,
108 implemented to replace obsolete educational hardware and software. As provided in subsection D of
109 § 22.1-129, school boards may donate obsolete educational technology hardware and software that are being
110 replaced. Any such donations shall be offered to other school divisions and to preschool programs in the
111 Commonwealth or to public school students as provided in guidelines to be promulgated by the Board. Such
112 guidelines shall include criteria for determining student eligibility and need, a reporting system for the
113 compilation of information concerning the number and socioeconomic characteristics of recipient students,
114 and notification of parents of the availability of such donations of obsolete educational hardware and
115 software.

116 C. The General Assembly finds that local autonomy in making decisions on local educational needs and
117 priorities results in effective grassroots efforts to improve education in the Commonwealth's public schools
118 only when coupled with sufficient state funding; to this end, the following block grant program is hereby
119 established. With such funds as are provided in the appropriation act, the Department shall distribute block
120 grants to localities to enable compliance with the Commonwealth's requirements for school divisions in effect
121 on January 1, 1995. Therefore, for the purpose of such compliance, the block grant herein established shall

122 consist of a sum equal to the amount appropriated in the appropriation act for the covered programs,
 123 including the at-risk add-on program; dropout prevention, specifically Project YES; Project Discovery;
 124 English as a second language programs, including programs for coverage, non-schooled students;
 125 Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID); the Homework Assistance Program; programs initiated
 126 under the Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program; except that such funds shall not be used to pay any
 127 expenses of participating students at institutions of higher education; and school/community health centers.
 128 Each school board may use any funds received through the block grant to implement the covered programs
 129 and other programs designed to save the Commonwealth's children from educational failure.

130 D. In order to reduce pupil/teacher ratios and class sizes in elementary schools, from such funds as may be
 131 appropriated for this purpose, each school board may employ additional classroom teachers, remedial
 132 teachers, and reading specialists for each of its elementary schools over the requirements of the Standards of
 133 Quality. State and local funding for such additional classroom teachers, remedial teachers, and reading
 134 specialists shall be apportioned as provided in the appropriation act.

135 E. Pursuant to a turnaround specialist program administered by the Department, local school boards
 136 may enter into agreements with individuals to be employed as turnaround specialists to address those
 137 conditions at the school that may impede educational progress and effectiveness and academic success. Local
 138 school boards may offer such turnaround specialists or other administrative personnel incentives such as
 139 increased compensation, improved retirement benefits in accordance with Chapter 6.2 (§ 51.1-617 et seq.) of
 140 Title 51.1, increased deferred compensation in accordance with § 51.1-603, relocation expenses, bonuses, and
 141 other incentives as may be determined by the board.

142 F. E. The General Assembly finds that certain schools have particular difficulty hiring teachers for certain
 143 subject areas and that the need for such teachers in these schools is particularly strong. Accordingly in an
 144 effort to attract and retain high quality teachers, local school boards may offer instructional personnel serving
 145 in such schools as a member of a middle school teacher corps administered by the Department incentives
 146 such as increased compensation, improved retirement benefits in accordance with Chapter 6.2 (§ 51.1-617 et
 147 seq.) of Title 51.1, increased deferred compensation in accordance with § 51.1-603, relocation expenses,
 148 bonuses, and other incentives as may be determined by the board.

149 For purposes of this subsection, "middle school teacher corps" means licensed instructional personnel who
 150 are assigned to a local school division to teach in a subject matter in grades six, seven, or eight where there is
 151 a critical need, as determined by the Department. The contract between such persons and the relevant local
 152 school board shall specify that the contract is for service in the middle school teacher corps.

153 **§ 22.1-253.13:2. (Effective July 1, 2026) Standard 2. Instructional, administrative, and support**
 154 **personnel.**

155 A. The Board shall establish requirements for the licensing of teachers, principals, superintendents, and
 156 other professional personnel.

157 B. School boards shall employ licensed instructional personnel qualified in the relevant subject areas.

158 C. Each school board shall assign licensed instructional personnel in a manner that produces divisionwide
 159 ratios of students in average daily membership to full-time equivalent teaching positions, excluding special
 160 education teachers, principals, assistant principals, school counselors or certain other licensed individuals as
 161 set forth in subdivision H 4, and librarians, that are not greater than the following ratios: (i) 24 to one in
 162 kindergarten with no class being larger than 29 students; if the average daily membership in any kindergarten
 163 class exceeds 24 pupils, a full-time teacher's aide shall be assigned to the class; (ii) 24 to one in grades one,
 164 two, and three with no class being larger than 30 students; (iii) 25 to one in grades four through six with no
 165 class being larger than 35 students; and (iv) 24 to one in English classes in grades six through 12. After
 166 September 30 of any school year, anytime the number of students in a class exceeds the class size limit
 167 established by this subsection, the local school division shall notify the parent of each student in such class of
 168 such fact no later than 10 days after the date on which the class exceeded the class size limit. Such
 169 notification shall state the reason that the class size exceeds the class size limit and describe the measures that
 170 the local school division will take to reduce the class size to comply with this subsection.

171 Within its regulations governing special education programs, the Board shall seek to set pupil/teacher
 172 ratios for pupils with intellectual disability that do not exceed the pupil/teacher ratios for self-contained
 173 classes for pupils with specific learning disabilities.

174 Further, school boards shall assign instructional personnel in a manner that produces schoolwide ratios of
 175 students in average daily memberships to full-time equivalent teaching positions of 21 to one in middle
 176 schools and high schools. School divisions shall provide all middle and high school teachers with one
 177 planning period per day or the equivalent, unencumbered of any teaching or supervisory duties.

178 D. Each local school board shall employ with state and local basic, special education, gifted, and career
 179 and technical education funds a minimum number of licensed, full-time equivalent instructional personnel for
 180 each 1,000 students in average daily membership (ADM) as set forth in the appropriation act.

181 E. In addition to the positions supported by basic aid and in support of regular school year programs of
 182 prevention, intervention, and remediation, state funding, pursuant to the appropriation act, shall be provided
 183 to fund certain full-time equivalent instructional positions for each 1,000 students in grades K through 12

184 who are identified as needing prevention, intervention, and remediation services. State funding for
185 prevention, intervention, and remediation programs provided pursuant to this subsection and the
186 appropriation act may be used to support programs for educationally at-risk students as identified by the local
187 school boards.

188 To provide algebra readiness intervention services required by § 22.1-253.13:1, school divisions may
189 employ mathematics teacher specialists to provide the required algebra readiness intervention services.
190 School divisions using the Standards of Learning Algebra Readiness Initiative funding in this manner shall
191 only employ instructional personnel licensed by the Board.

192 F. In addition to the positions supported by basic aid and those in support of regular school year programs
193 of prevention, intervention, and remediation, state funding, pursuant to the general appropriation act, shall be
194 provided to support ratios of instructional positions to English language learner students, based on each such
195 student's English proficiency level, as established in the general appropriation act, which positions may
196 include dual language teachers who provide instruction in English and in a second language.

197 To provide flexibility in the instruction of English language learners who have limited English proficiency
198 and who are at risk of not meeting state accountability standards, school divisions may use state and local
199 funds from the Standards of Quality Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation account to employ additional
200 English language learner teachers or dual language teachers to provide instruction to identified limited
201 English proficiency students. Using these funds in this manner is intended to supplement the instructional
202 services provided in this section. School divisions using the SOQ Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation
203 funds in this manner shall employ only instructional personnel licensed by the Board.

204 G. In addition to the full-time equivalent positions required elsewhere in this section, each local school
205 board shall employ one reading specialist for each 550 students in kindergarten through grade five and one
206 reading specialist for each 1,100 students in grades six through eight. Each such reading specialist shall have
207 training in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction practices. In addition, each
208 such reading specialist shall have training in the identification of and the appropriate interventions,
209 accommodations, and teaching techniques for students with dyslexia or a related disorder and shall serve as
210 an advisor on dyslexia and related disorders. Such reading specialist shall have an understanding of the
211 definition of dyslexia and a working knowledge of (i) techniques to help a student on the continuum of skills
212 with dyslexia; (ii) dyslexia characteristics that may manifest at different ages and grade levels; (iii) the basic
213 foundation of the keys to reading, including multisensory, explicit, systemic, and structured reading
214 instruction; and (iv) appropriate interventions, accommodations, and assistive technology supports for
215 students with dyslexia.

216 To provide reading intervention services required by § 22.1-253.13:1, school divisions may employ
217 reading specialists to provide the required reading intervention services. School divisions using the Early
218 Reading Intervention Initiative funds in this manner shall employ only instructional personnel licensed by the
219 Board. Local school divisions that employ a sufficient number of reading specialists to meet this staffing
220 standard may assign reading specialists to grade levels according to grade levels with greatest need,
221 regardless of the individual staffing standards established for grades kindergarten through five and six
222 through eight.

223 H. Each local school board shall employ, at a minimum, the following full-time equivalent positions for
224 any school that reports fall membership, according to student enrollment:

225 1. Principals, one full-time in each elementary school, middle school, and high school, to be employed on
226 a 12-month basis;

227 2. Assistant principals in elementary schools, one half-time at 600 students, one full-time at 900 students;
228 assistant principals in middle schools, one full-time for each 600 students; assistant principals in high schools,
229 one full-time for each 600 students; and school divisions that employ a sufficient number of assistant
230 principals to meet this staffing requirement may assign assistant principals to schools within the division
231 according to the area of greatest need, regardless of whether such schools are elementary, middle, or
232 secondary;

233 3. Librarians in elementary schools, one part-time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students; librarians
234 in middle schools, one-half time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students, two full-time at 1,000
235 students; librarians in high schools, one half-time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students, two full-time
236 at 1,000 students. Local school divisions that employ a sufficient number of librarians to meet this staffing
237 requirement may assign librarians to schools within the division according to the area of greatest need,
238 regardless of whether such schools are elementary, middle, or secondary; and

239 4. School counselors, one full-time equivalent position per 325 students in grades kindergarten through
240 12.

241 However, in order to meet the staffing requirements set forth in this subdivision, any local school board (i)
242 may employ, under a provisional license issued by the Department for three school years with an allowance
243 for an additional two-year extension with the approval of the division superintendent, any professional
244 counselor licensed by the Board of Counseling, clinical social worker licensed by the Board of Social Work,
245 psychologist licensed by the Board of Psychology, or other licensed counseling professional with appropriate

246 experience and training, provided that any such individual makes progress toward completing the
 247 requirements for full licensure as a school counselor during such period of employment or (ii) in the event
 248 that the school board does not receive any application from a licensed school counselor, professional
 249 counselor, clinical social worker, or psychologist or another licensed counseling professional with
 250 appropriate experience and training to fill a school counselor vacancy in the school division, may enter into
 251 an annual contract with another entity for the provision of school counseling services by a licensed
 252 professional counselor, clinical social worker, or psychologist or another licensed counseling professional
 253 with appropriate experience and training. Local school boards that employ a sufficient number of individuals
 254 to meet the staffing requirements set forth in this subdivision may assign such individuals to schools within
 255 the division according to the area of greatest need, regardless of whether such schools are elementary, middle,
 256 or high schools.

257 I. Local school boards shall employ five full-time equivalent positions per 1,000 students in grades
 258 kindergarten through five to serve as elementary resource teachers in art, music, and physical education.

259 J. Local school boards shall employ two full-time equivalent positions per 1,000 students in grades
 260 kindergarten through 12, one to provide technology support and one to serve as an instructional technology
 261 resource teacher.

262 To provide flexibility, school divisions may use the state and local funds for instructional technology
 263 resource teachers to employ a data coordinator position, an instructional technology resource teacher position,
 264 or a data coordinator/instructional resource teacher blended position. The data coordinator position is
 265 intended to serve as a resource to principals and classroom teachers in the area of data analysis and
 266 interpretation for instructional and school improvement purposes, as well as for overall data management and
 267 administration of state assessments. School divisions using these funds in this manner shall employ only
 268 instructional personnel licensed by the Board.

269 K. Local school boards may employ additional positions that exceed these minimal staffing requirements.
 270 These additional positions may include, but are not limited to, those funded through the state's incentive and
 271 categorical programs as set forth in the appropriation act.

272 L. A combined school, such as kindergarten through 12, shall meet at all grade levels the staffing
 273 requirements for the highest grade level in that school; this requirement shall apply to all staff, except for
 274 school counselors or certain other licensed individuals as set forth in subdivision H 4, and shall be based on
 275 the school's total enrollment. The Board may grant waivers from these staffing levels upon request from local
 276 school boards seeking to implement experimental or innovative programs that are not consistent with these
 277 staffing levels.

278 M. School boards shall, however, annually, on or before December 31, report to the public (i) the actual
 279 pupil/teacher ratios in elementary school classrooms in the local school division by school for the current
 280 school year; and (ii) the actual pupil/teacher ratios in middle school and high school in the local school
 281 division by school for the current school year. Actual pupil/teacher ratios shall include only the teachers who
 282 teach the grade and class on a full-time basis and shall exclude resource personnel. School boards shall report
 283 pupil/teacher ratios that include resource teachers in the same annual report. Any classes funded through the
 284 voluntary kindergarten through third grade class size reduction program shall be identified as such classes.
 285 Any classes having waivers to exceed the requirements of this subsection shall also be identified. Schools
 286 shall be identified; however, the data shall be compiled in a manner to ensure the confidentiality of all teacher
 287 and pupil identities.

288 N. Students enrolled in a public school on a less than full-time basis shall be counted in ADM in the
 289 relevant school division. Students who are either (i) enrolled in a nonpublic school or (ii) receiving home
 290 instruction pursuant to § 22.1-254.1, and who are enrolled in public school on a less than full-time basis in
 291 any mathematics, science, English, history, social science, career and technical education, fine arts, foreign
 292 language, or health education or physical education course shall be counted in the ADM in the relevant
 293 school division on a pro rata basis as provided in the appropriation act. Each such course enrollment by such
 294 students shall be counted as 0.25 in the ADM; however, no such nonpublic or home school student shall be
 295 counted as more than one-half a student for purposes of such pro rata calculation. Such calculation shall not
 296 include enrollments of such students in any other public school courses.

297 O. Each school board shall provide at least three specialized student support positions per 1,000 students.
 298 For purposes of this subsection, specialized student support positions include school social workers, school
 299 psychologists, school nurses, licensed behavior analysts, licensed assistant behavior analysts, and other
 300 licensed health and behavioral positions, which may either be employed by the school board or provided
 301 through contracted services.

302 In order to fill vacant school psychologist positions, any local school board may employ, under a
 303 provisional license issued by the Department for three school years with an allowance for an additional two-
 304 year extension with the approval of the division superintendent, clinical psychologists licensed by the Board
 305 of Psychology, provided that any such individual makes progress toward completing the requirements for full
 306 licensure as a school psychologist during such period of employment.

307 P. Each local school board shall provide those support services that are necessary for the efficient and

308 cost-effective operation and maintenance of its public schools.

309 For the purposes of this title, unless the context otherwise requires, "support services positions" shall
310 include the following:

311 1. Executive policy and leadership positions, including school board members, superintendents and
312 assistant superintendents;

313 2. Fiscal and human resources positions, including fiscal and audit operations;

314 3. Student support positions, including (i) social work administrative positions not included in subsection
315 O; (ii) school counselor administrative positions not included in subdivision H 4; (iii) homebound
316 administrative positions supporting instruction; (iv) attendance support positions related to truancy and
317 dropout prevention; and (v) health and behavioral administrative positions not included in subsection O;

318 4. Instructional personnel support, including professional development positions and library and media
319 positions not included in subdivision H 3;

320 5. Technology professional positions not included in subsection J;

321 6. Operation and maintenance positions, including facilities; pupil transportation positions; operation and
322 maintenance professional and service positions; and security service, trade, and laborer positions;

323 7. Technical and clerical positions for fiscal and human resources, student support, instructional personnel
324 support, operation and maintenance, administration, and technology; and

325 8. School-based clerical personnel in elementary schools; part-time to 299 students, one full-time at 300
326 students; clerical personnel in middle schools; one full-time and one additional full-time for each 600
327 students beyond 200 students and one full-time for the library at 750 students; clerical personnel in high
328 schools; one full-time and one additional full-time for each 600 students beyond 200 students and one full-
329 time for the library at 750 students. Local school divisions that employ a sufficient number of school-based
330 clerical personnel to meet this staffing requirement may assign the clerical personnel to schools within the
331 division according to the area of greatest need, regardless of whether such schools are elementary, middle, or
332 secondary.

333 Pursuant to the appropriation act, support services shall be funded from basic school aid.

334 School divisions may use the state and local funds for support services to provide additional instructional
335 services.

336 Q. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, when determining the assignment of instructional and
337 other licensed personnel in subsections C through J, a local school board shall not be required to include full-
338 time students of approved virtual school programs.

339 R. Each local school board shall designate a faculty member to serve as a special education parent/family
340 liaison. The special education parent/family liaison shall serve as a resource to parents and families to
341 understand and engage in (i) the referral, evaluation, reevaluation, and eligibility process if they suspect that
342 their child has a disability and (ii) the IEP process and shall work in collaboration with the special education
343 family support centers established pursuant to § 22.1-214.5. Each school board shall post the name of the
344 designated special education parent/family liaison publicly on its website.

345 S. Each local school board shall designate a faculty member to serve as the high-quality instructional
346 materials liaison. Such liaison shall receive support from the Department to serve as a resource for the
347 division and its schools to select and implement textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials and
348 aligned professional learning resources.

349 *T. There is hereby established the At-Risk Program for the purpose of supporting programs and services
350 for students who are educationally at risk, including prevention, intervention, or remediation activities
351 required pursuant to Standard 1 (§ 22.1-253.13:1); teacher recruitment programs and incentives; Dropout
352 Prevention; community and school-based truancy officer programs; Advancement Via Individual
353 Determination (AVID); Project Discovery; programs for English language learners; the hiring of additional
354 school counselors, testing coordinators, and licensed behavioral analysts; and programs relating to
355 increasing the success of disadvantaged students in completing a high school degree and providing
356 opportunities to encourage further education and training. A portion of the state funding provided for the At-
357 Risk Program shall be allocated to school divisions on a flat per-student percentage rate set out in the
358 general appropriation act and a portion of such funding shall be allocated to school divisions on a variable
359 rate set out in the general appropriation act based on the concentration of poverty in the school division.*

360 *U. State-funded add-ons shall be provided to support each special education student and shall be
361 calculated by multiplying a differential student weight set forth in the general appropriation act based on
362 whether the student is served at service level I or service level II, as set forth in 8VAC20-81-40, by the
363 relevant basic aid per-pupil amount for each special education student. Local funding obligations for such
364 add-ons shall be determined by the composite index of local ability-to-pay.*

365 **§ 51.1-617. Definitions.**

366 As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

367 "Board" means the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Retirement System.

368 "Eligible employee" means any turnaround specialist or member of the middle school teacher corps
369 providing services for a participating public school division pursuant to subsections D and E ~~and F~~ of

370 § 22.1-199.1.

371 "Participating employer" means any local public school board that offers and pays the costs of improved
372 retirement benefits as described in subsections *D and E* ~~and F~~ of § 22.1-199.1.

373 "Plan" means the defined contribution plan established pursuant to this chapter and the provisions of §
374 401 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

375 "Qualified participant" means an eligible employee of a participating employer.