

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB72

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** McPike

3. **Committee:** Finance and Appropriations

4. **Title:** Board of Education; creation and maintenance of Virginia Parent Data Portal.

5. **Summary:** Requires the Board of Education, on or before July 1, 2025, to create and maintain the Virginia Parent Data Portal that, among other things, (i) displays individualized student assessment data on all state-supported assessments, defined in the bill, (a) in a format that shows both current and cumulative data over time and (b) within 45 days of a state-supported assessment window closing for each state-supported assessment; (ii) provides (a) a description of the purpose of each state-supported assessment, (b) an explanation of how to interpret student data on each state-supported assessment, (c) a comparison of a student's performance on each state-supported assessment with the performance of the student's school, the student's school division, and the Commonwealth, and (d) guidance to support parents in understanding and addressing the specific academic needs of their students; (iii) is viewable from a mobile device in addition to a desktop computer; (iv) leverages existing school division user management to restrict user access to students and their parents; and (v) is compatible with each local school division's existing student information system to enable direct integration of state-supported assessment data into local school division parent portals. The bill requires the Board and the Department of Education to develop professional development for principals and teachers in encouraging and supporting parents to engage with, interpret, and use student assessment data available through the Portal to support their student's learning and requires each school board to annually provide such professional development to principals and teachers.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 121

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary, see Item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This bill requires the Board of Education to create and maintain a Virginia Parent Data Portal and for the Department of Education (DOE) to develop professional development for principals and teachers related to the portal.

The provisions of this bill could be met by two different systems, either a new statewide portal or by using existing local portals with improved statewide integration.

In order to implement a statewide parent portal DOE would need to contract with a vendor to establish and maintain the portal. DOE estimates one time start up costs of \$4 million general fund in FY25 and ongoing costs of \$2 million in FY26 and future years for licensing costs.

Alternatively, DOE could rely on the local school divisions' existing parent portals to send out the information required in this bill. For this option DOE estimates start up costs of \$1.5 million general fund in FY25 to contract with the different vendors that are used for local systems to establish a common data standard to connect DOE to these systems. DOE estimates ongoing costs of approximately \$476,000 in FY26 and future years to maintain the data connections. Additionally, each local school division would be required to continue to pay licensing costs for their portal as they currently do, or as negotiated for future years. Any actual impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

For both systems DOE estimates that additional positions would be needed to support this work. For both systems this includes the following six positions: an assessment specialist; a security analyst; a systems administrator; a system architect to manage and coordinate technical components within the Commonwealth of Virginia (COV) network, the DOE data environment, and vendor and local school division data environments; a customer support staffer to work with divisions; and a staffer to develop and implement professional development. If DOE were to rely on existing local portals, one additional customer support staffer would be required to work with divisions across all the different portals.

Assuming an average salary of \$90,000 across these positions, DOE estimates a total annual cost of \$878,172 general fund, including salary, benefits, and technology, beginning in FY25 for positions to support the statewide system.

Assuming the same average salary and benefits, DOE estimates a total annual cost of \$1,024,534 general fund, including salary benefits and technology, beginning in FY25 for positions to support the local portal option.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Board of Education, Department of Education, local school divisions

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: This bill is identical to HB654.