

HCPS 2025 Legislative Priorities

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The School Board of Henrico County Public Schools and its leadership are committed to the advancement of public education to ensure all students have the tools and resources they need to achieve their full potential. The Board recognizes the vital role that legislation and the division's strategic plan play in shaping the educational landscape, and members are dedicated to advocating for policies that prioritize student learning while respecting the expertise and valuable contributions of the division's professional educators. The School Board firmly believes that any legislation affecting education should be thoughtfully considered, to maintain high standards and reasonable workloads ensuring that educators can devote their time and energy to meaningful teaching and learning. These [2025 Legislative Priorities, formally approved on Nov. 14, 2024](#), reflect the issues the School Board sees as most vital to the success of Henrico County Public Schools' students and the larger school community.

Academic Achievement

- Provide additional state funding for targeted services aligned to the state's new performance and support framework to support student achievement directly.
- Support additional funding and expanded flexibility for English learner services.
- Support expanding dual enrollment courses in public high schools, grants/scholarships for teachers to earn master's degrees required to teach dual enrollment courses, and/or alternatives to required master's degrees to teach in dual enrollment programs.
- Support legislation to define the role of special education advocates at individual meetings and hearings more clearly, including the development and implementation of an associated code of ethics, which promotes a positive approach for parents and advocates while fostering excellence in conducive learning environments.

[HB 1679](#)- Del. Cohen- **Board of Education; Standards of Learning assessments; availability in commonly spoken languages other than English.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 1769](#)- Del. Martinez- **Board of Education; School Performance and Support Framework; readiness indicator; chronic absenteeism calculation; certain excused student absences excluded.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 1783](#)- Del. Orrock- **Establishment of chapters of career and technical student organizations; exception.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 1824](#)- Del. Reid- **High school graduation requirements; history and social studies credits; certain substitutions permitted.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 1880](#)- Del. Sewell- **Public schools; enrollment of certain military children with disabilities; provision of special education services and accommodations.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 1892](#)- Del. Seibold- **Children with disabilities; annual individualized education program planning process; dual enrollment courses; certain parental notice required; model notice.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 1957](#)- Del. Helmer- **Board of Education; Standards of Learning assessments and related student assessment methods; assessment development, implementation, and administration reform.** *Certain provisions of the bill are subject to reenactment clause and certain others are subject to a delayed effective date of July 1, 2026.*

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 2032](#)- Del. Reaser- **Department of Education; English language learner students; data collection on expenditures.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 2219](#)- Del. Tran- **Students who need or use augmentative and alternative communication; documentation of needs on individualized education program; staff training.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[SB 1034](#)- Sen. Pekarsky- **Students who need or use augmentative and alternative communication; documentation of needs on individualized education program; staff training.**

(Passed Senate, passed House with amendment, return to Senate for approval as of 2/11)

[HB 2454](#)- Del. Rasoul- **Board of Education; public school accountability system; Three "E" Readiness Framework; include and incentivize work-based learning experiences.**

(Passed House, reported from Sen. Education, in Senate for 3rd reading as of 2/11)

[SB 784](#)- Sen. Suetterlein- **Board of Education; public school accountability system; Three "E" Readiness Framework; include and incentivize work-based learning experiences.**

(passed Senate, reported from Sen. Education, in House for 3rd reading as of 2/11)

[HB 2455](#)- Del. Rasoul- **Public high school students; opportunity to earn transferable meta-major associate degree during high school to reduce college debt.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 2590](#)- Del. J. Cole- **Virginia Student Training Employment Pipeline for U.S. Procurement (STEP UP) Program established.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 2606](#)- Del. Ware- **Students with disabilities; due process hearings; certain complaints.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[SB 738](#)- Sen. Pekarsky- **Public elementary and secondary schools; student discipline; student cell phone possession and use policies; development and implementation.**

(Passed Senate and passed House with a substitute, returns to Senate for approval as of 2/11)

Funding

- Support specific revisions to Virginia's K-12 funding formula that promote full SOQ funding included in the July 2023 Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study.
- Oppose any unfunded mandates.
- Support state funding to recruit and retain critical instructional, operational and support staff, and to remove obstacles to their hiring.
- Support legislation and funding that improves equitable access to high-speed Internet and appropriate technology for all students, communities, and school staff.
- Support the use of state funds to fill gaps that may arise from reductions or elimination of federal funds dedicated to school lunch programs or academic resources funded primarily through federal grants (Title I, Title II, etc.).

[HB 1983](#)- Del. Askew- **Board of Education; support services personnel; annual collection of certain staffing data required; report.**

(Passed House and Senate, awaiting signature)

[SB 968](#)- Sen. Carroll Foy- **Board of Education; support services personnel; annual collection of certain staffing data required; report.**

(Passed Senate and House, awaiting signature)

[HB 2244](#)- Del. Cousins- **Standards of Quality; standards of accreditation; measurement of student educational performance and academic achievement; calculation of proportionality score required.** Finally, the bill requires its provisions to be implemented beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 2471](#)- Del. Rasoul- **Expansion of Medicaid services for students at public schools; certain platforms, surveys, and analyses.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

Instructional Personnel/Teacher Recruitment

- Support state funding to address critical teacher shortages, including increased teacher pay to the national average, increased funding for the Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program, and other grants and bonuses for critical shortage teaching areas and hard-to-staff schools.
- Support actions to create additional avenues for teachers to obtain licenses and for people to enter the teaching profession.
- Support legislation to fund, waive or remove certification and licensure fees, and to reduce teacher workloads through the elimination of outdated or nonessential State requirements.
- Completely remove the support staff cap on positions, providing school divisions much-needed flexibility to fund critical support positions, such as instructional assistants, assistant principals, and those who provide wellness-related services.
- Make the extended 180-day limit for long-term substitute teachers permanent, which is set to expire at the end of the 2024-25 school year.
- Support full licensure as a prerequisite to obtaining teacher continuing contract status.

[HB 1674](#)- Del. Laufer- **Board of Education; accreditation requirements for professional education programs; exemption for professional education programs leading to certain endorsements.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 1829](#)- Del. Simonds- **Board of Education; certain add-on endorsements for mathematics teachers.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 1915](#)- Del. Reaser- **Public school teachers; written notice of noncontinuation of continuing contract.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[SB 1032](#)- Sen. Pekarsky- **Public elementary and secondary schools; teacher; terms of employment; reemployment of teacher who has not achieved continuing contract status; written notice required.**

(Passed Senate and House, awaiting signature as of 2/11)

[HB 1924](#)- Del. Ward- **School boards; prohibition against hiring or contracting for the services of certain individuals; certain criminal convictions.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 1936](#)- Del. Reaser- **Department of Education; index of required teacher training.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 1993](#)- Del. Bennett-Parker- **Public school buses; display of advertising; hiring of school bus drivers in the local school division.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 2018](#)- Del. Anthony- **Board of Education; teacher licensure; career and technical education; alternative pathway to provisional licensure.**

(Passed House and Senate, awaiting signature)

[HB 2103](#)- Del. Pugh Kent- **Board of Education; Regulations Governing Allowable Credit for Teaching Experience; certain credit substitution allowance required.** *The bill contains a reenactment clause.*

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 2201](#)- Del. McQuinn- **Public schools; temporarily employed teachers; rules and requirements; extension of time limitation.** *The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2027.*

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 2237](#)- Del. Cousins- **Public school employees; suspension; conditions for continued receipt of salary.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 2381](#)- Del. Maldonado- **National Teacher Certification Incentive Reward Program and Fund; eligibility; incentive grant awards.**

(Failed)

[HB 1626](#)- Del. Thomas- **Public elementary and secondary school teachers; certain training activities; requirements and limitations.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[SB 822](#)- Sen. VanValkenburg- **Department of Education; Public elementary and secondary school teachers; certain required training activities; comprehensive survey; report.**

(Passed Senate, in House Education committee as of 2/11)

Safe Schools and Student Wellness

- Support legislation that strengthens school safety and security and provides resources for school divisions to help fund security personnel, technology or hardware.
- Support legislation that promotes enhanced safe storage of weapons and parental accountability.
- Support legislation and funding to increase school-based mental health professionals, school counselors, school social workers and school psychologists while also advocating for mental health programs with licensed mental health professionals (LMHP) to serve students and families outside of school hours.
- Advocate for the expansion of school- and community-based resources available to families, both during and outside of school hours, especially those experiencing housing instability or food insecurity.

- Support legislation that promotes school construction that is environmentally sustainable and that supports healthy indoor and outdoor environmental practices.

[HB 1663](#)- Del. Jones- **Guidelines, policies, and procedures on the prevention and management of heat illness in student-athletes.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 1678](#)- Del. Cohen- **School board policies; parental notification; safe storage of prescription drugs and firearms in the household.**

(Passed House and Senate, awaiting signature)

[SB 1048](#)- Sen. Pekarsky- **School board policies; parental notification; safe storage of prescription drugs and firearms in the household.**

(Passed Senate, reported from House Education, in House for 3rd reading as of 2/11)

[HB 1700](#)- Del. Clark- **School boards; bleeding control programs; bleeding control kits; immunity from civil liability.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 1806](#)- Del. Cohen- **Individualized education programs; individualized accommodations and supports during emergencies.**

(Passed House, passed Senate with substitute, returns to House for approval as of 2/11)

[HB 1910](#)- Del. Pugh Kent- **Public elementary and secondary schools; nutritional standards for school meals and other foods; nutrition requirements; certain color additives prohibited.** *The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2027.*

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 1945](#)- Del. Reaser- **School boards; student access to telehealth services; policies.** *This bill is a recommendation of the Joint Commission on Health Care.*

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 1947](#)- Del. Seibold- **Department of Education; survey of local education agencies on school-based mental and behavioral health services; report.** *The bill requires the Department to report to the Commission on Youth by November 1, 2025, any findings and recommendations that result from the survey.*

(Passed House and Senate, awaiting signature)

[HB 2051](#)- Del. Green- **School safety audit committees; annual meetings on school grounds with local law enforcement permitted.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 2055](#)- Del. Reaser- **Student health and safety; responsibility to contact parent of student at imminent risk of suicide; provision of suicide prevention materials required.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 2104](#)- Del. Bennett-Parker- **Seizure rescue medications; administration by certain school employees; possession by certain students.**

(Passed House, passed Senate with substitute, returns to House for approval as of 2/11)

[HB 2341](#)- Del. Shin- **Department of Education; culturally responsive and language-appropriate mental health support and services; guidance and policies.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 2543](#)- Del. Laufer- **Department of Education; model memorandum of understanding; counseling from school counselors by way of telehealth.** *This bill is a recommendation of the Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness in the Commonwealth.*

(Passed House and Senate, awaiting signature)

[HB 2679](#)- Del. Reaser- **School boards; threat assessment teams and procedures; parental notification of student determined to pose a threat of violence or physical harm to self or others; provision of certain recognition and response materials required.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

*HB 2733- Del. Higgins- **Department of Education; statewide mobile application for student reporting of suspicious activity.***

(Failed)

[HB 2774](#)- Del. Singh- **School-connected overdoses and opioid antagonist treatments; policies relating to parental notification.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

Local School Board Autonomy

- Oppose any legislation that would limit or remove local school board authority over any established schools in the local school division.

[HB 1988](#)- Del. Askew- **Local school boards; powers and duties; binding arbitration agreements.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

[HB 2640](#)- Del. Henson- **Department of Education; development of guidelines and information relating to virtual or online learning; public health emergencies.** *This bill is a recommendation of the Joint Subcommittee to Study Pandemic Response and Preparedness in the Commonwealth.*

(Passed House, in Senate Education [not yet referred to subcommittee] as of 2/11)

[HB 2777](#)- Del. Rasoul- **Public schools; textbooks and other high-quality instructional materials.**

(Passed House, in Senate Education subcommittee as of 2/11)

In addition to these 2025 Legislative Priorities, the Board holds continuing positions that support a wide variety of other areas to enhance K-12 education in Henrico County and across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

For information related to the HCPS legislative agenda, please contact [Ken Blackstone](#), assistant director of communications.