



LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS 2018

INTRODUCTION

The Alexandria City School Board believes that, as an elected body, it is better able to respond to the needs of students and interests of families than is the state through additional mandates. While the Board benefits from state goals and guidelines, we believe that local school boards should have the flexibility to determine policies in areas such as grading, instructional spending, school safety, and student discipline.

ISSUES

Funding

- The Alexandria City School Board supports recognizing the educational needs of low-income students by providing more funding for the At-Risk Add-On in the budget.
- The Alexandria City School Board supports the full funding of the Standards of Quality and of all new mandates passed by the General Assembly.
- The Alexandria City School Board supports the return to the General Assembly's prior practice of funding support services to school divisions based upon actual local school division practices.
- The Alexandria City School Board supports continuation of the Cost of Competing factor.

Mandates

- The Alexandria City School Board supports legislation that would establish a School Health Advisory Board to advise the General Assembly on pending legislation concerning health policy that affects elementary and secondary schools.

Redesigned High School Graduation Requirements

- The Alexandria City School Board supports a one-year delay in the implementation of the redesigned high school graduation requirements. Since the State Board of Education approved the Standards of Accreditation in November and the SOA's still will have to go through the procedures of the Administrative Process Act, school divisions will need more time for implementation rather than a September 2018 start date.

Higher Education for Immigrant Students Who Are Not Permanent Residents

- The Alexandria City School Board supports legislation that provides eligibility for in-state tuition to students who are not yet permanent residents provided they meet criteria established by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Standards of Quality

- The Alexandria City School Board supports the SOQ staffing changes that have been proposed by the State Board of Education.

Continuing Issues

- The Alexandria City School Board supports legislation to return control of the public school calendar to local school boards.
- The Alexandria City School Board opposes measures that would require the transfer of local taxpayer funds to other jurisdictions or to private providers should a student choose to attend a virtual program outside of the home school division.
- The Alexandria City School Board opposes any diversion of public education funds to non-public schools and specifically opposes the use of tuition tax credits, tax deductions, or vouchers as a means of reimbursing parents for their children's K-12 education expenses.