



### **The Promise**

“The General Assembly shall provide for a system of free public elementary and secondary schools for all children of school age throughout the Commonwealth, and shall seek to ensure that an educational program of high quality is established and continually maintained.” —*Constitution of Virginia, Article VIII, Sec. 1*

### **In Reality**

The Commonwealth is retreating from its responsibility to provide each and every student with quality schools:

- Since the Great Recession, Virginia’s state funding of K-12 schools has declined 8% when adjusted for inflation. Meanwhile, student enrollments have risen.
- Virginia is the 12th wealthiest state, but we rank 40th in per-pupil state funding.
- The gap between what Virginia teachers make and the national average is near an all-time high. Virginia teachers earn \$8,483 under the national average, ranking the state 32nd in the country.
- Virginia school divisions, especially small and rural districts, lack the state support they need to offer programs that wealthier communities take for granted.

Fund Our Future is a campaign to provide Virginia students with the schools they deserve. The Virginia Education Association and its allies are committed to the following goals:

### **Funding to Support Quality Schools**

The General Assembly must fund the Virginia Board of Education’s revisions to the Standards of Quality, which will support vital positions in our schools. And we must find solutions to the challenge that localities face funding their share of the SOQs.

### **Professional Pay for All Educators**

Teachers and education support professionals are the backbone of successful schools. The future of Virginia public education depends on its ability to recruit and retain a highly-skilled and diverse workforce. Virginia teacher pay must, at minimum, be brought up to the national average, and all education support professionals must earn a living wage.

### **A Voice on the Job through Collective Bargaining**

Virginia is one of only three states whose laws forbid public employees from engaging in collective bargaining with their employers. We believe collective bargaining allows teachers and support professionals to bring their professional expertise to the table—and that’s good for students. We support Del. Guzman’s HB 582 and Sen. Boysko’s SB 1022.

For more information, go to [www.FundOurFutureVa.org](http://www.FundOurFutureVa.org)