



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** 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 has never been wider. Virginia teachers earn **\$9,037 under** the national average, ranking the state 33rd in the country. Comparing the pay of Virginia teachers to those in similar professions, Virginia ranks **last** in the United States.
- 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

In 2020, Virginia educators won the right to engage in collective bargaining with their school divisions. We believe collective bargaining allows teachers and support professionals to bring their professional expertise to the table—and that’s good for students. We will advocate for agreements in every Virginia locality.

For more information, go to www.FundOurFutureVa.org