Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding
Summary of Recent Investments
October 26, 2026

Summary

The Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding was formed to provide oversight and make recommendations regarding Standards of Quality funding policies. In response to a 2023 JLARC report, "Virginia's K-12 Funding Formula," the Joint Subcommittee was first tasked with reviewing the JLARC report and recommendations and developing an appropriate implementation plan.

Joint Subcommittee Actions to Date

The Joint Subcommittee previously met in 2024, and developed the following recommendations:

- Prioritize near-term JLARC recommendations.
- Explore options to further support special education.
- Address data and infrastructure needs to support the Joint Subcommittee.

Budget language from the 2026 Session directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to "issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a contractor to support the development of a new funding formula. The RFP shall be subject to the approval of a majority of the House members and a majority of the Senate members of the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding. The Superintendent shall ensure continued collaboration between the contractor, the Joint Subcommittee, and the Department of Planning and Budget."

FY 2023 - FY 2028 K-12 Investments

Progress has been made on a number of recommendations, and ongoing state K-12 funding has increased by just over $4.0 billion, or 50%, since FY 2023. Major actions contributing to this funding increase include:

- $1.5 billion in additional funding for 29% in cumulative salary increases from FY 2023-2028
    - In addition, $375.4 million has been provided for three one-time bonuses.
- $273.2 million in additional investments to the At-Risk Add-On program
- $537.5 million in additional funded support staff
- $126.8 million to create and increase funding for a special education add-on
- $106.9 million to support additional instructional positions, including English language learner teachers and reading specialist positions

Note: The $4.0 billion figure above also includes new funding for rebenchmarking and technical updates, school construction, and early childhood. Significant one-time investments were provided over the same time period but are not included.

Joint Subcommittee Charge

Item 1

S.1. The Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees shall each appoint up to five members from their respective committees to a Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding to provide on-going direction and oversight of the Standards of Quality funding cost policies and to make recommendations to their respective committees.

2. As part of its oversight, the Joint Subcommittee shall: (i) review the recommendations and policy options offered in the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission's July 2023 report, “Virginia's K-12 Funding Formula"; (ii) determine the appropriateness of implementing each recommendation or policy option, (iii) propose appropriate amendments to each recommendation or policy option and (iv) develop a long-range plan for the phased implementation of its recommendations. In its deliberations, the Joint Subcommittee shall consider the long-term fiscal implications of each recommendation.

3. The Joint Subcommittee shall submit initial recommendations and an implementation plan to the Governor and the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees no later than November 1, 2024.

4. The school divisions, the staff of the Virginia Department of Education, and staff of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, are directed to provide technical assistance, as required, to the joint subcommittee.