

# Presentation to Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee

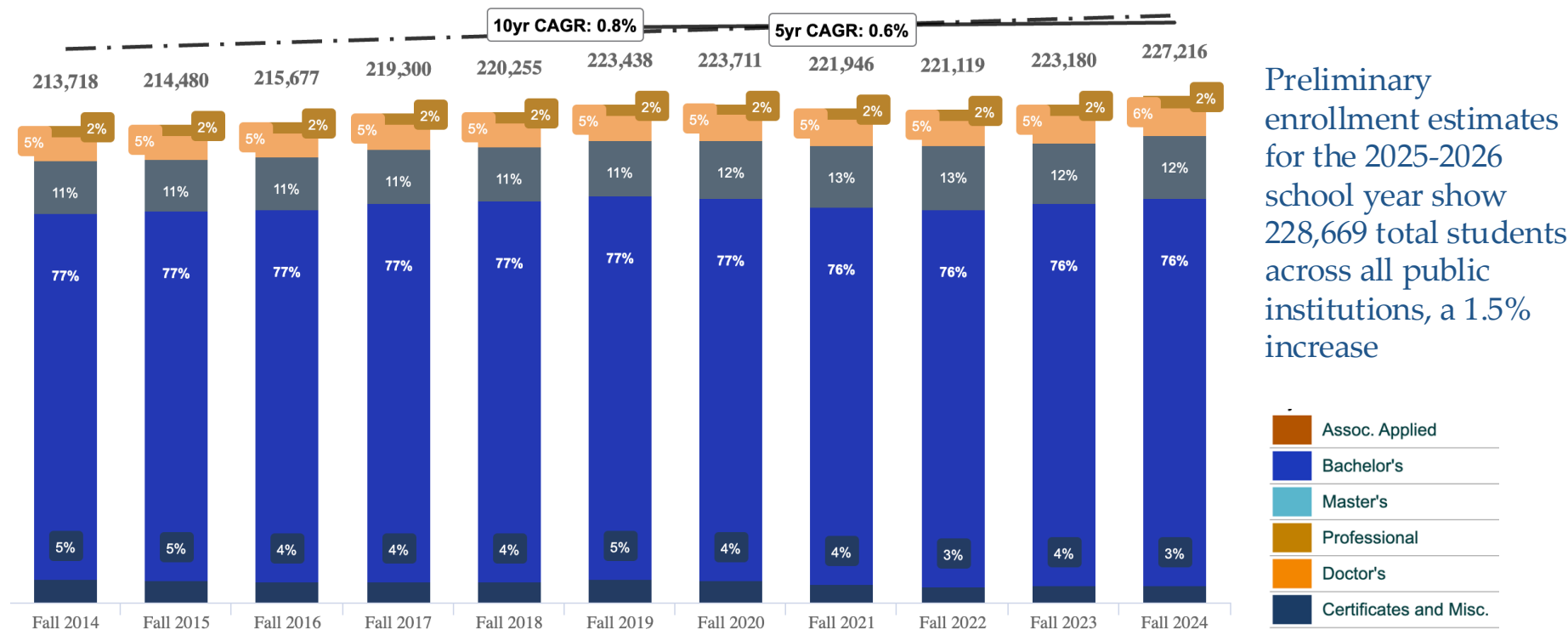
Education Subcommittee

December 1, 2025



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER  
EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

# Public 4-Year Enrollment Trends



# International Student Enrollment

Institution	International Students	Fall 2024	Fall 2025	Percentage Chg From Last Year	Net Change
Total Public Four-Year Institutions	Undergraduates Students	6,763	7,050	4.2%	287
Total Public Four-Year Institutions	Graduate Students	8,706	7,568	-13.1%	-1,138
Total Public Four-Year Institutions	First Professional Students	148	133	-10.1%	-15
<b>Total Public Four-Year Institutions</b>	<b>All Students</b>	<b>15,617</b>	<b>14,751</b>	<b>-5.5%</b>	<b>-866</b>
Total Private, Four-Year Institutions	Undergraduates Students	2,020	1,912	-5.3%	-108
Total Private, Four-Year Institutions	Graduate Students	664	517	-22.1%	-147
Total Private, Four-Year Institutions	First Professional Students	114	118	3.5%	4
<b>Total Private, Four-Year Institutions</b>	<b>All Students</b>	<b>2,798</b>	<b>2,547</b>	<b>-9.0%</b>	<b>-251</b>

Preliminary numbers - Modest increase in undergraduate international student enrollment at public institutions insufficient to offset declines in graduate student enrollment.

# Council's Budget and Policy Recommendations

**Summary of SCHEV Budget Recommendations for General Fund Support in 2026-28 Biennium**  
(in millions)

Category	Item	FY 2027	FY 2028	Biennial Total
Tuition and Fee Mitigation (operational support)	State portion of salaries and health premiums	\$46.0	\$46.0	\$92.0
	State portion of inflationary cost	\$18.0	\$18.0	\$36.0
	State portion of operations & maintenance	\$4.7	\$4.7	\$9.4
Affordability and Access	Undergraduate need-based financial aid	\$9.2	\$10.0	\$19.2
	Tuition Assistance Grant program - fill gap and increase annual award by \$50 per year	\$8.7	\$11.5	\$20.2
	Military Survivors and Dependent Education	-	\$2.5	\$2.5
Student Success and Labor Market Outcomes	New Economy Workforce Credential Grant	\$11.9	\$15.4	\$27.3
	Mental health workforce pilot program	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$2.0
	Constructive Dialogue Initiative	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.2
	Degree productivity	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.2
	Pathways to Adventure	\$1.5	\$1.5	\$3.0
	Student Advising and Access	\$2.5	\$2.5	\$5.0
	Adult non-completers pilot evaluation	\$0.5	\$0.5	\$1.0
Collaborative Initiatives	Virginia Longitudinal Data System	\$0.5	\$0.5	\$1.0
	SCHEV Operating Budget	\$0.7	\$0.7	\$1.4
	Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC)	\$0.2	\$0.2	\$0.4
	Virginia Sea Grant (VASG)	\$0.8	\$0.8	\$1.6
	Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA)	\$0.5	\$0.8	\$1.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$106.9</b>	<b>\$116.8</b>	<b>\$223.7</b>

Council recommendations include:

- Raising TAG award by \$50 per award year
- Expanding the mental health pilot program
- Expanding funding for the Workforce Credential Grant
- Establishing a direct admissions portal
- Pilot for re-enrollment of non-completers (some college, no credential)

Additional considerations are adjustments to the transfer grant program to encourage more participation, and addressing previously approved capital projects that have been on hold since the last budget session

# One-time Funding – FY25

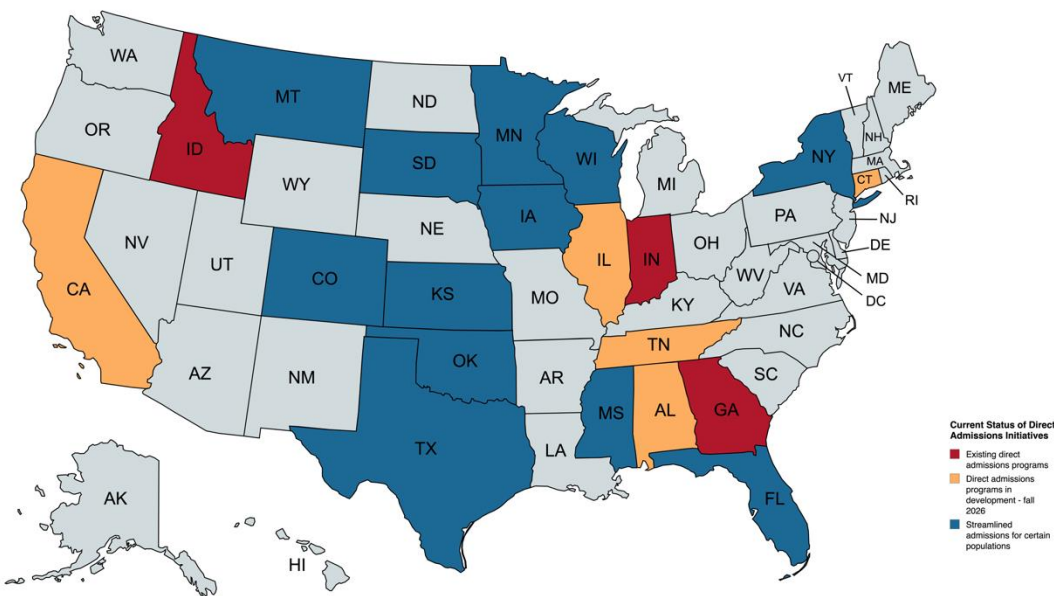
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For FY26, the General Assembly appropriated additional one-time funding for:

- \$1.8M to support additional TAG awards for private institutions serving a higher proportion of Hispanic students
- \$20M to support the VMSDEP tuition waiver program – the baseline in FY26-28 is \$65M
- \$106M for E&G support
- \$15M for student financial aid

While the fiscal picture is much cloudier than earlier in 2025, reducing E&G and other one-time support will create a gap for institutions. SCHEV Council recommends continuing FY25 one-time funds which have been used to support several activities to ensure student success but can broadly be categorized as affordability and access. Institutions have mostly used the funds to address student financial need which results in minimizing tuition and fee increases.

# Virginia and Direct Admissions



- Idaho, Indiana and Georgia operate state-specific direct admissions programs
- Illinois and Connecticut operate statewide direct admissions programs with the Common App
- Fifteen other states have limited admissions programs targeting specific students or institutions, but are not statewide
- SUNY is advancing a form of direct admission, begun in 2024
- CA Governor signed legislation in October to advance statewide direct admissions
- Tennessee and Alabama launching pilots in 2026

# Pell Initiative for Virginia

	2020-21			2023-24		
	Enrollment	Avg. Award	Percentage	Enrollment	Avg. Award	Percentage
Total Public Four-Year Institutions	45,842	\$4,458	26.2%	47,730	\$5,469	27.4%
Christopher Newport University	657	\$4,534	13.8%	733	\$5,461	16.6%
George Mason University	8,614	\$4,266	31.3%	9,068	\$5,405	32.1%
James Madison University	2,954	\$4,391	15.0%	3,059	\$5,333	14.6%
Longwood University	1,037	\$4,541	26.3%	927	\$5,361	28.8%
Norfolk State University	3,329	\$4,596	66.7%	3,736	\$5,729	67.8%
Old Dominion University	7,470	\$4,277	38.1%	7,228	\$5,317	40.8%
Radford University	2,879	\$4,493	39.4%	2,251	\$5,418	39.5%
University of Mary Washington	845	\$4,401	21.2%	828	\$5,263	22.9%
University of Virginia	2,504	\$4,634	14.5%	2,736	\$5,705	15.6%
University of Virginia's College at Wise	718	\$4,239	37.7%	740	\$5,181	38.8%
Virginia Commonwealth University	6,808	\$4,482	30.7%	7,038	\$5,426	32.8%
Virginia Military Institute	229	\$4,498	13.5%	284	\$5,451	18.2%
Virginia State University	2,503	\$4,782	68.5%	3,345	\$5,685	69.3%
Virginia Tech	4,504	\$4,698	15.0%	4,861	\$5,568	15.9%
William & Mary	791	\$4,737	12.7%	896	\$5,684	12.9%

# Pell Initiative for Virginia

Item	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Total
Submitting Institutions	17	15	16	32
Proposals Submitted	36	27	17	63
Proposals Funded	31	19	17	50
Activities Funded	137	144	190	471
<b>Total Dollars Awarded</b>	<b>\$36,868,995</b>	<b>\$36,614,692</b>	<b>\$30,724,009</b>	<b>\$104,207,696</b>

Institution	Pell Grant Recipients as Share of Undergraduate Students	Six-Year Completion Rate for Pell Recipients	PIV Concentration
Statewide Average	26%	72%	
Christopher Newport University	14%	66%	Enrollment
George Mason University	31%	68%	Completion
James Madison University	15%	81%	Enrollment
Longwood University	26%	66%	Completion
Norfolk State University	67%	38%	Completion
Old Dominion University	38%	45%	Completion
Radford University	39%	52%	Completion
University of Mary Washington	21%	67%	Both
University of Virginia	15%	95%	Enrollment
University of Virginia's College at Wise	38%	42%	Completion
Virginia Commonwealth University	31%	64%	Completion
Virginia Military Institute	14%	77%	Enrollment
Virginia State University	69%	36%	Completion
Virginia Tech	15%	86%	Enrollment
William & Mary	13%	91%	Enrollment

Total initiatives supported

471

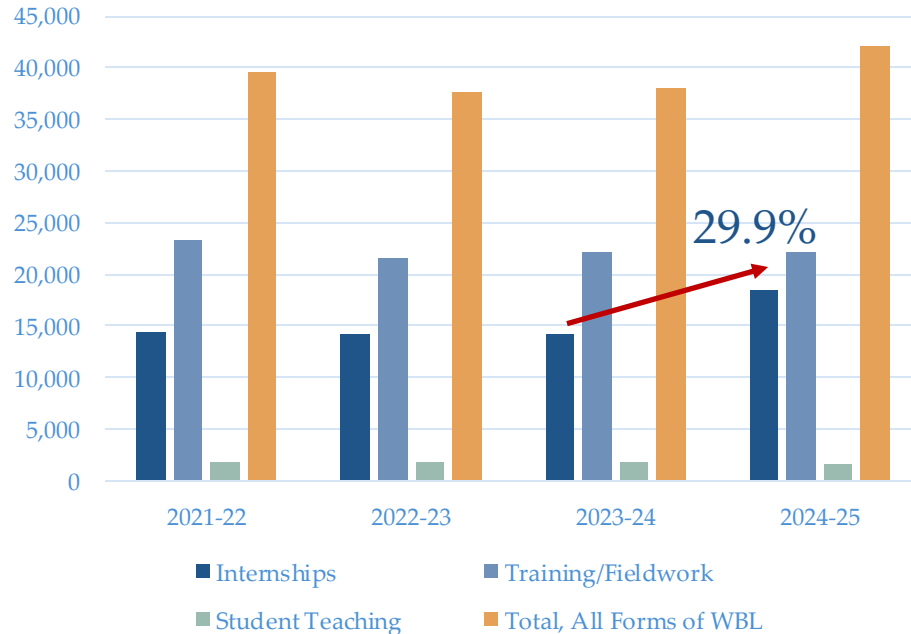
Institutions that will have completed an institutional barrier review by December 19, 2025

100%



# Innovative Internship Program

All Work-based Learning (excluding undergraduate research)



- Number of undergraduates at public four-year institutions reporting a credit-bearing internship grew by 29.9% YoY
- All WBL grew by 10.5%, but clinical and practicum categories saw slight declines

# Innovative Internship Program

## **Data Collection Grants**

**12** public 4Y institutions received up to \$100k each to secure WBL tracking systems.

**100%** created sustainable tracking tools (e.g., Career Works, Handshake, & 12Twenty).

**16,339** internships identified;  
**>5,000** were paid with an average rate of **\$17.90** per hour.

**33%** of students were hired full-time.

## **Impact Grants**

**41** institutions awarded grants to expand internships and WBL participation.

Funds supported personnel, Centers, new credit-bearing courses, professional development, and employer/community partnerships.

Impact grant recipients have been responsible for most of the growth in internship participation across public four-year institutions

## **Star Performers**

Among public institutions, George Mason, Old Dominion, Longwood, Virginia Commonwealth and William & Mary have the highest percentages of undergraduate students completing registered internships.

Among private institutions, Shenandoah, Marymount, Hollins, Ferrum, Randolph-Macon, Roanoke, Emory and Henry, and Eastern Mennonite all have double digit internship participation.

# Statewide Strategic Plan for Higher Education

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## Council-endorsed goals

**Goal 1 - READY:** Objectives related to *students'* readiness

**Goal 2 - RESPONSIVE:** Objectives related to *institutions'* responsiveness

**Goal 3 - RELEVANT:** Objectives related to *higher education's* pertinence and value

**Undergirding principle - RESILIENT**

This framework has been adopted by the State Council, the final draft plan will be presented to Council on December 15, 2025

# Federal Changes Impacting Virginians

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- Financial Aid changes:
  - Makes short-term credential training programs eligible for Pell grant aid; impact on Virginia unclear as most programs in Virginia don't meet the clock or seat time requirement (8 to 15 weeks)
  - Reduces aggregate loan borrowing ability for graduate programs to \$100,000, and \$200,000 for first professional degrees
  - Aggregate borrowing across all programs of study capped at \$257,000
  - Reduces aggregate Parent PLUS loan amounts to \$65,000 per dependent student
  - According to US Department of Education data, these changes would impact 27.5 percent of MD students, 59.9 percent of dental school students, and 12.7 percent of pharmacy students
- Earnings thresholds impacting loan eligibility:
  - Undergraduate programs must exceed earnings of a high school diploma
  - Graduate programs must exceed bachelor's degree earnings
  - Doesn't apply to undergraduate certificate programs
- Repayment options changed
  - Only two remaining repayment options: standard and Repayment Assistance Plans (RAP)
  - Earlier SAVE option was officially repealed