

MORE STATE FUNDING FOR EDUCATION

A Constitutional Obligation and Moral Responsibility

Across Virginia too many students are not getting the education they need as school districts are suffering from inadequate funding from the state. Classes are overcrowded, students with special needs are not getting the support they require, counselors are strained trying to address mental health needs, school buildings are crumbling and the teachers are among the lowest paid in the country.



While local governments have a significant role to play in addressing these issues, the Commonwealth of Virginia is not living up to its constitutional responsibility to adequately fund education programs to meet Virginia standards. Instead, the state has continued to lower the bar to justify its reduction in funding. This reduces the state's obligation to simply checking a box and does not help students achieve a level of success necessary to graduate, prepare for secondary education and succeed in the workforce.

FAILING TO FUND K-12 EDUCATION

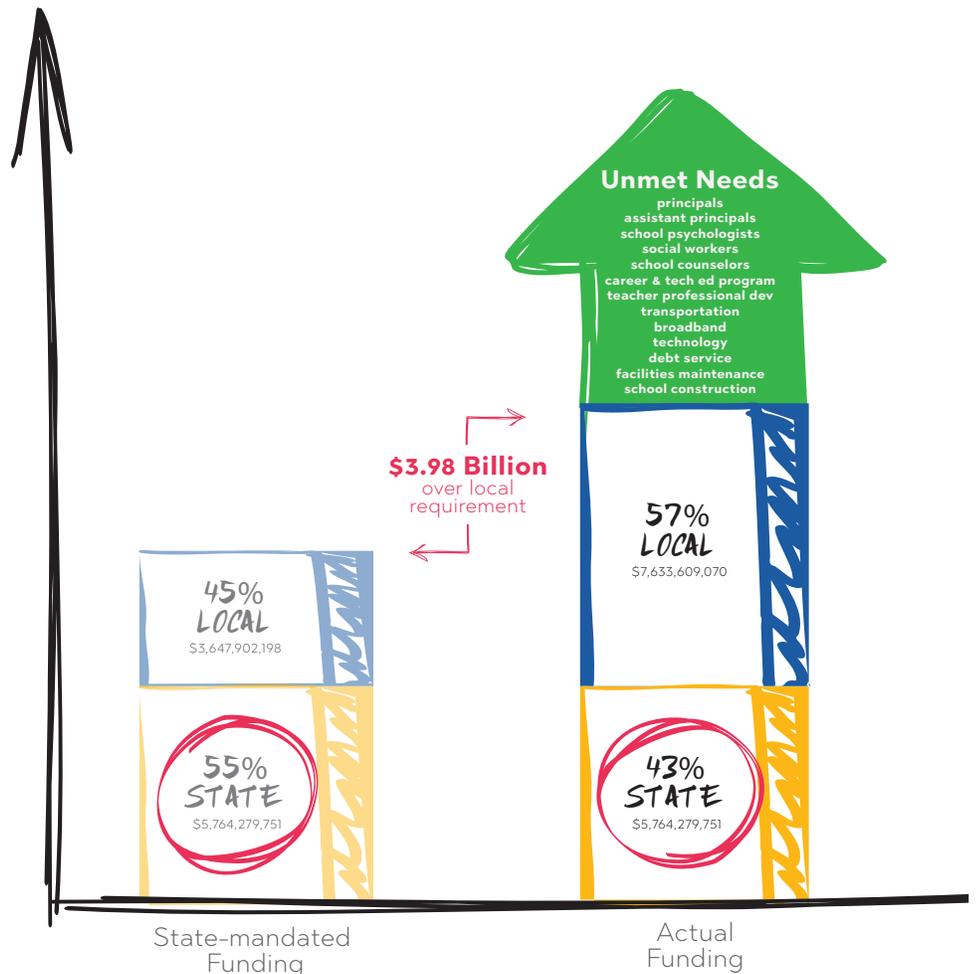
When the recession hit in 2009, the state capped funding for student support positions, effectively reducing state funding by an estimated \$378 million per year. Since 2009, state funding for K-12 education in Virginia is down 9%, while overall student population has grown by 5%. This is not just an urban locality issue, as rural school districts and a growing number of suburban school districts are facing similar state funding cuts.

As the state does less, localities are left doing more for education. Although required to fund 45% of K-12 education, localities are now funding 57% of the spending on K-12 education.

MORE MONEY, BETTER SCHOOLS, STRONGER STUDENTS

The time to act is now. If Virginia doesn't increase investments in K-12 education today – while the economy is strong – we never will. With a strong voice and a united front, we can rally support for the General Assembly to identify the true cost of K-12 education and then live up to their obligation to fully fund their share of that cost.

STATE & LOCAL FUNDING FOR EDUCATION (FY17)



To learn how you can be a part of this movement to bring real change for our students, visit our website. Then tell your colleagues, neighbors and friends to join us too. United we can be a powerful force for change.