

Senate Finance Committee Education Subcommittee
SCHEV budget items in introduced budget
Peter Blake, Director, State Council of Higher Education
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Pass-through funds:

- \$1,220,994 in year one and \$1,282,045 in year two to support the **Virginia Virtual Library (VIVA)**. VIVA is a consortium organized in 1994 to provide enhanced access to library and information resources at all public and private colleges and universities. Additional funds are needed to pay for contracted cost increases and expand collections.
- \$1 million in each year for the **Tuition Assistance Grant** program. SCHEV believes that the additional amount in the budget may be insufficient to meet the stated award of \$3,400. We are reviewing the figures used to estimate the need and will provide staff with recommended adjustments, if necessary.

Incentive funds for efficiency and innovation:

- \$2.5 million a year to support that would provide grants to local school divisions, community colleges and universities to create, sustain and expand **affordable student pathways**.
- The fund would be awarded competitively to school divisions, colleges and universities that propose joint efforts to move students seamlessly from one sector to the next. The General Assembly, the Governor and SCHEV would establish criteria governing the fund.
- Grantees could use fund for activities related to student counseling and advising, college and career readiness, curriculum alignment, student awareness of educational opportunities, outreach to nontraditional populations, improved articulation and transfer policies, enhanced dual enrollment, access to college and university activities and resources, student financial assistance, and hands-on assistance at every step of the educational process.
- The proposed fund is aligned closely with the **Joint Subcommittee on the Future Competitiveness of Virginia Higher Education**, which seeks to “identify best practices to make the system more efficient, including shared services, institutional flexibility, and easily accessible academic pathways.”
- \$80,000 in year one that SCHEV would award competitively for initiatives that reduce the cost of a degree using **open educational resources** and for initiatives that utilize technology efficiently to provide student learning opportunities and enhance student success.
- \$100,000 in year one to design a program to create a regional center for the investigation of incidents of **sexual and gender-based violence**.

SCHEV staff for state priorities:

- \$250,000 in year one and \$300,000 in year two and three FTE positions to increase staff capacity to **support initiatives related to The Virginia Plan and to address other responsibilities**, including the Joint Subcommittee on the Future Competitive of Virginia Higher Education and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission. Two years ago, before the state revenues plummeted, both the House and Senate budgets included a roughly equivalent amount for staffing.
- \$1,150,000 in year one and \$1.3 million in year two and three FTE positions to establish the coordination and leadership of the **Virginia Longitudinal Data System**. Funding also would be used to enhance the capacity to perform research and analysis using the VLDS. Also, House Bill 604 and Senate Bill XXX establish the VLDS within SCHEV.

Making Virginia a destination for cyber security and data analytics:

- \$1 million in each year to support the expansion of the number of public four-year higher education institutions receiving one of several federal designations for **cyber security centers of excellence**. SCHEV will develop criteria for eligibility under this program, with a requirement for matching funds from any institution receiving funding.
- \$1.5 million in each year to fund **cyber security public service scholarships**. Recipients would be required to work in a cyber-security-related job with state government.
- \$562,000 in each year and three FTE positions to establish the **Commonwealth Advanced Data Analytics Alliance**. The mission of the alliance is to create a conducive environment for teaching, innovation, research and job creation surrounding data analytics in Virginia.