

Virginia Board of Education Recommendations Regarding the Standards of Quality (SOQ)

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SOQ Review Process

Research

- Identify existing conditions
- Review changing student demographics
- Identify needs resulting from *Profile of a Virginia Graduate*

Public Outreach

- 21 presentations and roundtable discussions with stakeholder groups, including educators, parents, business leaders, and higher education representatives
- Four statewide public hearings
- Submission of written comments
- Public comments presented to the Board of Education

SOQ Recommendations



Staffing Recommendations

Recommended Changes	FY 2018 Fiscal Impact
Assistant Principal: One per 400 students	\$71.4 million
Principal: One full-time in each elementary school	\$6.8 million
School Counselor: One per 250 students	\$82.4 million
School Psychologist: One per 1,000 students	\$42.7 million
School Social Worker: One per 1,000 students	\$48.7 million
School Nurse: One per 550 students	\$1.8 million



Recommendation: Recession Era Waivers

Implemented in 2010 to provide temporary staffing flexibility with no loss of state funding

Allow school divisions to increase teacher to pupil ratios by one student for grades K-7 and in English classes for grades 6-12

Fully waive SOQ staffing requirements for:

- Elementary resource teachers
- Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation positions
- English as a Second Language Teachers
- Gifted Teachers
- Career & Technical Teachers (unless OSHA prescribes a maximum class size)
- Guidance counselors (new hires only)
- Librarians (new hires only)
- Technology Instruction and Support positions (new hires only)

Recommendation: Eliminate these waivers to ensure that a minimum level of quality instruction is provided statewide.



Recommendation: Support Services Positions

- Support services positions include: central office staff, social workers, psychologists, nurses, and attendance, clerical, security, and transportation staff, and others.
- Beginning in 2009, funding for support services positions was capped at 1 position per 4.03 instructional positions.
- Prior to 2009, funds were provided based upon the prevailing per-pupil rates that these positions were filled statewide.

Recommendation: Eliminate the support position cap, and return to the funding methodology used before 2009.

FY 2018 Fiscal Impact: \$339.6 million



Other Recommendations

- Propose legislation to amend the *Code* to ensure students and parents are made aware of career and technical education opportunities.
- Propose legislation to shift the SOQ review from even-numbered to odd-numbered years.
- Propose an in-depth study to determine data needs regarding deployment of SOQ positions.

