

WHAT WE RECOMMEND

Legislative action

- Long term – Develop accurate fixed and prevailing staffing ratios that are simpler, easier to apply, and comprehensive.
- Near term – Eliminate the support cap and re-instate (a) non-personal categories removed in FY09 and FY10, and (b) federal fund deduction methodology used prior to FY09.
- Long term – Routinely update the cost assumptions used for school division salaries during the re-benchmarking process.
- Near term – Calculate salaries and other cost assumptions using the division average, rather than the linear weighted average.
- Long term - Replace the cost of competing adjustment with a Virginia-based labor cost index.
- Long term - Adopt a new economies of scale adjustment applicable to divisions with fewer than 2,000 students.
- Near term – Calculate the LCI using a three-year average.
- Near term – Provide funding as needed to modernize K–12 reporting and the IT application used for the SOQ formula.
- Near term – Provide funding as needed for additional VDOE staff to maintain SOQ formula and provide support to divisions.

Executive action

- Fix technical problems with the SOQ formula related to excluding central office staff positions, facilities staff, and inflation and enrollment projections.
- Modernize K–12 reporting and IT application used for SOQ formula.
- Determine staffing needed to adequately maintain funding formula and provide support to divisions.

The complete list of recommendations and policy options is available on page xiii.