

A guide to highlight Chesapeake Public Schools' position on priorities that may impact K-12 education for the district and Virginia

**2024**

# LEGISLATIVE



# AGENDA

**INSPIRE | ENGAGE | EMPOWER**



## **PREPARE**

**TODAY'S STUDENTS  
FOR TOMORROW'S  
CAREERS**

## **SAFEGUARD FUNDING**

**FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION**

## **SUPPORT SAFE SCHOOLS**

**FOR ALL STUDENTS  
AND STAFF**



# OVERVIEW

On behalf of our entire educational community, we extend our gratitude for the unwavering support of public school education by the Virginia General Assembly. In these rapidly evolving times, the Chesapeake Public Schools district has been committed to preparing today's students for the challenges and opportunities that await them in tomorrow's careers. The General Assembly's dedication to fostering an environment of innovation and excellence within our educational system has been instrumental in achieving this goal. Because of championed initiatives and legislation, we have been enabled to provide our students with the tools, skills, and knowledge they need to thrive in an ever-changing job market.

Moreover, we appreciate your relentless efforts in ensuring the safety of our schools for all students and staff. Creating a secure and inclusive learning environment is paramount to fostering academic success and personal growth. The continued advocacy for policies prioritizing the well-being and safety of every individual within our school community reflects your commitment to the welfare of our future generations.

Equally significant is the dedication of the General Assembly to safeguard funding for K-12 public education. Sufficient funding has allowed us to continue providing high-quality education to all students, regardless of their background or circumstances. This demonstrates a belief in the power of public education to transform lives and strengthen our communities.

- **Prepare Today's Students for Tomorrow's Careers**
- **Safeguard Funding for K-12 Public Education**
- **Support Safe Schools for All Students and Staff**

In conclusion, please accept our sincerest thanks for the outstanding service provided to the people of Virginia and your resolute support of public education. We look forward to collaborating with the General Assembly to further enhance the educational opportunities offered to the students of Chesapeake and the state of Virginia.



# CHESAPEAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### PREPARE TODAY'S STUDENTS FOR TOMORROW'S CAREERS

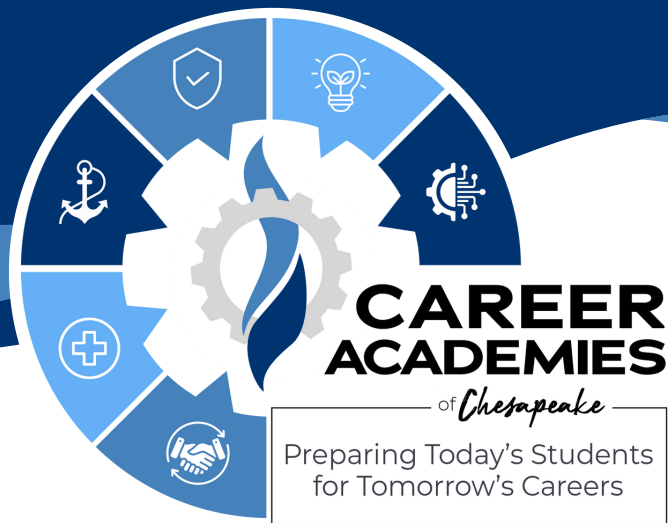
Our current Career and Technical Education (CTE) facility, the Chesapeake Career Center, requires updating or replacement to meet the needs of students pursuing career and technical education. The Career Academies of Chesapeake represents a transformative vision for education in our district and region. Our goal is to provide students with a cutting-edge, state-of-the-art facility that not only equips them with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in tomorrow's careers but also to align our programs with the needs of the local and regional workforce.

Our proposed model, the **Career Academies of Chesapeake**, will create a dynamic center that not only provides classrooms but also grants students access to state-of-the-art equipment, cutting-edge technology, and immersive, hands-on learning experiences that are directly transferable to the workforce.

However, to fully realize the potential of the Career Academies of Chesapeake, we need additional financial support. While we are grateful for the initial \$3 million through the budget amendment, the total scope of this visionary project demands further resources. Additional funding is essential in helping to make this dream a reality.

**WORKFORCE  
READY**

- We support incorporating career and technical education curriculum at the elementary school level and expanding opportunities for middle school curriculum focused on college and career readiness.
- We support high school students earning academic credit for participation in an internship, apprenticeship, mentorship, or other state-approved work-based learning opportunities.
- We support innovative models for schools to provide academic credit to students enrolled in career and technical education classes that prepare them to master industry skills measured through assessments, certifications, or licensures.
- We support establishing partnerships to strengthen the school-to-workforce pipeline in a variety of ways, including guaranteed employment opportunities with local businesses and learning opportunities shared between local community colleges and high schools.
- We support creative funding solutions to provide salary incentives for CTE practitioners who choose teaching as a viable career to ensure qualified instructors support our programs.



The Trade and Entrepreneurship academy provides significant and relevant learning in trade and industrial content areas, such as Auto Tech, Mechatronics, Construction, and Manufacturing, with an entrepreneurship focus to empower students to open and run their own businesses.



The Health and Medical academy prepares students for post-secondary education and the workforce in healthcare careers, including Dental Assistance, Pharmacy Tech, Radiology, and more.



The Maritime academy provides students access to state-of-the-art technology and simulation equipment designed to expose them to the industry and arm them with the knowledge, skills, and competence they need for this growing field. Courses include Precision Machinist, Welding, Diesel Equipment Technology, and more.



The Public Safety academy prepares students for experiences related to city public safety entities through work-based learning opportunities with the City of Chesapeake, including Firefighting, 911 Dispatch, and Emergency Medical Technician.



The Energy and Natural Resources academy prepares students for environmental sustainability work. Courses include Renewable Energy, Electricity, Sustainable and Renewable Technology, and more.



The Advanced Technology academy provides students with coursework focused on highly technical careers that promote exploration and innovation in information and technology, such as Cybersecurity, Modeling and Simulation, and Geospatial Technology.

# **SAFEGUARD FUNDING** FOR K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION

The allocation of resources to education not only fortified our schools but demonstrated a profound recognition of the pivotal role that education plays in the development and prosperity of our communities. Efforts to secure funding have not gone unnoticed and have had a tangible and positive impact on the lives of countless students, families, and educators across the state. However, it's crucial to acknowledge that education continues to be underfunded, and the impact of previous underfunding continues to impact school districts. From 2008 to 2012, we faced significant challenges in maintaining educational quality due to budget constraints, which continue to affect our schools.

Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic presented unprecedented challenges, which caused learning loss for students nationwide. The need to bridge this gap, provide critical support, and continue delivering a high-quality education is more pressing than ever.

Furthermore, it's essential to recognize that the rising costs associated with becoming a licensed teacher have placed a significant burden on educators. These increased costs have a direct impact on teacher retention rates and make it increasingly challenging to attract and retain qualified and dedicated instructors in our schools.

## **Support Action to Address the Educator Shortage While Maintaining Standards of Excellence**

CPS has a growing disparity between the number of positions essential for providing high-quality education and the funding allocated through the Standards of Quality model. Funding for these vital positions ensures our students continue to receive the education they deserve.

The uncompromising reality is the full cost of a base salary, benefits, and compensation continues to increase for positions NOT funded by the state. Funding significantly reduced by the support position cap places the responsibility of salary, benefits, and compensation increases directly on the locality.

## **Oppose Action to Reduce Public School Funding**

CPS opposes any legislation that would redirect funding away from public schools in the Commonwealth.

We request the General Assembly to prioritize and safeguard funding for all K-12 schools in our current economic climate. This crucial support is essential to ensure that our schools continue to provide quality education and support for all students across the state of Virginia.

# **SUPPORT SAFE SCHOOLS FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF**

We continue to be vigilant in our efforts to grow and strengthen our safety protocols. Those efforts include:

- **Strengthening safety infrastructure in all schools**
- **Providing routine training and safety audits for all facilities**
- **Including protections against cybersecurity threats**
- **Increasing safety staff in elementary schools**

## **Support Action to Fill Safety Positions with Highly Qualified Employees**

To support these efforts, CPS supports legislation that provides funding for school safety efforts and identifies creative ways to assist in filling school safety and security positions. In addition, CPS requests the removal of the employer's Virginia Retirement System (VRS) contribution requirement (16.62%) for divisions that hire retirees to serve as School Security Officers. These employees do not pay the employee's VRS contribution requirement (5%), nor will they receive any additional VRS benefits from their additional years of service.

## **Support Action to Permit School Technology Grant Funds for Cybersecurity Measures**

Current limitations on State Technology Grant Funds prevent the ability to strengthen safety measures to address cybersecurity threats. Safeguarding student and employee data, as well as operational systems, from digital threats is vital in our public schools.

## **Support Action to Address Mental Health Needs in Schools**

The mental health and well-being of our students are integral components of their overall success. CPS supports legislation that increases mental health resources to schools, families, and communities to work collaboratively and address the growing mental health concerns affecting public schools.

## **Oppose Action to Legislate Local School Discipline**

School discipline should be addressed at the local level and take into account the unique needs and circumstances of each school community. We respectfully oppose any legislation that seeks to dictate school discipline policies and urge the General Assembly to support local autonomy in this matter.



# QUICK FACTS

## OCTOBER 2023

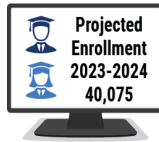
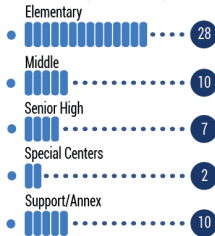
Statistics Provided By Chesapeake Public Schools  
 312 Cedar Road | Chesapeake, VA 23322 | 757-547-1033 | FAX 757-547-0190

### Student Enrollment (June 30)

Year	Enrollment	Increase/Decrease	% of Increase/Decrease
2022-2023	40,053	355	0.89%
2021-2022	39,698	683	1.75%
2020-2021	39,015	-1,684	-4.14%
2019-2020	40,699	977	2.46%
2018-2019	39,722	225	0.57%
2017-2018	39,497	344	0.88%



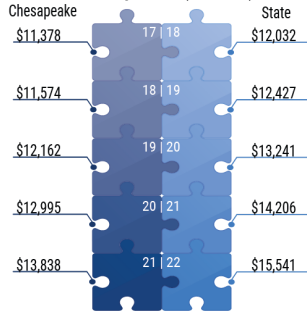
### Number of School Buildings 57 (2023-2024)



### Transportation Vehicles (2023-2024)

Buses	591
Service/Utility	155

### Per Pupil Cost (in ADM+)

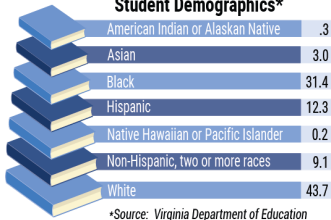


\*Average Daily Membership (ADM) is calculated at the end of the school year. Final state payments for Standards of Quality accounts (Basic Aid, fringe benefits, etc.) and several other Direct Aid to Public Education accounts are based on ADM.

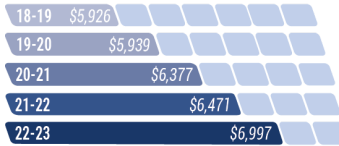
### Current Number of Teaching Positions (2023-2024)



### Student Demographics\*



### Basic Aid Chesapeake



### Salary Supplements Academic (2023-2024)

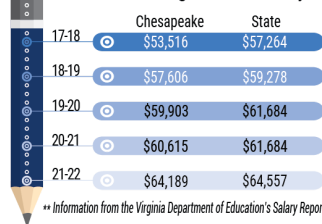
Master's Degree = \$3,200  
 Master's + C.A.S./E.D./30 semester hours doctoral program = \$4,800  
 Master's + Ed.D./Ph.D. = \$6,400

### Revenue Sources as % of Budget

Year	State++	Local	Federal
19-20	53.5%	45.6%	0.9%
20-21	53.5%	45.5%	1.0%
21-22	55.4%	43.7%	0.9%
22-23	54.8%	44.4%	0.8%
23-24	53.8%	45.4%	0.8%

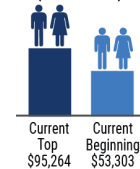
++Includes State Retail Sales & Use Tax

### Average Teacher Salary\*\*



\*\* Information from the Virginia Department of Education's Salary Report

### A Teacher's Salary with a Bachelor's Degree (2023-2024)



### Core Values

Our Educational Family:

- Fosters Equity
- Cultivates Innovation
- Models Integrity
- Promotes Accountability
- Inspires Excellence



### Goals

- Provide exemplary teaching and learning experiences.
- Recruit, retain, and support our valued employees.
- Provide a safe and supportive learning environment.
- Engage, inform, and collaborate with the community to support our mission.

### Vision

We inspire, engage, and empower all learners to achieve their highest potential.

### Mission

The Chesapeake Public Schools family promotes educational excellence by engaging all students in meaningful and innovative learning experiences that empower them to successfully fulfill their life's purpose.

# CHESAPEAKE PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS



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