

# VIRGINIA PTA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

## SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS

### CTE PROGRAMS:

- Incorporate career and technical education into K-12 classrooms, paying special attention to real-life career options and opportunities.

### SPECIAL EDUCATION:

- Support increased funding for special education services sufficient to address the requirements of the federal government's corrective action, including teacher training, student evaluation and increased service.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

### GUIDANCE COUNSELORS:

- Support state funding for additional guidance counselors and for programs that encourage effective family communication policies.

### SCHOOL SAFETY:

- Support legislation that implements and funds schools safety measures and effective use of Threat Assessment Teams to improve the public school learning environments.
- Support maintaining

schools as gun-free zones.

- Require all SRO's receive initial training and appropriate funding is provided to encourage local adoption.

### STUDENT HEALTH:

- Support fully funding resources and programs aimed at students mental health needs.
- Support nurses in every public school building.
- Support policies and funding targeted to reduce bullying and engage parents in supportive conversation.

## STRENGTHEN OUR SCHOOLS

### SUPPORT SMALL SCHOOLS & AGING BUILDINGS

- Encourage smart growth approach for schools including community engagement and a dedicated source of funding building maintenance.

### PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING:

- Support a system that fully funds all mandated education programs at maximum levels and insures public money stays in public school buildings.

- Eliminate support cap.
- Oppose tuition tax credits

### LOCAL CONTROL:

- Encourage locally developed calendars and policies so that schools can meet the needs of their specific communities.

## SUPPORT FOR EDUCATORS

### FUNDING:

- Support legislation and policies that seek to recruit and retain effective educators, especially in high-poverty areas, remote locations and hard to fill positions.

## MEANINGFUL ASSESSMENTS & ACCOUNTABILITY

### ASSESSMENTS:

- Support additional reductions in SOL assessments while encouraging locally developed measured aimed at supporting all students success.

### ACCOUNTABILITY:

- Encourage accountability formulas that incorporate the widest variety of criteria and emphasize individual qualities of the schools. Formulas for accountability should always include family engagement measures.