

March 14, 2010

House and Senate conferees agree on compromise budget; General Assembly extends Session by one day to review and accept bare-bones budget for the biennium and adjourns on Sunday, March 14. Education representatives, while noting that reductions would lead to job losses in public schools throughout the state, acknowledged that the numbers could have been worse.

Elizabeth "Bet" Neale, VASSP Director of Government Relations

HIGHLIGHTS OF K-12 FUNDING IN 2011-2012 STATE BUDGET

- Reduces K-12 education funding by \$253M over the biennium above the \$1B recommended in the Kaine budget (which included the cap on support personnel).
- Maintains current funding for middle and high school planning period.
- Provides a 100% hold-harmless on the Composite Index in the first year and 50% in the second year for those divisions that were due to lose funds in the re-calculation of the local composite index (LCI).
- Does not adopt the House proposal to block grant Lottery-funded programs for at-risk students.
- Increases reimbursement for school breakfasts from 20 cents to 22 cents per meal.
- Restores VPSA technology grants of over \$57M in each year.
- Allows for temporary increases to maximum class sizes by one; waives staffing requirements for ESL, elementary resource teachers, gifted, career and technical, instructional and support technology, librarians, and guidance counselors.
- Modifies federal revenue deduct to reflect funded support costs; reduces textbook funding by about 1/3 each year; extends the formula for school bus replacement from 12 to 15 years.
- Lowers benefit contribution rates to VRS for 2010-2012 biennium.