Dear School Administrator:

VASSP is a founding member of the Virginia Public Education Coalition (VPEC). It is an advocacy coalition founded in 1999. The Coalition is composed of 12 statewide Virginia associations representing public school teachers, counselors, supervisors, principals, superintendents, school boards, teacher-educator professors, and parents of school aged children. (See the VPEC position on public school education.)

For many years education associations met informally, mainly during sessions of the Virginia General Assembly. Typically, attending these meetings were organizations representing teachers, principals, superintendents, local school boards, and school aged children. In 2000, a formal regular meeting structure was adopted by these associations in an attempt to share their collective knowledge about various public policy issues affecting public school education. They initially named their group the Virginia Education Coalition, and within a few months, drafted a governing document that was titled "Rules of Operation." An important component of the Rules of Operation was a provision that all decisions of the VPEC would be based on consensus. Member organizations of the Coalition have a strong common frame - their purpose is to improve the teaching and learning of students. The mission of the VPEC is to advocate for a) programs that help children achieve their highest potential, b) comprehensive plans to attract and retain quality teachers, counselors, administrators, professional and support staff, c) an accountability system that is fair and comprehensive, d) funding to provide students with an equitable and quality program of instruction, e) levels of public education governance that adhere to their respective roles and responsibilities, f) adequate funding to meet technological and infrastructural needs of school divisions, and g) programs that assist families and communities to participate more fully in public education.

Over the past year, the VPEC has worked diligently to develop strategies to address Virginia's teacher shortage. Please review these strategies and share with colleagues, community leaders, and parents. We all need to be advocate for improving our public schools.

VPEC Strategies Brochure

VASSP will be using the above strategies in our advocacy program this year at the Virginia General Assembly. This will be in addition to our lobbying for improved compensation for building level administrators, fair process for evaluating job performance, and funding professional development.

If you have any questions regarding the VPEC stratgies or VASSP's advocacy program for 2019-2020,
please contact the Association's state office at 804-355-2777.

Sincerely,

Randy D. Barrack, Ed.D., Ph.D.
VASSP Executive Director

Travis Burns, Ed.D.
VASSP President