

Virginia K-12 Policy Update

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Chad Stewart
Virginia Education Association
cstewart@veanea.org

VEA

Today's Roadmap

1

Where things stand

Advocacy wins • Budget status
• PTA priorities

2

What students need

High-need funding • Staffing & pay
• Meals & buildings

3

What's changing

Testing redesign • SOL vendor
• Teacher pipeline

4

What comes next

Funding formula reform • Joint
Subcommittee • Parent advocacy

Advocacy Works

**Support cap
lifted**

**At-risk add-on
increased**

**English learner
funding up**

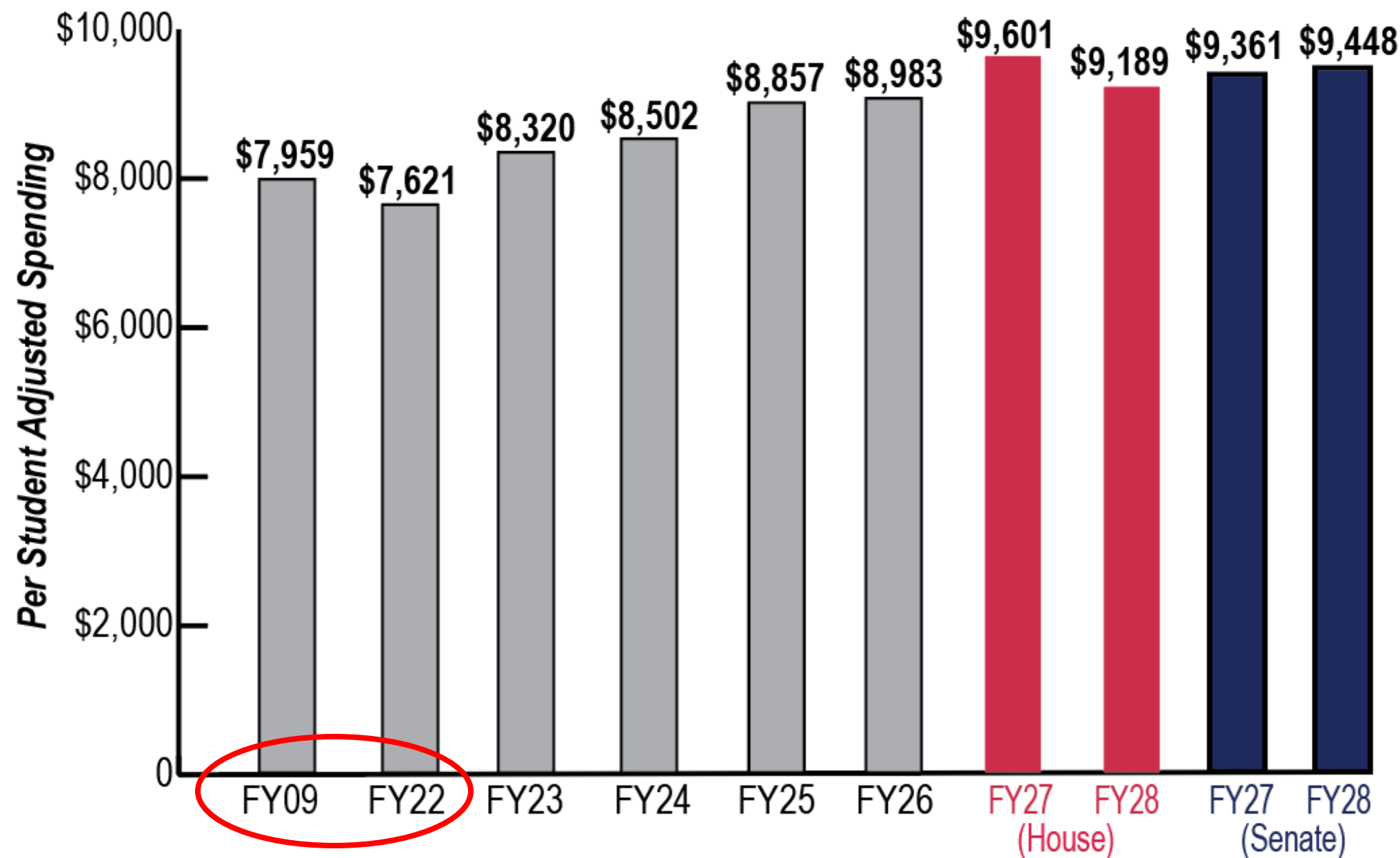
**School
construction
investments**

**Teacher / staff
salary actions**

**Early childhood
expansion**

Progress did not happen by accident.

Real Progress in State K-12 Funding, But Not Enough



Source: VEA analysis of VDOE and HAC Direct Aid Sheets Adjusted to FY26 Dollars Using 2026 CBO CPI-U Projections

A Budget Still in Motion



Main sticking point: how to pay for priorities

Virginia PTA's 2026 Priorities Still TBD

**Fully fund
schools**

**High-need
students**

**Special
education**

**School
meals**

Assessments

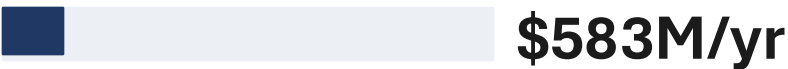
**School
buildings**

Funding Students With Greater Needs

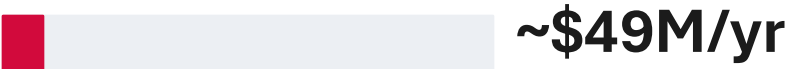
ANNUAL STATE COSTS: SCALE OF NEED VS. CURRENT OFFER

Low-income students

Full funding

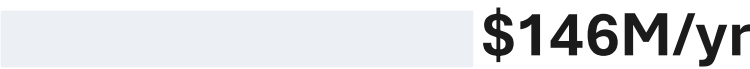


Senate budget offer



English learners

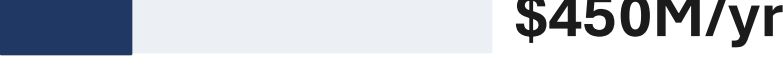
Full funding



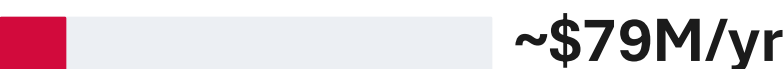
Nothing new in proposed budgets

Students with disabilities

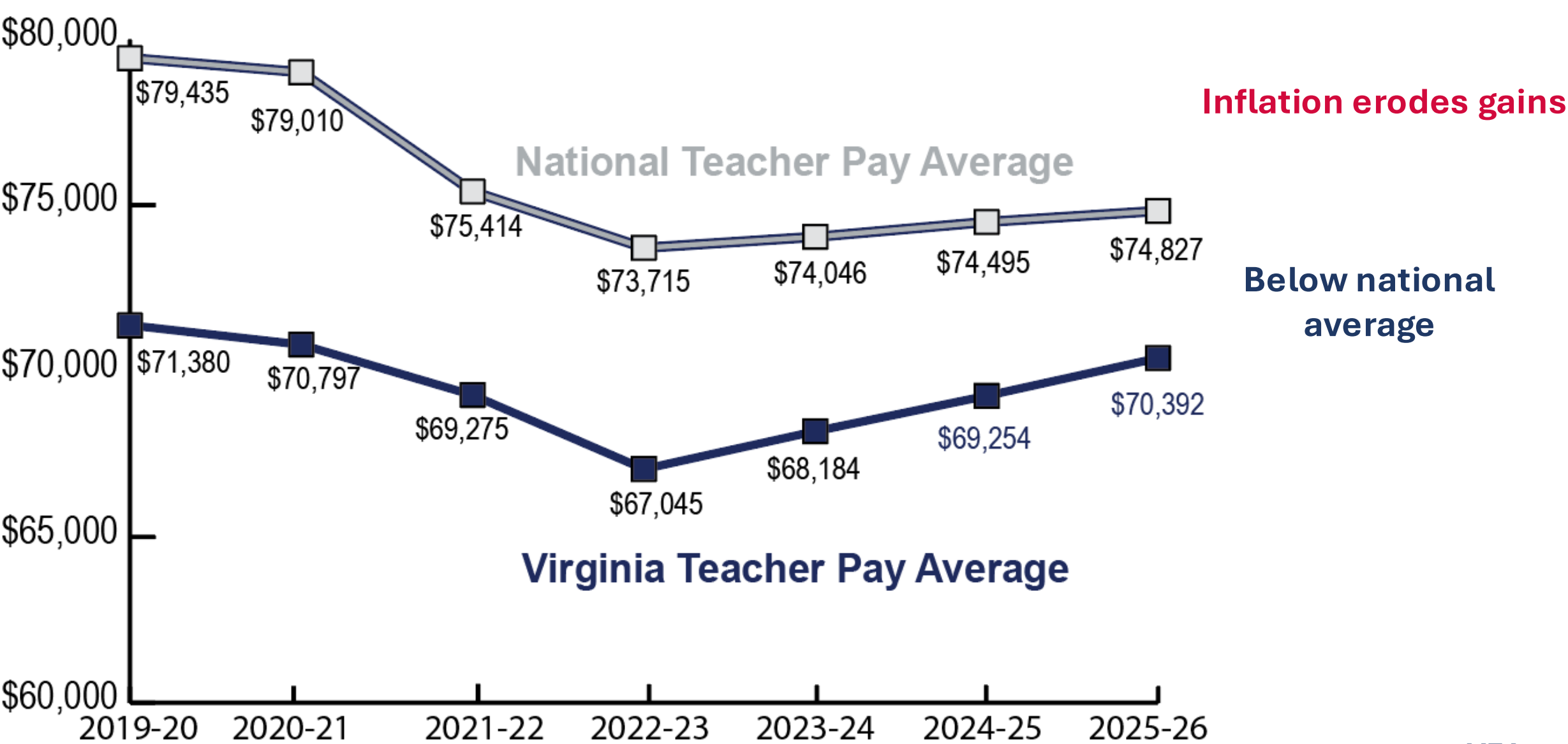
Full funding



House budget offer

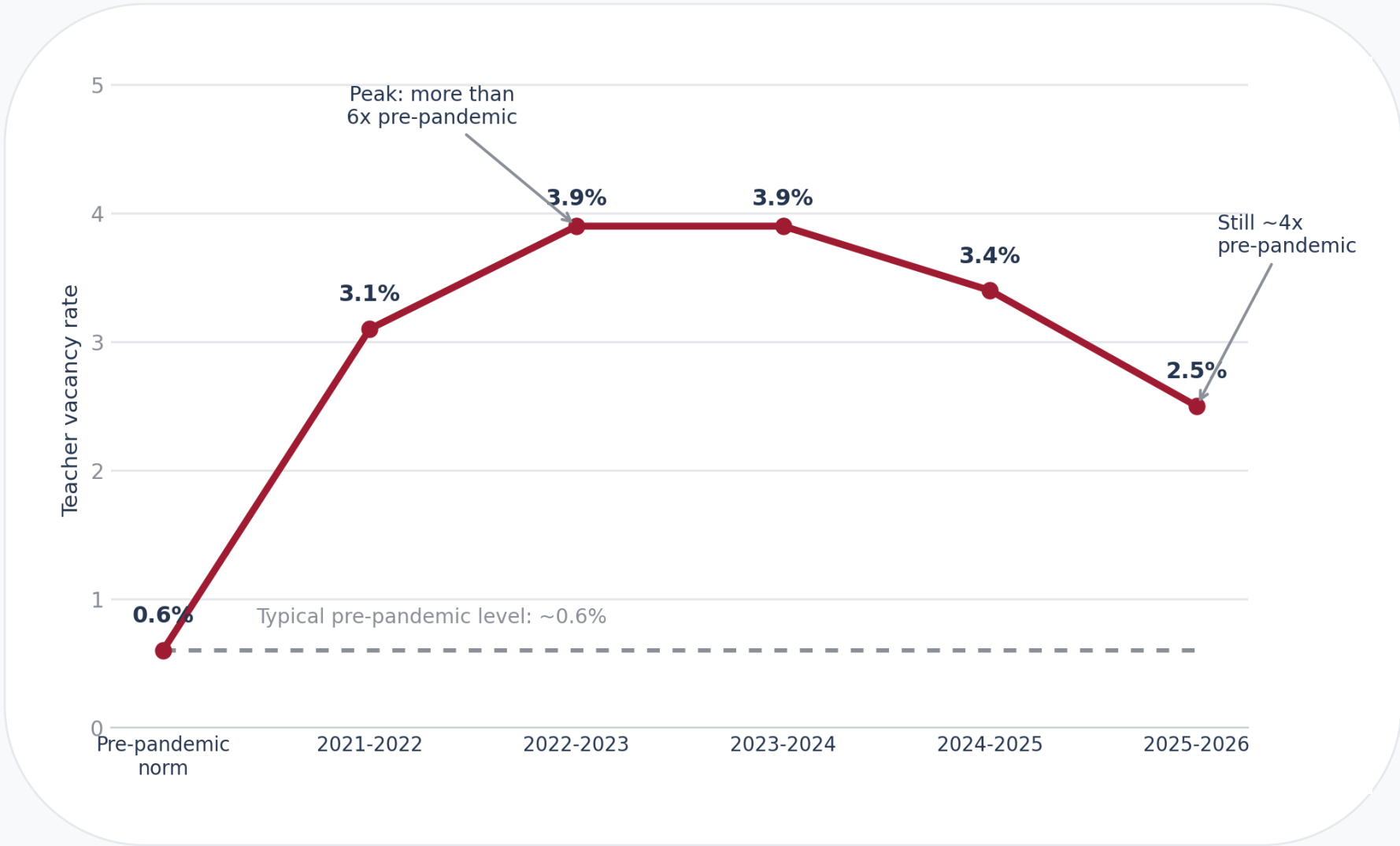


Teacher Pay Is Still Behind Pre-Pandemic Levels



Source: VEA Analysis direct aid and NEA Rankings and Estimates Adjusted to FY25 \$\$ with CPI Consumer and 2026 CBO data

Teacher Vacancy Rates Well Above Pre-Pandemic Norm



What parents see

- Larger classes
- More long-term subs
- Less individual attention
- Fewer course options
- Delayed services
- More turnover

A Seismic Shift in the Teacher Pipeline

SHARE OF TEACHERS ENTERING THROUGH ALTERNATIVE LICENSURE

Before pandemic

<10%

Most recent two years

50%

- Less formal preparation
- Lower retention
- More mentoring and support needed

Virginia's Testing System Is Changing

**New vendor
RFP**

**SOL
redesign**

**100-point
scale**

**Cut score
changes**

**More exceptions
for SWD**

**Retake / admin
changes**

The next testing contract will shape new phase of SOLs.

How Parents Can Influence Testing Design Choices

**Less testing
time?**

**Better
reporting?**

**Faster
results?**

**Useful for
instruction?**

**Fair for SWD /
EL students?**

**Clearer score
meaning?**

School Meals: Clear Need, Real Cost

Universal lunches

~\$200M/yr

Breakfast for all

~\$25M/yr

School Buildings Are Part of Student Learning

\$25B

2021 backlog

+\$1B+

growth per year

1%

local option
opportunity

Main vehicle for next phase of school funding reform →

Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding

Chaired by Sen. Locke and Del. Rasoul

**Formula
rewrite**

**Stakeholder
input**

**Long-term
adequacy**

What Could Transform School Funding in Virginia?

Formula reform + Sustainable funding = Real change

One idea on the table: a higher tax rate on income
above \$1 million.

Virginia Public Is With You

2026 POLLING FINDINGS



Source note: VEA Commissioned Survey with GSG Communications.

A Simple Advocacy Frame

Shared value

Every child deserves a strong public school.

Problem

The current system does not meet real student needs.

Solution

Update the formula and fund it.

Framing Examples

Special education

Value

Students with disabilities deserve the supports in their plans.

Problem

Virginia underfunds the real cost of services.

Solution

Increase the special education add-on.

School meals

Value

Students learn better when they are healthy and focused.

Problem

Meal costs and food insecurity still get in the way.

Solution

Build a sustainable plan to pay for universal meals.

Testing

Value

Parents need clear, useful information to support students.

Problem

Too much testing does not always help instruction.

Solution

Design a system that reduces burden and improves reporting.

How PTA Members Can Engage

**Meet lawmakers
locally**

**Share school
stories**

**Follow the Joint
Subcommittee**

**Speak up on
testing**

**Stay connected
through PTA**

You have the stories lawmakers need to hear.

Your Questions and Comments

Chad Stewart

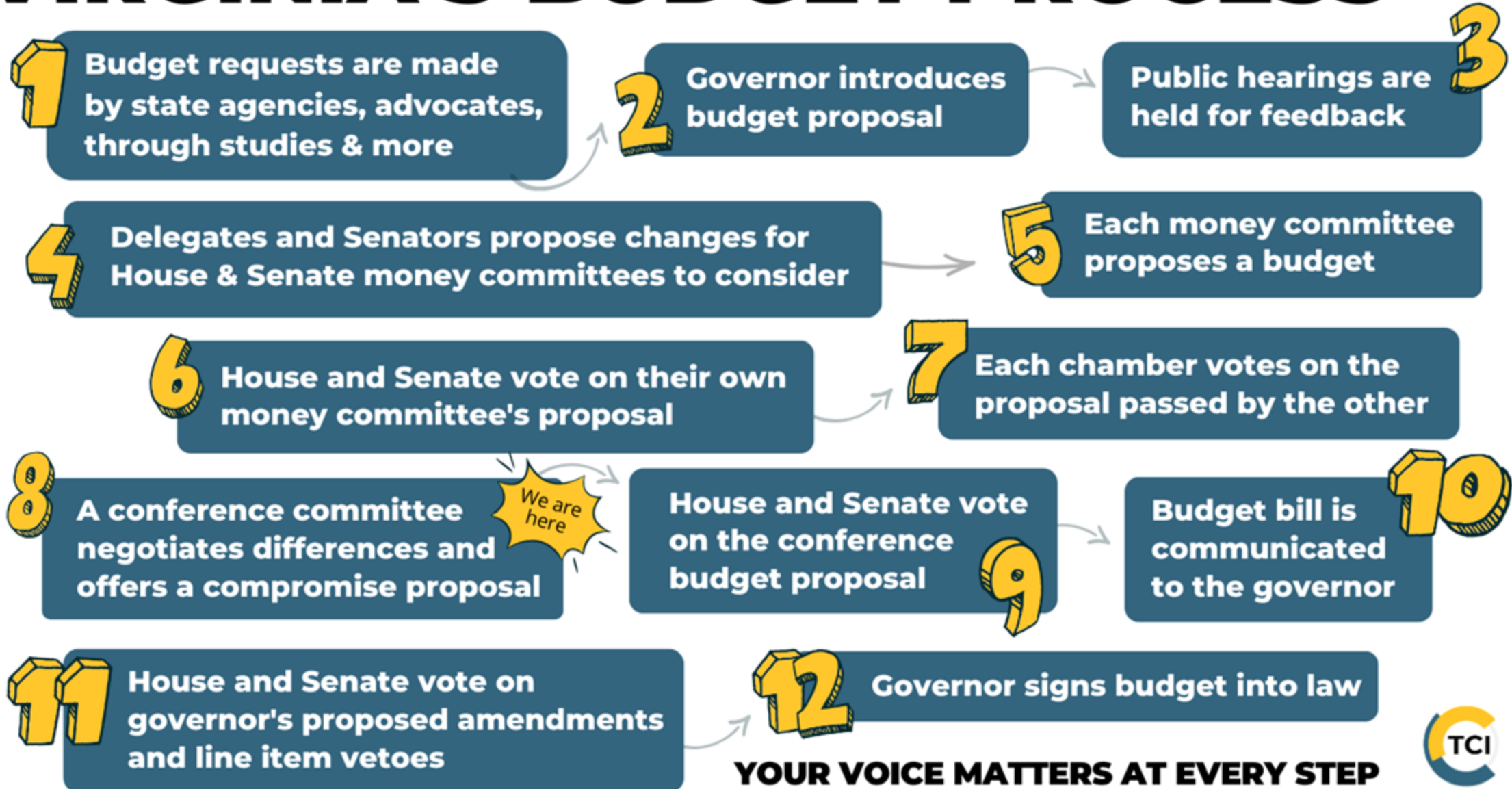
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Additional Slides for Questions

Typical

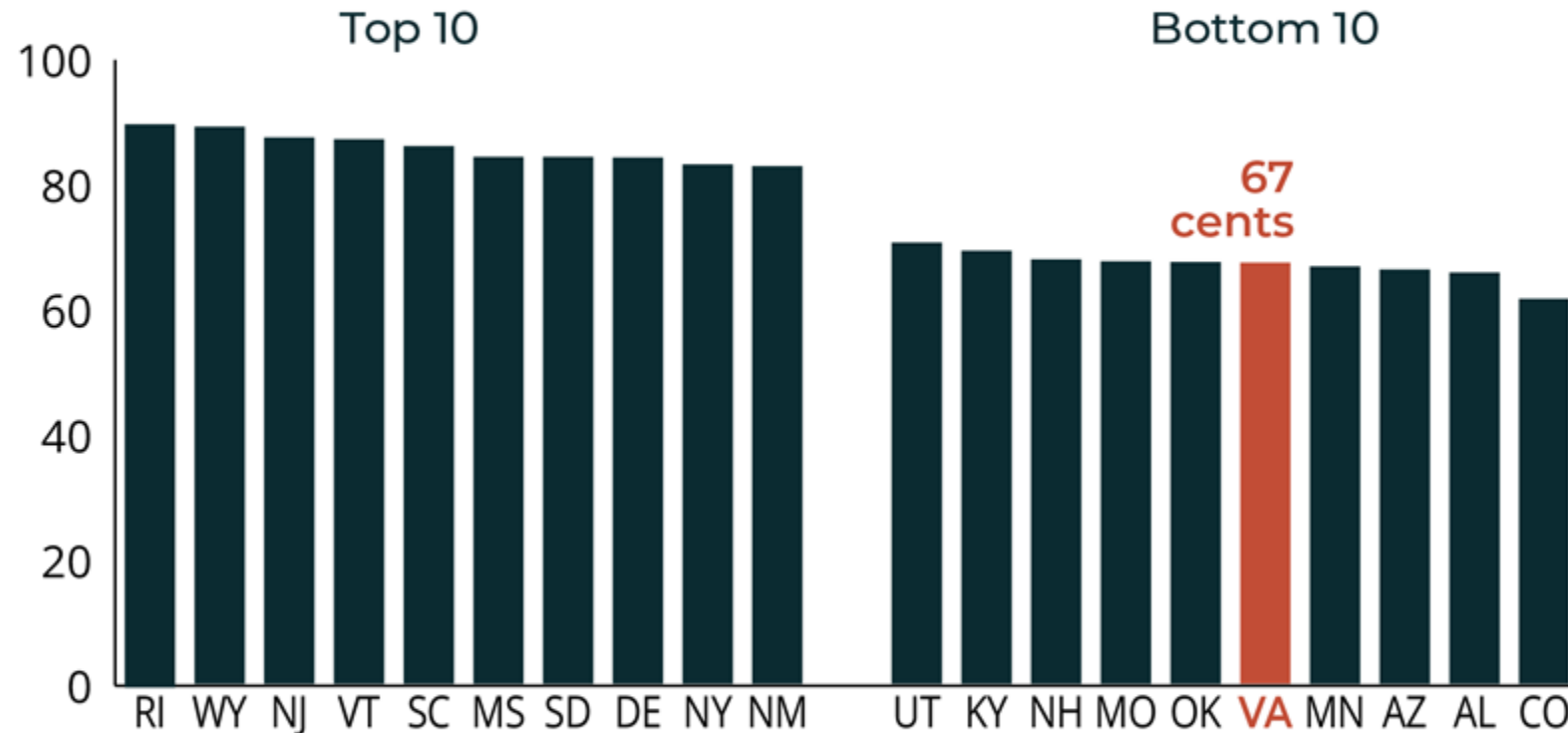
VIRGINIA'S BUDGET PROCESS



Large Teacher Pay Penalty in Virginia

Teachers in Virginia are paid just 67 cents for each dollar paid to their peers in other professions.

Teacher salaries compared to peers of similar age, education, and hours worked



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group data accessed via the EPI CPS Extracts, 2025.7.10



Senate Budget Invests More in Ongoing Needs



Key Budget Policy Choices

Comparing the introduced and money committee budgets to current budget

	Introduced		House Appropriations		Senate Finance	
Per-pupil for divs	FY27: \$9,477 FY28: \$9,620		FY27: \$9,876 FY28: \$9,683		FY27: \$9,629 FY28: \$9,955	
Updated data	Updates funding per new data; reduces VRS \$214m from lower rates	\$543.8m	Same as introduced	\$543.8m	Updates per data center reform & new data; includes \$214m VRS reduct.	\$705.2m
Compensation, SOQ instruct. & support staff	Funds state share of 2% raise each year (see above for VRS)	\$381.7m	Same as introduced	\$381.7m	Funds state share of 3% raise ea. yr (see above for VRS); reqs reg. JLARC report	\$575.0m
Lottery and Literary	Transfers \$172m from Literary to School Construct. Fund; ends Literary Fund set-aside for construct. loans		Ends Literary Fund \$\$ for construction loans		Transfers \$172m from Literary to School Construct. Fund; provides up to \$50m Literary for construction loans	
	Supplants GF w/ Literary	-\$285.0m	Supplants GF w/ Literary	-\$457.0m	Supplants GF w/ Literary	-\$235.0m
	Backfills GF for lower Lottery forecast	\$35.2m	Backfills GF for lower Lottery forecast, adjusted for Dec revenues	\$20.2m	Backfills GF, adds \$60m to Infrastructure & Ops PPA from skill games bill	\$35.2m

Mixed Bag for Higher-Needs Students

	Introduced		House Appropriations		Senate Finance	
Flexible funding	Increase not included		Provides one-time funds conting. on 2% div raises & MOE, including \$100m for low-income students	\$400.4m	See Lottery-funded PPA below	
Students with disabilities	Funds IEP enhancements	\$2.0m	More than doubles flex. add-on to 9.25% (Level I) & 17.5% (Level II); funds IEP enhancements	\$150.4m	Increases flex. add-on to 5.75% (Level I) & 6.25% (Level II); Funds IEP enhancements	\$27.6m
	Expansion not included		Expands eligibility for SISNA (regional schools)	\$10.0m	Expansion not included	
Low income add-on	Increase not included		See flexible funding above		Boosts max concentration weight to 39.9% (FY27) & 52.1% (FY28); includes \$20m Lottery	\$98.7m

Looking Forward

	Introduced	House Appropriations	Senate Finance
Joint Subcomm.	Increase not included	Provides funding & data collection for development of implementation plan \$0.3m	Provides funding for RFP to support new funding formula development \$1.3m
LCI	Changes not included	Strikes error correction language	Adds data center equip. starting FY29
VDOE systems	Funding not included	Funding not included	Funds statewide financial system; may use unspent \$ for new assessment system \$50.0m