



Issue: Education

REPUBLICANS TRY TO WEAKEN OUR SCHOOLS

Republicans tried to:

- Establish “Parental Choice Education Savings Accounts which would divert state funds from public schools and redirect them for educational services outside of the public school system. [HB 1605/Sponsor-LaRock, R-33; vetoed by McAuliffe]
- Remove local school board review and supervision of all online courses by establishing The Board of Virginia Virtual School as an agency in the *executive branch of state government*. [HB1400/Sponsor-Bell, R-20; SB1240/Sponsor-Dunnavant, R-12; vetoed by McAuliffe]
- To establish *regional* charter schools to take away sole authority from local school boards. [HB2343/Sponsor-Landes, R-25; SB1283/Sponsor-Obenshain, R-26; vetoed by McAuliffe]
- Allow non-explicit material to be substituted in the family life education curriculum, which would weaken education about the importance of consent. [HB 2191/Sponsor-Landes, R-25; vetoed by McAuliffe]

DEMOCRATS WORK TO IMPROVE SCHOOLS

Democrats worked to pass legislation:

- To ensure that Virginia teachers’ pay is at or above the national average compensation. [HB2332/Sponsor-Tyler, D-75]
- To make sure that local school boards notify students and their parents about the availability of career and technical education programs. [HB1552/Sponsor-Bulova, D-37]
- That requires school policies prohibiting bullying to be part of each school board’s code of student conduct. [HB1707/Sponsor-Filler-Corn, D-41]
- That requires instruction in the value of family relationships to be included in the Board of Education’s family life education curriculum guidelines. [SB1475/Sponsor-McClellan, D-9]
- That allows family life education to include age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the law and the meaning of consent. [HB2257/Sponsor-Filler-Corn, D-41]