

## REPUBLICANS ARE TRYING TO WEAKEN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Republicans are in a conspiracy. They call it ‘choice’ but it is really a smokescreen for taking money from our public schools.**

- They tried to establish “Parental Choice Education Savings Accounts”. These accounts divert state funds from public schools and redirect them for educational services outside of the public school system—stealing taxpayer money for private use. [HB 1605/Sponsor-LaRock, R-33; vetoed by McAuliffe]
- This supposed ‘school choice’ movement “supports a 21<sup>st</sup> century version of school segregation.” (*New Leader, Editorial Board, Feb 14, 2016*) These actions drain funds from public schools and increase racial and economic segregation.
- These vouchers actually ‘defund’ public schools.

**Republicans try to take control away from local school boards. They want to manage educational programs centrally. This would prevent local communities from deciding what they teach in their own schools.**

- Republicans want to remove local school board review and supervision of all online courses. They tried to establish The Board of Virginia Virtual School to oversee online education in kindergarten through high school, as an agency in the executive branch of state government. [HB1400/Sponsor-Bell, R-20; SB1240/Sponsor-Dunnavant, R-12; vetoed by McAuliffe]
- Republicans want to establish regional charter schools to take away sole authority from local school boards. These charter schools would operate independently and be exempt from certain policies regular schools must follow. [HB2343/Sponsor-Landes, R-25; SB1283/Sponsor-Obenshain, R-26; vetoed by McAuliffe]

**Republicans try to prevent education about sexual consent, leaving our girls vulnerable to assault.**

- Virginia law requires instruction in the value of family relationships to be included in the Board of Education’s family life education curriculum guidelines. It also permits instruction to increase student awareness of the fact that consent is required before sexual activity. Education about the meaning of consent is included in programs on the prevention of sexual violence, helping to protect our young girls from sexual assault.
- Republicans want to allow non-explicit material to be substituted in the 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 support good pay for teachers.**

- Teacher salaries in Virginia are lower than the national average.
- Democrats worked to pass legislation to ensure that Virginia teachers' pay is at or above the national average compensation for teachers. [HB2332/Sponsor-Tyler, D-75]

### **Democrats support career and technical education.**

- **Access to technical training is critical to succeed in today's economy.**
- Democrats worked to pass legislation to make sure that local school boards notify students and their parents about the availability of career and technical education programs. These programs give students the opportunity to get a nationally recognized career readiness certificate at a local public high school, comprehensive community college, or workforce center. [HB1552/Sponsor-Bulova, D-37]

### **Democrats support policies to prevent bullying.**

- School bullying is a national problem.
- Democrats worked to pass legislation that requires school policies and procedures prohibiting bullying to be part of each school board's code of student conduct. [HB1707/Sponsor-Filler-Corn, D-41]

### **Democrats support family life education.**

- Family relationships and respect for women are important values in preparing our young Virginians for life.
- Democrats worked to pass legislation 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]
- Democrats worked to pass legislation 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]