



Local CSA Funding Options for IEP-Required Special Education Services

VIRGINIA CSA CONFERENCE

April 19, 2017

Session Presenters

Albemarle County

- Cheryl Lewis, M.Ed. CSA Coordinator
- Kevin Kirst, Director
Special Education and Student Services

Chesterfield County

- Karen Reilly-Jones, LCSW
CSA Administrator
- Malinda Bowers, MPA
CSA Fiscal Analyst

Arlington County

- Hadley Corcoran, LCSW
CSA Coordinator
- Glenda Pittman, Chief
Finance & Information Systems Division

City of Virginia Beach

- Becky China, MBA CSA Administrator

City of Roanoke

- Julie Payne, MA CSA Coordinator

Roanoke County

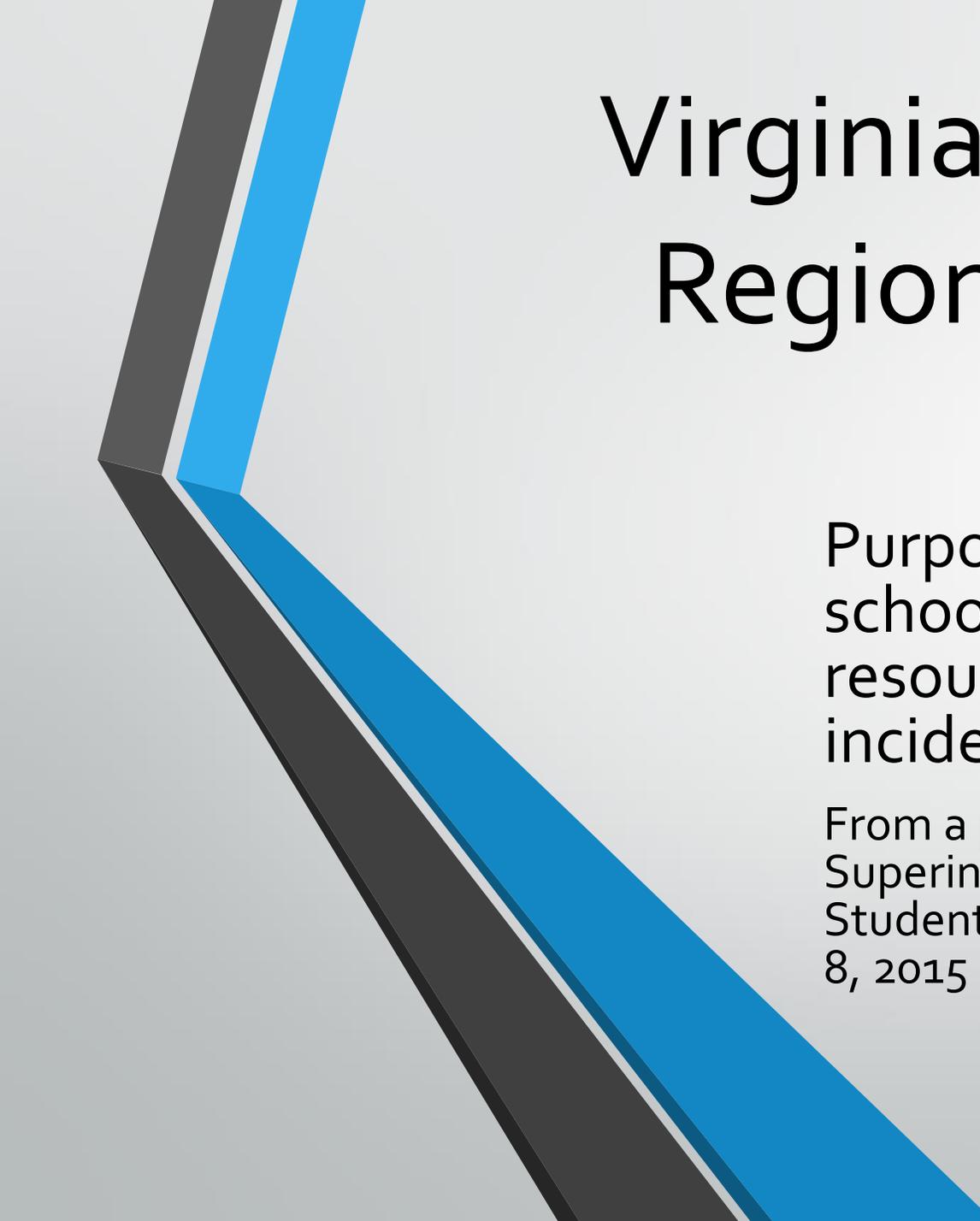
- Jessica Webb, MBA CSA Coordinator

Moderator

- Jim Gillespie, LCSW, MPA
Systems of Care Director, Fairfax County

Item 1 #6C: Workgroup on Private Day Educational Program Options

- "6.a. The staff of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees shall help facilitate the scope of work to be completed by the Joint Subcommittee for Health and Human Resources Oversight.
- b. ***The staff of the Health and Human Resources and Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittees for the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees shall facilitate a workgroup***, in cooperation with the Office of Children's Services (OCS), the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), the Department of Planning and Budget, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Juvenile Justice, to examine the options and determine the actions necessary to better manage the quality and costs of private day educational programs currently funded through the Children's Services Act (CSA). Other stakeholders, such as those from local governments, school superintendents or their designees, CSA Community Policy and Management Teams and Family Assessment and Planning Teams, special education administrators, private providers, parents of special education students and others may provide additional information to the workgroup as requested.
- c. In examining the options, ***the workgroup shall consider: (i) amending the CSA to transfer the state pool funding for students with disabilities in private day educational programs to the VDOE;*** (ii) the identification and collection of data on an array of measures to assess the efficacy of private special education day school placements; (iii) the identification of the resources necessary in order to transition students in private day school settings to a less restrictive environment; (iv) the role of Local Education Agencies in determining placements and overseeing the quality, cost and outcome of services for students with disabilities in private day educational programs; and (v) an assessment of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process as compared to federal requirements, including how that process relates to the role of CSA Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) in determining services for students with disabilities whose IEP requires private day educational placement.
- d. ***The workgroup shall examine: (i) funding impacts; (ii) necessary statutory, regulatory or budgetary changes; and (iii) other relevant actions necessary to implement any recommended actions.*** A report on any preliminary findings and recommendations shall be submitted to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by November 1, 2017."



Virginia's Special Education Regional Reimbursement Programs

Purpose: to provide a mechanism for school divisions to cooperate and share resources to serve children with low incidence disabilities

From a presentation by John M. Eisenberg , Assistant Superintendent , VDOE Division of Special Education and Student Services, to the Commission for Youth, December 8, 2015

Purposes of VDOE Study

- Growth in number of students served in regional programs
- Growth in annual appropriation
- Research on best practices on special education
- Growing philosophy of “inclusion”
- Shift in incidence of disability categories
- Movement away from services based on disability category in favor of specific need for the individual child
- Growth in the number of students with expensive and/or intense support needs
- Growth in the number of school divisions interested in participating in a Regional Tuition Reimbursement Program (RTRP)

Regional Programs in Operation

- 11 legally constituted RTRPs
- 57 out of 132 or 43% of Local Education Agencies participate with 3 or more students services
- Total of 4,438 students were served in RTRPs in 2014
 - Represents 2.7% of the 162,960 students with disabilities served statewide

Currently Approved Regional Programs

- **Shenandoah Valley Regional Program**

Augusta County – Page County – Rockingham County – Shenandoah County – Harrisonburg City – Staunton City

- **Southeastern Cooperative Education Program**

Isle of Wight County – Southampton County – Chesapeake City – Franklin City – Norfolk City – Portsmouth City – Suffolk City – Virginia Beach City

- **Northern Virginia Regional Special Education Program**

Prince William County – Spotsylvania County – Manassas City – Manassas Park

- **Roanoke Valley Regional Program**

Botetourt County – Craig County – Franklin County – Roanoke City – Salem City

- **Henry County/Martinsville Regional Program**

Henry County – Martinsville City

Currently Approved Regional Programs

- **Cooperative Centers for Exceptional Students**

Carroll County – Grayson County – Smyth County – Washington County – Wythe County – Bristol City – Galax City

- **Middle Peninsula Regional Special Education Centers**

Gloucester County – Middlesex County – West Point (Town)

- **LAUREL Regional Program**

Amherst County – Appomattox County – Bedford County – Campbell County – Charlotte County – Lynchburg City

- **Northwestern Regional Education Program**

Frederick County – Winchester City

- **New Horizons Regional Education Center**

Gloucester County – York County – Hampton City – Newport News City – Williamsburg-James City County - Poquoson City

- **Piedmont Regional Education Program**

Albemarle County – Culpeper County – Fluvanna County – Greene County – Louisa County – Madison County – Nelson County – Charlottesville City

Financial Analysis

- From all funding sources (local, state, federal):
 - Students served in regional programs generated an average per pupil amount of \$29,097
 - Students not served in regional programs generated an average per-pupil amount of \$13,497
- From state-only funds:
 - Students served in regional programs generated an average per pupil amount of \$17,392
 - Students not served in regional programs generated an average per-pupil amount of \$3,014

Financial Analysis:

*Average growth of \$4.1 million per year
for the five year period*

Year/Amount

- SY 2011: \$64,436,343
- SY 2012: \$70,208,360
- SY 2013: \$74,168,478
- SY 2014: \$77,040,276
- SY 2015: \$80,792,037

Amount of increase

- SY 2011:
- SY 2012: \$5,771,917
- SY 2013: \$3,960,218
- SY 2014: \$2,871,798
- SY 2015: \$3,751,761

Issues for Further Study

1. The VDOE should modify the current rate package requirements and submission process.
2. The VDOE should examine the concept of replacing categorical disability groups with “students with disabilities who have expensive and/or intense support needs” for future funding.
3. *The VDOE should examine ways to provide equitable financial support for all LEAs in serving students with disabilities who have expensive and/or intense support needs.*
4. The VDOE should explore with LEAs the development of a system to track and report the outcomes of students claimed for RTRPs in order to ensure high quality service delivery.



United States Supreme Court Decision:
Andrew F. vs Douglas County School District

March 22, 2017



Localities in Which the School System Totally or Partially Funds the Local CSA Match for IEP-Required Services

Counties

- Albemarle
- Arlington
- Chesterfield
- Roanoke

Cities

- Norfolk
- Richmond
- Roanoke
- Virginia Beach

Albemarle County

Contiguous Locality:

- *Charlottesville's CSA private special education expenditures are 70% higher than Albemarle's, adjusted for SPED population size.*
 - If Albemarle spent at the same rate as Charlottesville it's annual CSA expenditures for private SPED services would be \$2,141,483 higher.

Arlington County

Contiguous Localities:

- *Fairfax/Falls Church's CSA private special education expenditures are 6% higher than Arlington's*.*
 - If Arlington spent at the same rate as Fairfax it's annual CSA expenditures for private SPED services would be \$182,453 higher.
- *Alexandria's CSA private special education expenditures are 150% higher than Arlington's*.*
 - If Arlington spent at the same rate as Alexandria it's annual CSA expenditures for private SPED services would be \$1,520,441 higher.

*adjusted for SPED population size

Chesterfield County

Contiguous Locality:

- *Henrico County's CSA private special education expenditures are 40% higher than Chesterfield's.**
 - If Chesterfield spent at the same rate as Henrico it's annual CSA expenditures for private SPED services would be \$2,577,105 higher.

*adjusted for SPED population size

City of Richmond

Contiguous Locality:

- *Henrico County's CSA private special education expenditures are 61% higher than Richmond's*.*
 - If Richmond spent at the same rate as Henrico it's annual CSA expenditures for private SPED services would be \$2,092,811 higher.

*adjusted for SPED population size

City of Norfolk

- *Portsmouth's CSA private special education expenditures are 45% lower.**
 - If Norfolk spent at the same rate as Portsmouth it's annual CSA expenditures would be \$420,675 lower.
- *Chesapeake's CSA private special education expenditures are 31% higher.**
 - If Norfolk spent at the same rate as Chesapeake it's annual CSA expenditures would be \$289,798 higher.
- *Hampton's CSA private special education expenditures are 109% higher.**
 - If Norfolk spent at the same rate as Hampton it's annual CSA expenditures would be \$1,018,968 higher.
- *Newport News' CSA private special education expenditures are 236% higher.**
 - If Norfolk spent at the same rate as Newport News it's annual CSA expenditures would be \$2,206,205 higher.

*adjusted for SPED population size

City of Virginia Beach

- *Portsmouth's CSA private special education expenditures are 27% higher.**
 - If Virginia Beach spent at the same rate as Portsmouth its annual CSA expenditures would be \$198,903 higher.
- *Chesapeake's CSA private special education expenditures are 207% higher.**
 - If Virginia Beach spent at the same rate as Chesapeake its annual CSA expenditures would be \$1,524,923 higher.
- *Hampton's CSA private special education expenditures are 388% higher.**
 - If Virginia Beach spent at the same rate as Hampton its annual CSA expenditures would be \$2,858,310 higher.
- *Newport News' CSA private special education expenditures are 684% higher.**
 - If Virginia Beach spent at the same rate as Newport News its annual CSA expenditures would be \$5,038,877 higher.

*adjusted for SPED population size

Roanoke County

- *Roanoke County's CSA private special education expenditures are 17% lower than Roanoke City's.**
- *Roanoke County Public Schools pays 50% of the local match for all CSA expenditures.*
- *Private day expenditures have been approximately 50% of all CSA expenditures for the past several years.*

*adjusted for SPED population size

City of Roanoke

- *Beginning in FY 2014 (and retroactive to FY 2013) Roanoke City Public Schools began paying the local CSA match for private special education expenditures.*