

Resolution to Support the Recommendations Introduced at the Coalfields Equity Summit

WHEREAS, the localities of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Norton City, Russell, Scott, Tazewell, and Wise have been identified as being part of the Coalfields Region; and

WHEREAS, Coalfields Localities and Stakeholders have determined that working collaboratively will enhance their collective voice in legislative and other matters; and

WHEREAS, Local Stakeholders include School Boards, Boards of Supervisors, City Councils, Town Councils, Industrial Development Authorities, Chambers of Commerce, etc.; and

WHEREAS, Coalfields Stakeholders believe that PK-12 public education is critical to the vitality of the region as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Coalfields Localities have seen a drop in population of over 40,000 residents since 1990; and

WHEREAS, Coalfields School Divisions have seen a decline in K-12 enrollment of over 5,000 students since 2009 and a decline of more than 600 students since March 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, if the most recent decline in enrollment continues, the Coalfields Region stands to lose over \$10,000,000 in State Revenue by June of 2017; and

WHEREAS, 25% of students in the Coalfields Region live below the Federal Poverty Level; and

WHEREAS, 59% of students in the Coalfields Region are eligible for Free or Reduced Priced Lunch; and

WHEREAS, Coalfields Localities have the ability to raise only \$1,200,000 by increasing property taxes by one penny (.01); and

WHEREAS, local poverty and tax revenues prevent Coalfields Localities from funding schools at the same level as affluent Localities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Coalfield Localities, Schools, and Stakeholders do hereby:

1. Urge the Virginia General Assembly to provide a Cost of Competing Adjustment (CoCA) for Coalfields School Divisions for salaries and

operations similar to the CoCA for 18 School Divisions in Northern Virginia as permitted by recommendation of JLARC Report Document 82;

2. Urge the Virginia General Assembly to reissue the Enrollment Loss Budget Line item for Virginia's schools as issued most recently in 2010;
3. Urge the Virginia General Assembly to approve the 2% Compensation Supplement that was originally part of the 2017 State Budget;
4. Urge the Virginia General Assembly to consider other long term solutions to provide equitable funding to School Divisions across Virginia as presented at the Coalfields Equity Summit held at the University of Virginia's College at Wise on October 13, 2016.

ADOPTED this 27th day of October, 2016.

Norton City School Board

Sherry Adams, Chairman

ATTEST:
