

OUR COMMITMENT TO VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN

The Nation's Report Card:

- On October 24, 2022, the 2022 National Assessment of Education Progress data for Virginia was released, showing catastrophic learning loss.
 - Virginia's >13-point decline in fourth-grade reading since 2017 is the **largest decline in reading in the nation**.
 - Virginia's 12-point decline in fourth-grade math since 2017 is tied with Maryland's as the **largest decline in math in the nation**.
 - Both of these declines are **nearly three times the national average** in learning loss.
 - For the first time in 30 years, Virginia's fourth-grade **students are now at or below the national average**.
- The declines on NAEP since 2017 have **erased more than 20 years of progress** in fourth-grade achievement.
 - The Board of Education **watering down school accreditation standards** in 2017 and **lowering expectations** in math in 2019 and in reading in 2020 contributed to these declines prior to COVID-19 school closures.
 - **Failure to provide in-person learning** exacerbated the declines and grew achievement gaps.

TODAY, GOVERNOR YOUNGKIN
DOUBLES DOWN ON OUR COMMITMENT.

Action 1: Raise the floor and the ceiling

- Direct the Board of Education to **raise Virginia's expectations for students** from the lowest in the nation to the highest by the time our students take their SOL exams next spring.¹
 - Virginia's proficiency cut scores in fourth-grade and eighth-grade reading are the lowest in the nation.

Action 2: Empower Parents with Emergency Support for Students

- Invest \$30 million in **K-12 learning recovery grants** to empower parents to get their children back on track.
 - Families know best what supports their children need. Beginning in January 2023, Virginia's families can apply for funds to access **in-person, virtual, or hybrid tutoring** in one-on-one, small group, or large group settings.

¹ Commitment to Virginians: https://doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/our-commitment-to-virginians.pdf

- Virginia K-12 students whose family income does not exceed 300% of Federal Poverty Level are eligible for **\$3,000 grants**. All other students are eligible for **\$1,500 grants**.

Action 3: Launch Tutoring Partnerships

- Establish a new partnership with the non-profits Khan Academy and *Schoolhouse.world*,² both started by Sal Kahn, to provide every high school student in the Commonwealth **free, small-group math tutoring and homework support**. Our partnership will expand as we add middle school students soon.
- Challenge every citizen in the Commonwealth to be a part of the solution. **Volunteer to be a tutor** on *Schoolhouse.world* and in your community. Ask principals and teachers how you can help, too.

Action 4: Hold Ourselves and Our Schools Accountable

- Direct the Board of Education to **overhaul our broken school accreditation system**, which currently masks the fact that too many students are being failed across the Commonwealth.
 - Amidst this catastrophic learning loss, 89% of schools received the top accreditation rating in 2022.³
- Design a system to **hold schools accountable for results** by providing a clear picture of how every school is serving its students.
 - This will be achieved by putting an end to the conflation of accreditation and accountability and creating one meaningful, understandable accountability system.

Action 5: Strengthen Virginia's Teacher Pipeline

- Invest over \$70 million in the bipartisan **Virginia Literacy Act** to leverage the Science of Reading to transform reading instruction so that every child can read on grade level.
 - Require the use of **evidence-based curricula** and instructional materials.
 - Support more than 600 **reading specialists** in classrooms across the Commonwealth and **train teachers** to deliver evidence-based instruction.
 - Create new **individualized reading plans** for those students not on track to read by third-grade and provide **parent tools** to support literacy at home.
- Invest \$10 million to expand Virginia's teacher recruitment and retention efforts so that every child in the Commonwealth has a great teacher through the **continued implementation of Executive Directive 3**.⁴
 - Invest nearly \$6 million to support teacher **apprenticeship** programs⁵, paid **internships**, and HBCU teacher **residency** programs in which prospective teachers simultaneously earn a teaching degree and license.
 - Invest over \$3 million in **recruitment and retention** efforts⁶, including tuition assistance, hiring bonuses, support to attain full licensure, and retention bonuses.

² Schoolhouse.world: <https://schoolhouse.world/>

³ 2022 School Accreditation Ratings: https://doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/accreditation_federal_reports/accreditation/index.shtml

⁴ Executive Directive 3: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorviriniagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/ed/ED-3---Addressing-Teacher-Shortages-in-Virginia-Schools.pdf>

⁵ Superintendent's Memo, August 5, 2022: https://doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2022/172-22.pdf

⁶ Superintendent's Memo, June 3, 2022: https://doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2022/172-22.pdf

- o Invest nearly \$1 million for the just launched “**Become a Teacher**”⁷ campaign with a new website where you can start your journey and search open jobs across the Commonwealth.

Action 6: Provide Parents, Students, and Teachers with Actionable Information

- Provide every grade 4-12 teacher and family direct access to **individualized, comprehensive student success reports** beginning in February 2023.
- Expand participation in the recently launched **Bridging the Gap**⁸ initiative from 15 to 25 school divisions so that students who are not on grade level will receive a **Personalized Learning Plans** to get them back on track.
- Release the “**Learning Needs Dashboard,**” an easy-to-navigate platform allowing parents students, and teachers to see and compare learning loss, recovery, and the current status of student performance in Virginia across grades, subjects, and demographics.

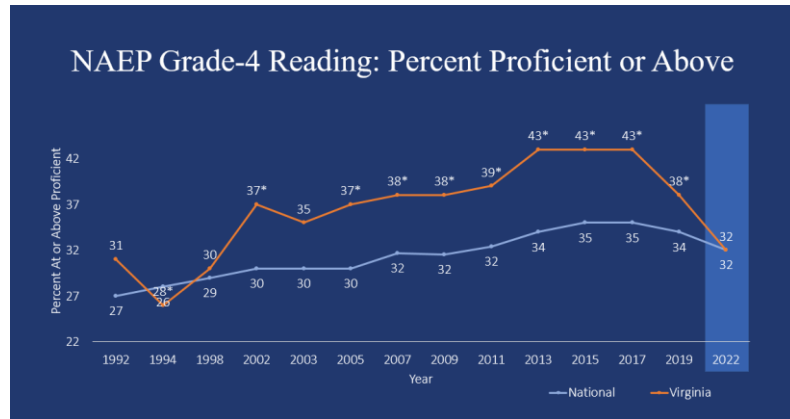
Action 7: Challenge School Divisions to Spend Nearly \$2 Billion in Remaining Federal K-12 Funds on Learning Recovery

- Challenge each local school division to **spend their remaining nearly \$2 billion** of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds on proven efforts to recover learning like:
 - o Supplementing learning through instruction before school, after school, on weekends, and in the summer;
 - o Providing direct support to families to access tutoring;
 - o Extending the school year; and
 - o Rewarding those teachers and schools that make the greatest impact on student learning with performance bonuses.
- Ensure that all parents and community leaders shape the **use of these unprecedented federal resources**.
 - o Direct Superintendent Balow to require all local school divisions to reopen their public consultation and **update their spending plans** for federal ESSER funds by December 31, 2022.

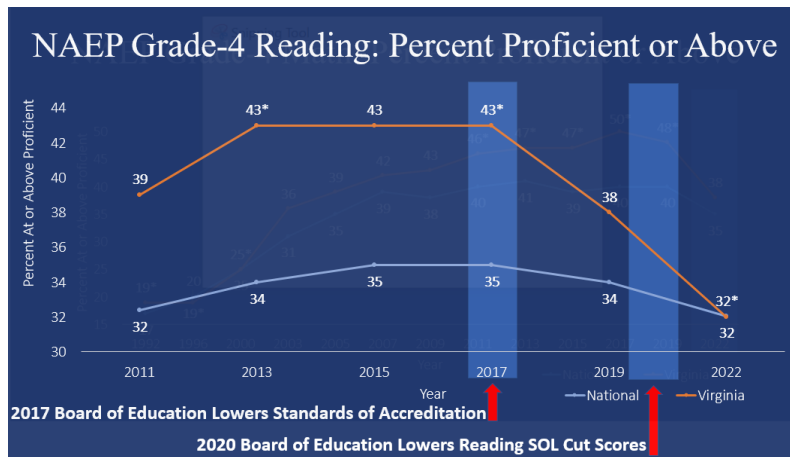
⁷ Become A Teacher: <https://becomeateacher.virginia.gov/>

⁸ Bridging the Gap: <https://doe.virginia.gov/instruction/bridging-the-gap/index.shtml>

NAEP Grade-4 Reading: Virginia's 4th Graders at the National Average for the first time since 1994



Grade-4 Reading: % Proficient or Above:



Grade-4 Math: % Proficient or Above:

