

Relevant Excerpts from the *Code of Virginia* and the Amended 2016-2018 Biennial Budget Adopted by the 2017 General Assembly (Chapter 836), Regarding Required Local Effort for Mandatory Standards of Quality Programs and Required Local Match for Incentive and Lottery-Funded Programs

Relevant Excerpts from the *Code of Virginia*:

§ 22.1-94. Appropriations by county, city or town governing body for public schools.

A governing body may make appropriations to a school board from the funds derived from local levies and from any other funds available, for operation, capital outlay and debt service in the public schools. Such appropriations shall be not less than the cost apportioned to the governing body for maintaining an educational program meeting the standards of quality for the several school divisions prescribed as provided by law. The amount appropriated by the governing body for public schools shall relate to its total only or to such major classifications prescribed by the Board of Education pursuant to [§ 22.1-115](#). The appropriations may be made on the same periodic basis as the governing body makes appropriations to other departments and agencies.

(Code 1950, § 22-127; 1956, Ex. Sess., c. 67; 1959, Ex. Sess., c. 79, § 1; 1968, c. 614; 1971, Ex. Sess., c. 162; 1975, c. 443; 1978, c. 551; 1980, c. 559; 1989, c. 94.)

§ 22.1-95. Duty to levy school tax.

Each county, city and town is authorized, directed and required to raise money by a tax on all property subject to local taxation at such rate as will insure a sum which, together with other available funds, will provide that portion of the cost apportioned to such county, city or town by law for maintaining an educational program meeting the standards of quality for the several school divisions prescribed as provided by law.

(Code 1950, § 22-126.1; 1971, Ex. Sess., c. 162; 1980, c. 559.)

§ 22.1-97. Calculation and reporting of required local expenditures; procedure if locality fails to appropriate sufficient educational funds.

Calculation and reporting of required local expenditures; procedure if locality fails to appropriate sufficient educational funds.

A. The Department of Education shall collect annually the data necessary to make calculations and reports required by this subsection.

At the beginning of each school year, the Department shall make calculations to ensure that each school division has appropriated sufficient funds to support its estimated required local expenditure for providing an educational program meeting the prescribed Standards of Quality, required by Article VIII of the Constitution of Virginia and Chapter 13.2 ([§ 22.1-253.13:1](#) et seq.) of this title. At the conclusion of the school year, the Department shall make calculations to

verify whether the locality has provided the required expenditure, based on average daily membership as of March 31 of the relevant school year.

The Department shall report annually to the House Committees on Education and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Finance and Education and Health the results of such calculations and the degree to which each school division has met, failed to meet, or surpassed its required expenditure.

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall report annually to the House Committees on Education and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Finance and Education and Health the state expenditure provided each locality for an educational program meeting the Standards of Quality.

The Department and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall coordinate to ensure that their respective reports are based upon comparable data and are delivered together, or as closely following one another as practicable, to the appropriate standing committees.

B. Whenever such calculations indicate that the governing body of a county, city or town fails or refuses to appropriate funds sufficient to provide that portion of the cost apportioned to such county, city or town by law for maintaining an educational program meeting the Standards of Quality, the Board of Education shall notify the Attorney General of such failure or refusal in writing signed by the president of the Board. Upon receipt of such notification, it shall be the duty of the Attorney General to file in the circuit court for the county, city or town a petition for a writ of mandamus directing and requiring such governing body to make forthwith such appropriation as is required by law.

The petition shall be in the name of the Board of Education, and the governing body shall be made a party defendant thereto. The court may, in its discretion, cause such other officers or persons to be made parties defendant as it may deem proper. The court may make such order as may be appropriate respecting the employment and compensation of an attorney or attorneys for any party defendant not otherwise represented by counsel. The petition shall be given first priority on the docket of such court and shall be heard expeditiously in accordance with the procedures prescribed in Article 2 (§ [8.01-644](#) et seq.) of Chapter 25 of Title 8.01 and the writ of mandamus shall be awarded or denied according to the law and facts of the case and with or without costs, as the court may determine. The order of the court shall be final upon entry. Any appeal therefrom shall be heard and disposed of promptly by the Supreme Court next after habeas corpus cases already on the docket.

(Code 1950, § 22-21.2; 1971, Ex. Sess., c. 160; 1980, c. 559; 2003, c. 948.)

§ 22.1-253.13:8. Compliance.

The Standards of Quality prescribed in this chapter shall be the only standards of quality required by Article VIII, Section 2 of the Constitution of Virginia.

Each local school board shall provide, as a minimum, the programs and services, as provided in the Standards of Quality prescribed above, with state and local funds as apportioned by the General Assembly in the appropriation act and to the extent funding is provided by the General Assembly.

Each local school board shall report its compliance with the Standards of Quality to the Board of Education annually. The report of compliance shall be submitted to the Board of Education by the chairman of the local school board and the division superintendent.

Noncompliance with the Standards of Quality shall be included in the Board of Education's annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly as required by § [22.1-18](#).

As required by § [22.1-18](#), the Board of Education shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a report on the condition and needs of public education in the Commonwealth and shall identify any school divisions and the specific schools therein that have failed to establish and maintain schools meeting the existing prescribed Standards of Quality.

The Board of Education shall have authority to seek school division compliance with the foregoing Standards of Quality. When the Board of Education determines that a school division has failed or refused, and continues to fail or refuse, to comply with any such Standard, the Board may petition the circuit court having jurisdiction in the school division to mandate or otherwise enforce compliance with such standard, including the development or implementation of any required corrective action plan that a local school board has failed or refused to develop or implement in a timely manner.

(1988, cc. 645, 682; 1990, cc. 820, 839; 2004, cc. 939, 955, 965; 2005, cc. 331, 450.)

Relevant Excerpts Based on Amended 2016-2018 Biennial Budget Adopted by the 2017 General Assembly (Chapter 836):

Item 139, Paragraph A:

5. "Required Local Expenditure for the Standards of Quality" - The locality's share based on the composite index of local ability-to-pay of the cost required by all the Standards of Quality minus its estimated revenues from the state sales and use tax dedicated to public education and those sales tax revenues transferred to the general fund from the Public Education Standards of Quality/Local Real Estate Property Tax Relief Fund and appropriated in this Item, both of which are returned on the basis of the latest yearly estimate of school age population provided by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, as specified in this Item, collected by the Department of Education and distributed to school divisions in the fiscal year in which the school year begins.

6. "Required Local Match" - The locality's required share of program cost based on the composite index of local ability-to-pay for all Lottery and Incentive programs, where required, in which the school division has elected to participate in a fiscal year.

Item 139, Paragraph B:

8.a.1) Pursuant to § 22.1-97, Code of Virginia, the Department of Education is required to make calculations at the start of the school year to ensure that school divisions have appropriated adequate funds to support their estimated required local expenditure for the corresponding state fiscal year. In an effort to reduce the administrative burden on school divisions resulting from state data collections, such as the one needed to make the aforementioned calculations, the requirements of § 22.1-97, Code of Virginia, pertaining to the adequacy of estimated required local expenditures, shall be satisfied by signed certification by each division superintendent at the beginning of each school year that sufficient local funds have been budgeted to meet all state required local effort and required local match amounts. This provision shall only apply to calculations required of the Department of Education related to estimated required local expenditures and shall not pertain to the calculations associated with actual required local expenditures after the close of the school year.

2) The Department of Education shall also make calculations after the close of the school year to verify that the required local effort level, based on actual March 31 Average Daily Membership, was met. Pursuant to § 22.1-97, Code of Virginia, the Department of Education shall report annually, no later than the first day of the General Assembly session, to the House Committees on Education and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Finance and Education and Health, the results of such calculations made after the close of the school year and the degree to which each school division has met, failed to meet, or surpassed its required local expenditure. The Department of Education shall specify the calculations to determine if a school division has expended its required local expenditure for the Standards of Quality. This calculation may include but is not limited to the following calculations:

b. The total expenditures for operation, defined as total expenditures less all capital outlays, expenditures for debt service, facilities, non-regular day school programs (such as adult education, preschool, and non-local education programs), and any transfers to regional programs will be calculated.

c. The following state funds will be deducted from the amount calculated in paragraph a. above: revenues from the state sales and use tax (returned on the basis of the latest yearly estimate of school age population provided by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, as specified in this Item) for sales in the fiscal year in which the school year begins; total receipts from state funds (except state funds for non-regular day school programs and state funds used for capital or debt service purposes); and the state share of any balances carried forward from the previous fiscal year. Any qualifying state funds that remain unspent at the end of the fiscal year will be added to the amount calculated in paragraph a. above.

d. Federal funds, and any federal funds carried forward from the previous fiscal year, will also be deducted from the amount calculated in paragraph a. above. Any federal funds that remain unspent at the end of the fiscal year and any capital expenditures paid from federal funds will be added to the amount calculated in paragraph a. above.

e. Tuition receipts, receipts from payments from other cities or counties, and fund transfers will also be deducted from the amount calculated in paragraph a, then

f. The final amount calculated as described above must be equal to or greater than the required local expenditure defined in paragraph A. 5.

g. The Department of Education shall collect the data necessary to perform the calculations of required local expenditure as required by this section.

h. A locality whose expenditure in fact exceeds the required amount from local funds may not reduce its expenditures unless it first complies with all of the Standards of Quality.

9.a. Any required local matching funds which a locality, as of the end of a school year, has not expended, pursuant to this Item, for the Standards of Quality shall be paid by the locality into the general fund of the state treasury. Such payments shall be made not later than the end of the school year following that in which the under expenditure occurs.

b. Whenever the Department of Education has recovered funds as defined in the preceding paragraph a., the Secretary of Education is authorized to repay to the locality affected by that action, seventy-five percent (75%) of those funds upon his determination that:

1) The local school board agrees to include the funds in its June 30 ending balance for the year following that in which the under expenditure occurs;

2) The local governing body agrees to reappropriate the funds as a supplemental appropriation to the approved budget for the second year following that in which the under expenditure occurs, in

an appropriate category as requested by the local school board, for the direct benefit of the students;

3) The local school board agrees to expend these funds, over and above the funds required to meet the required local expenditure for the second year following that in which the under expenditure occurs, for a special project, the details of which must be furnished to the Department of Education for review and approval;

4) The local school board agrees to submit quarterly reports to the Department of Education on the use of funds provided through this project award; and

5) The local governing body and the local school board agree that the project award will be cancelled and the funds withdrawn if the above conditions have not been met as of June 30 of the second year following that in which the under expenditure occurs.

c. There is hereby appropriated, for the purposes of the foregoing repayment, a sum sufficient, not to exceed 75 percent of the funds deposited in the general fund pursuant to the preceding paragraph a.

10. The Department of Education shall specify the manner for collecting the required information and the method for determining if a school division has expended the local funds required to support the actual local match based on all Lottery and Incentive programs in which the school division has elected to participate. Unless specifically stated otherwise in this Item, school divisions electing to participate in any Lottery or Incentive program that requires a local funding match in order to receive state funding, shall certify to the Department of Education its intent to participate in each program by July 1 each fiscal year in a manner prescribed by the Department of Education. As part of this certification process, each division superintendent must also certify that adequate local funds have been appropriated, above the required local effort for the Standards of Quality, to support the projected required local match based on the Lottery and Incentive programs in which the school division has elected to participate. State funding for such program(s) shall not be made until such time that the school division can certify that sufficient local funding has been appropriated to meet required local match. The Department of Education shall make calculations after the close of the fiscal year to verify that the required local match was met based on the state funds that were received.

11. Any sum of local matching funds for Lottery and Incentive program which a locality has not expended as of the end of a fiscal year in support of the required local match pursuant to this Item shall be paid by the locality into the general fund of the state treasury unless the carryover of those unspent funds is specifically permitted by other provisions of this act. Such payments shall be made no later than the end of the school year following that in which the under expenditure occurred.

Item 139, Paragraph C

9. Remedial Education Payments (At-Risk Program):

e. An additional state payment estimated at \$76,080,851 the second year from the general fund and \$98,013,725 the first year and \$22,010,800 the second year from the Lottery Proceeds Fund shall be disbursed based on the estimated number of federal Free Lunch participants, in support of programs for students who are educationally at risk. The additional payment shall be based on the state share of:

1) A minimum 1.0 percent add-on, as a percent of the per pupil basic aid cost, for each child who qualifies for the federal Free Lunch Program; and

2) An addition to the add-on, based on the concentration of children qualifying for the federal Free Lunch Program. Based on its percentage of Free Lunch participants, each school division will receive between 1.0 and 13.0 percent in additional basic aid per Free Lunch participant. These funds shall be matched by the local government, based on the composite index of local ability-to-pay.

3a) Local school divisions are required to spend the established at-risk payment (state and local share) on approved programs for students who are educationally at risk.

b) To receive these funds, each school division shall certify to the Department of Education that the state and local share of the at-risk payment will be used to support approved programs for students who are educationally at risk. These programs may include: Dropout Prevention, community and school-based truancy officer programs, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), Project Discovery, Reading Recovery, programs for students who speak English as a second language, or programs related to increasing the success of disadvantaged students in completing a high school degree and providing opportunities to encourage further education and training. Further, each school division shall report to the Department, in the manner prescribed and date set by the Department, the uses of (i) increased funds in fiscal year 2017 above the levels in fiscal year 2016, as well as (ii) the uses of the base level of these funds. The Department shall compile the responses and provide them to the Chairmen of Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees no later than the first day of the 2017 Session.

10. K-3 Primary Class Size Reduction Payments

a. An additional payment estimated at \$123,321,155 the first year and \$128,583,847 the second year from the Lottery Proceeds Fund shall be disbursed by the Department of Education as an incentive for reducing class sizes in the primary grades.

b. The Department of Education shall calculate the payment based on the incremental cost of providing the lower class sizes based on the lower of the division average per pupil cost of all divisions or the actual division per pupil cost.

c. Localities are required to provide a match for these funds based on the composite index of local ability-to-pay.

d. By October 15 of each year school divisions must provide data to the Department of Education that each participating school has a September 30 pupil/teacher ratio in grades K through 3 that meet the following criteria:

Qualifying School Percentage of Students Approved

Eligible for Free Lunch, Three-Year Average	Grades K-3 School Ratio	Maximum Individual K-3 Class Size
30% but less than 45%	19 to 1	24
45% but less than 55%	18 to 1	23
55% but less than 65%	17 to 1	22
65% but less than 70%	16 to 1	21
70% but less than 75%	15 to 1	20
75% or more	14 to 1	19

e. School divisions may elect to have eligible schools participate at a higher ratio, or only in a portion of grades kindergarten through three, with a commensurate reduction of state and required local funds, if local conditions do not permit participation at the established ratio and/or maximum individual class size. In the event that a school division requires additional actions to ensure participation at the established ratio and/or maximum individual class size, such actions must be completed by December 1 of the impacted school year. Special education teachers and instructional aides shall not be counted towards meeting these required pupil/teacher ratios in grades kindergarten through three.

f. The Superintendent of Public Instruction may grant waivers to school divisions for the class size requirement in eligible schools that have only one class in an affected grade level in the school.

14. Virginia Preschool Initiative Payments

a.1) It is the intent of the General Assembly that a payment estimated at \$69,351,713 the first year and \$70,950,500 the second year from the Lottery Proceeds Fund shall be disbursed by the Department of Education to schools and community-based organizations to provide quality preschool programs for at-risk four-year-olds who are residents of Virginia and unserved by Head Start program funding. In no event shall distributions from the Lottery Proceeds Fund be made directly to community-based or private providers.

2) These state funds and required local matching funds shall be used to provide programs for at-risk four-year-old children, which include quality preschool education, health services, social services, parental involvement and transportation. It shall be the policy of the Commonwealth that state funds and required local matching funds for the Virginia Preschool Initiative not be used for capital outlay. Programs must provide full-day or half-day and, at least, school-year services.

3) The Department of Education, in cooperation with the Council on Child Day Care and Early Childhood Programs, shall establish academic standards that are in accordance with appropriate preparation for students to be ready to successfully enter kindergarten. These standards shall be established in such a manner as to be measurable for student achievement and success. Students shall be required to be evaluated in the fall and in the spring by each participating school division and the school divisions must certify that the Virginia Preschool Initiative program follows the established standards in order to receive the funding for quality preschool education and criteria for the service components. Such guidelines shall be consistent with the findings of the November 1993 study by the Board of Education, the Department of Education, and the Council on Child Day Care and Early Childhood Programs.

4) a) Grants shall be distributed based on an allocation formula providing the state share of a \$6,125 grant for 100 percent of the unserved at-risk four-year-olds in each locality for a full-day program. The number of unserved at-risk four-year-olds in each locality shall be based on the projected number of kindergarten students, updated once each biennium for the Governor's introduced biennial budget. Half-day programs shall operate for a minimum of three hours of classroom instructional time per day, excluding breaks for lunch or recess, and grants to half-day programs shall be funded based on the state share of \$3,062 per unserved at-risk four-year-old in each locality. Full-day programs shall operate for a minimum of five and one-half instructional hours, excluding breaks for meals and recess. No additional state funding is provided for programs operating greater than three hours per day but less than five and one-half hours per day. In determining the state and local shares of funding, the composite index of local ability-to-pay is capped at 0.5000.

b) For new programs in the first year of implementation only, programs operating less than a full school year shall receive state funds on a fractional basis determined by the pro-rata portion of a school year program provided. In determining the prorated state funds to be received, a school year shall be 180 days.

b.1) Any locality which desires to participate in this grant program must submit a proposal through its chief administrator (county administrator or city manager) by May 15 of each year. The chief administrator, in conjunction with the school superintendent, shall identify a lead agency for this program within the locality. The lead agency shall be responsible for developing a local plan for the delivery of quality preschool services to at-risk children which demonstrates the coordination of resources and the combination of funding streams in an effort to serve the greatest number of at-risk four-year-old children.

2) The proposal must demonstrate coordination with all parties necessary for the successful delivery of comprehensive services, including the schools, child care providers, local social services agency, Head Start, local health department, and other groups identified by the lead agency.

3) A local match, based on the composite index of local ability-to-pay, shall be required. For purposes of meeting the local match, localities may use local expenditures for existing qualifying programs, however, at least seventy-five percent of the local match will be cash and no more

than twenty-five percent will be in-kind. In-kind contributions are defined as cash outlays that are made by the locality that benefit the program but are not directly charged to the program. The value of fixed assets cannot be considered as an in-kind contribution. Localities shall also continue to pursue and coordinate other funding sources, including child care subsidies. Funds received through this program must be used to supplement, not supplant, any funds currently provided for programs within the locality. However, in the event a locality is prohibited from continuing the previous level of support to programs for at-risk four-year-olds from Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the state and local funds provided in this grants program may be used to continue services to these Title I students. Such prohibition may occur due to amendments to the allocation formula in the reauthorization of ESEA as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 or due to a percentage reduction in a locality's Title I allocation in 2016-2017 or 2017-2018. Any locality so affected shall provide written evidence to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and request his approval to continue the services to Title I students.

c. Local plans must provide clear methods of service coordination for the purpose of reducing the per child cost for the service, increasing the number of at-risk children served and/or extending services for the entire year. Examples of these include:

- 1) "Wraparound Services" -- methods for combining funds such as child care subsidy dollars administered by local social service agencies with dollars for quality preschool education programs.
- 2) "Wrap-out Services" - methods for using grant funds to purchase quality preschool services to at-risk four-year-old children through an existing child care setting by purchasing comprehensive services within a setting which currently provides quality preschool education.
- 3) "Expansion of Service" - methods for using grant funds to purchase slots within existing programs, such as Head Start, which provide comprehensive services to at-risk four-year-old children.

d.1) Local plans must indicate the number of at-risk four-year-old children to be served, and the eligibility criteria for participation in this program shall be consistent with the economic and educational risk factors stated in the 2015-2016 programs guidelines that are specific to: (i) family income at or below 200 percent of poverty, (ii) homelessness, (iii) student's parents or guardians are school dropouts, or (iv) family income is less than 350 percent of federal poverty guidelines in the case of students with special needs or disabilities. Up to 15 percent of a division's slots may be filled based on locally established eligibility criteria so as to meet the unique needs of at-risk children in the community.

2) The Department of Education is directed to compile from each school division the aggregated information as to the number of enrolled students whose families are (i) at or below 130 percent of poverty, and (ii) above 130 percent but below 200 percent of poverty. The Department shall report this information annually, after the application and fall participation reports are submitted to the Department from the school divisions, to the Chairmen of House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees. In addition, the Department will post and maintain the summary

information by division on the Department's website in keeping with current student privacy policies.

e.1) The Department of Education and the Council on Child Day Care and Early Childhood Programs shall provide technical assistance for the administration of this grant program to provide assistance to localities in developing a comprehensive, coordinated, quality preschool program for serving at-risk four-year-old children.

2) A pre-application session shall be provided by the Department and the Council on Child Day Care and Early Childhood Programs prior to the proposal deadline. The Department shall provide interested localities with information on models for service delivery, methods of coordinating funding streams, such as funds to match federal IV-A child care dollars, to maximize funding without supplanting existing sources of funding for the provision of services to at-risk four-year-old children. A priority for technical assistance in the design of programs shall be given to localities where the majority of the at-risk four-year-old population is currently unserved.

f. The Department of Education shall include in the program's application package specific information regarding the potential availability of funding for supplemental grants that may be used for one-time expenses, other than capital, related to start-up or expansion of programs, with priority given to proposals for expanding the use of partnerships with either nonprofit or for-profit providers. Furthermore, the Department is mandated to communicate to all eligible school divisions the remaining available balances in the program's adopted budget, after the fall participation reports have been submitted and finalized for such grants.

34. Reading Specialists Initiative

a. An additional payment of \$1,476,790 the first year and \$1,476,790 the second year from the general fund shall be disbursed by the Department of Education to qualifying local school divisions for the purpose of providing a reading specialist for any school with a third grade that has a school-wide pass rate of less than 75 percent on the reading Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments.

b. These payments shall be based on the state's share of the cost of providing one reading specialist per qualifying school. School divisions with schools participating in this program in fiscal year 2016 shall be eligible to receive funding at 100 percent of the state share the first year and 50 percent of the state share the second year for the same schools and such schools are granted a one-year extension of the two-year waiver referenced in subsection c. for a third year in fiscal year 2018. The Department of Education is authorized to disburse additional payments to divisions from any remaining funds each year to support additional qualifying schools and shall give priority to such schools with the lowest SOL pass rates for reading or the greatest number of years accredited with warning in English. Payments to school divisions in support of such additional qualifying schools each year shall be based on 100 percent of the state share of cost.

c. These payments are available to any school division with a qualifying school that (1) certifies to the Department of Education that the division has hired a reading specialist to provide direct services to children reading below grade level in the school to improve reading achievement and (2) applies and receives a waiver for up to two years from the Board of Education for the administration of third grade SOL assessments in science or history and social science or both for the purpose of creating additional instructional time for reading specialists to work with students reading below grade level to improve reading achievement.

d. These payments also are available to any school division with a qualifying school that certifies to the Department of Education that the division is supporting tuition for collegiate programs and instruction for currently employed instructional school personnel to earn the credentials necessary to meet licensure requirements to be endorsed as a reading specialist.

e. School divisions receiving these payments are required to match these funds based on the composite index of local ability-to-pay.

35. Math/Reading Instructional Specialist Initiative

a. Included in this appropriation is \$1,834,538 the first year and \$1,834,538 the second year from the general fund in additional payments for reading or math instructional specialists at underperforming schools. From this amount, the state share of one reading or math specialist shall be provided to local school divisions with schools which have been denied accreditation or were accredited with warning for the third consecutive year based on school accreditation ratings for the 2015-2016 school year. Such schools shall be eligible to receive the state share of funding for both years of the biennium. In addition, following the academic review required by § 22.1-253.13:3, Code of Virginia, the Department of Education shall identify up to 20 additional schools to also receive the state share of a reading or math instructional specialist. The schools eligible for such personnel are those which were accredited with warning for the second consecutive year based on school accreditation ratings for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years and that have shown no or limited improvement in student achievement in the past year. Such schools shall also be eligible to receive the state share of funding for both years of the biennium. If, following certification from a school division that it will not participate in the program, the Department is authorized to identify additional eligible schools.

b. These payments are available to any school division with a qualifying school that certifies to the Department of Education that the division has (1) hired a math or reading instructional specialist, or (2) is supporting tuition for collegiate programs and instruction for currently employed instructional school personnel to earn the credentials necessary to meet licensure requirements to be endorsed as a math specialist or a reading specialist. Localities receiving these payments are required to match these funds based on the composite index of local ability-to-pay.

c. The Department of Education is authorized to utilize available funding appropriated to the Early Reading Specialist Initiative contained in this Item to pay for instructional specialists at additional eligible schools, or to support tuition for collegiate programs and instruction for

currently employed instructional school personnel at additional eligible schools to earn the credentials necessary to meet licensure requirements to be endorsed as an instructional specialist.