



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

REPORT

Status of Regional Alternative Education Student Slots for 2008-2009

PRESENTED TO THE

GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA AND THE
VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

May 1, 2009

Executive Summary

The Regional Alternative Education Programs were established by the General Assembly in 1993-1994 with the intent of involving two or more school divisions working in collaboration to establish options for students who have a pending violation of school board policy, have been expelled or suspended on a long-term basis, or are returning from juvenile correctional centers. The General Assembly provides state funding based on allocated slots to the programs. A funding formula based on a standard staffing model and the composite index of local ability to pay determines funding amounts for each of the 30 programs.

The Appropriation Act, Chapter 879, 2008 Acts of Assembly, states that “The Department of Education shall report by June 30 each year, to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, the number of available student slots, students placed, the request of unused slots, and the number of unused slots subsequently used by each school division for each Regional Alternative Education program.”

Statewide, there were 1,822 slots allotted by formula among 30 regional alternative education programs for 2008-2009. Twenty-five of the 30 programs indicated that they would have placements for all slots assigned to each division in each regional program. Five regional programs reported that there would be unused slots in one of their participating divisions. In each of these five regional programs, one or more of the other participating school divisions requested the additional slots. There were no unused slots to distribute statewide.

As stipulated in the Appropriation Act, Chapter 879, 2008 Acts of Assembly, the requesting school division received only the state’s share of tuition for the unused slot that was allocated for the originally designated school division. Follow-up correspondence to the school divisions receiving the unused slots indicated that the reassigned slots were used by the school divisions.

Status of Regional Alternative Education Placements for 2008-2009

Background: The Regional Alternative Education Programs were established by the General Assembly in 1993-1994 with the intent of involving two or more school divisions working in collaboration to establish options for students who have a pending violation of school board policy, have been expelled or suspended on a long-term basis, or are returning from juvenile correctional centers. The General Assembly provides state funding based on allocated slots to the programs. A funding formula based on a standard staffing model and the composite index of local ability to pay determines funding amounts for each of the 30 programs. A list of the regional programs can be found in Appendix A.

The Appropriation Act, Chapter 879, 2008 Acts of Assembly, includes provisions for reallocating unused student slots in regional alternative education programs. The language of the provision can be found in Appendix B and is outlined as follows:

- In the event a school division does not use all of the student slots it is allocated under a regional alternative education program, the unused slots may be reallocated or transferred to another school division.
- A school division must request from the Department of Education the availability and possible use of any unused student slots. If any unused slots are available, and if the requesting school division chooses to utilize any of the unused slots, the requesting school division shall receive only the state's share of tuition for the unused slot that was allocated for the originally designated school division.
- However, no requesting school division shall receive more tuition funding from the state for any requested unused slot than what would have been the calculated amount for the requesting school division had the unused slot been allocated to the requesting school division in the original budget. Furthermore, the requesting school division shall pay for any remaining tuition payment necessary for using a previously unused slot.
- The Department of Education shall report by June 30 each year, to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, the number of available student slots, students placed, the request of unused slots, and the number of unused slots subsequently used by each school division for each Regional Alternative Education program.

Process Used to Comply with General Assembly Provisions: The Department of Education issued Superintendent's Informational Memorandum 95, dated April 18, 2008, "Provisions for Reallocating Unused Student Slots in Regional Alternative Education Programs for 2008-2009." The memorandum advised division superintendents of the provisions for reallocating unused student slots in the state's Regional Alternative Education Programs. Appendix C contains the process used to determine the distribution of unused student slots

for the 2008-2009 school year. Following the distribution of the memorandum, the Department sent a data collection survey on the number of slots to be used in each Regional Alternative Education Program for 2008-2009 to the project directors of the 30 programs.

Results: Statewide, there were 1,822 slots allotted by formula among 30 regional programs for 2008-2009. Twenty-five of the 30 programs indicated that they would have placements for all slots assigned to each division in each regional program. Five regional programs reported that there would be unused slots in one or more of their participating divisions. In each of these five regional programs, one or more of the other participating school divisions requested the additional slots. There were no unused slots to distribute statewide.

Based on the process for distribution of slots established by the Department, the unused slots were distributed first to the requesting school division being served in the Regional Alternative Education Program. By this process, 25 slots were reassigned.

- In the Lynchburg regional program, Bedford reported that four of its assigned slots would not be used, and Amherst requested the four additional slots.
- In the Petersburg regional program, Colonial Heights indicated that it would not use two slots, and Dinwiddie indicated it would not use three slots. Sussex requested two additional slots, and Hopewell requested three additional slots.
- In the Stafford regional program, Spotsylvania indicated that it would not use seven slots. Stafford requested one additional slot; Caroline requested two additional slots; Fredericksburg requested two additional slots; and King George requested two additional slots.
- In the Staunton project, Staunton indicated that it would not use six of its assigned slots. Harrisonburg and Waynesboro each requested three additional slots.
- In the Buena Vista regional program, Lexington indicated that it would not use three slots. Buena Vista requested two additional slots, and Rockbridge requested one additional slot.

As stipulated in the Appropriation Act, the requesting school division received only the state's share of tuition for the unused slot that was allocated for the originally designated school division. A chart that depicts the redistribution of slots is shown in Appendix D.

In follow-up correspondence in March 2009, the school divisions receiving the unused slots indicated that the reassigned slots were used by their school divisions.

**Appendix A
Regional Alternative Education Programs
2008-2009**

School Division-Fiscal Agent	Other Participating Divisions
Bristol City Public Schools	Washington County Public Schools
Brunswick County Public Schools	Greensville and Mecklenburg County Public Schools
Buena Vista City Public Schools	Rockbridge County Public Schools and Lexington City Public Schools
Carroll County Public Schools	Galax City Public Schools
Fairfax County Public Schools	Alexandria City Public Schools
Fauquier County Public Schools	Rappahannock County Public Schools
Fluvanna County Public Schools	Alleghany, Bath, Botetourt, Charles City, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Greene, Halifax, Highland, Madison, Orange, Shenandoah, and Smyth County Public Schools, Radford City Public Schools
Henry County Public Schools	Martinsville City and Patrick County Public Schools
King William County Public Schools	Gloucester, Mathews, Middlesex, Essex, King and Queen, and New Kent County Public Schools, Town of West Point Public Schools
Lynchburg City Public Schools	Appomattox, Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson County Public Schools
Montgomery County Public Schools	Pulaski County Public Schools
Newport News City Public Schools	Hampton City Public Schools
Norfolk City Public Schools	Chesapeake, Franklin, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach City, Isle of Wight and Southampton County Public Schools
Northampton County Public Schools	Accomack County Public Schools
Nottoway County Public Schools	Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, and Prince Edward County Public Schools

School Division-Fiscal Agent	Other Participating Divisions
Petersburg City Public Schools	Dinwiddie, Prince George, and Sussex County Public Schools, Colonial Heights and Hopewell City Public Schools
Pittsylvania County Public Schools	Danville City Public Schools
Powhatan County Public Schools	Goochland and Louisa County Public Schools
Prince William County Public Schools	Manassas and Manassas Park City Public Schools
Richmond City Public Schools	Hanover and Henrico County Public Schools
Roanoke City Public Schools	Salem City Public Schools
Roanoke County Public Schools	Bedford County Public Schools
Russell County Public Schools	Tazewell County Public Schools
Scott County Public Schools	Lee County Public Schools
Stafford County Public Schools	Caroline, King George, and Spotsylvania County Public Schools, and Fredericksburg City Public Schools
Staunton City Public Schools	Harrisonburg and Waynesboro City Public Schools, and Augusta County Public Schools
Westmoreland County Public Schools	Lancaster, Northumberland, and Richmond County Public Schools, Town of Colonial Beach Public Schools
Wise County Public Schools	Dickenson County Public Schools and Norton City Public Schools
Wythe County Public Schools	Bland County Public Schools
York County Public Schools	Poquoson City and Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools

Appendix B

Item 140.C.11.e of Chapter 879, 2008 Acts of Assembly
(<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?081+bud+21-140>)

e. Regional Alternative Education Programs

1) An additional state payment of \$6,724,960 the first year and \$6,977,930 the second year from the general fund shall be disbursed for regional alternative education programs. Such programs shall be for the purpose of educating certain expelled students and, as appropriate, students who have received suspensions from public schools and students returned to the community from the Department of Juvenile Justice.

2) Each regional program shall have a small student/staff ratio. Such staff shall include, but not be limited to education, mental health, health, and law enforcement professionals, who will collaborate to provide for the academic, psychological and social needs of the students. Each program shall be designed to ensure that students make the transition back into the "mainstream" within their local school division.

3a) Regional alternative education programs are funded through this Item based on the state's share of the incremental per pupil cost for providing such programs. This incremental per pupil payment shall be adjusted for the composite index of local ability-to-pay of the school division that counts such students attending such program in its March 31 Average Daily Membership. It is the intent of the General Assembly that this incremental per pupil amount be in addition to the basic aid per pupil funding provided to the affected school division for such students. Therefore, local school divisions are encouraged to provide the appropriate portion of the basic aid per pupil funding to the regional programs for students attending these programs, adjusted for costs incurred by the school division for transportation, administration, and any portion of the school day or school year that the student does not attend such program.

b) In the event a school division does not use all of the student slots it is allocated under this program, the unused slots may be reallocated or transferred to another school division.

1. A school division must request from the Department of Education the availability and possible use of any unused student slots. If any unused slots are available and if the requesting school division chooses to utilize any of the unused slots, the requesting school division shall only receive the state's share of tuition for the unused slot that was allocated in this Item for the originally designated school division.

2. However, no requesting school division shall receive more tuition funding from the state for any requested unused slot than what would have been the calculated amount for the requesting school division had the unused slot been allocated to the requesting school division in the original budget. Furthermore, the requesting school division shall pay for any remaining tuition payment necessary for using a previously unused slot.

3. The Department of Education shall report by June 30 each year, to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, the number of available student slots, students placed, the request of unused slots, and the number of unused slots subsequently used by each school division for each Regional Alternative Education program.

4) The Board of Education shall provide assistance for the state share of the incremental cost of regional alternative education program operations based on the composite index of local ability-to-pay.

Appendix C

**Department of Education Process for
Determining Distribution of Unused Student Slots in
Regional Alternative Education Programs
2008-2009**

Provisions relating to reallocating unused student slots in Regional Alternative Education Programs

- If any unused slots are available, and if the requesting school division chooses to utilize any of the unused slots, the requesting school division shall receive only the state's share of tuition for the unused slot that was allocated for the originally designated school division.
- However, no requesting school division shall receive more tuition funding from the state for any requested unused slot than what would have been the calculated amount for the requesting school division had the unused slot been originally allocated to the requesting school division.
- The requesting school division shall pay for any remaining tuition payment necessary for using a previously unused slot.

First priority for distribution of unused slots (Distribution within Regional Programs)

Unused slots from school division(s) participating in a regional program will be distributed to other qualifying divisions being served in that regional program who have requested additional slots. All slots that each division in the regional program has certified as unused will be counted for reallocation. School divisions in the regional program that have certified unused slots will be listed from lowest to highest by composite index. School divisions in the regional program requesting additional slots will be listed from lowest to highest by composite index. Unused slots will be assigned one at a time in order from lowest to highest composite index to the requesting divisions in that regional program in order of priority based on the lowest to highest composite index ranking until no further slots remain to reallocate or all requests have been met. Remaining unused slots, if any, will be placed into the state pool of unused slots.

Second priority for distribution of unused slots (Statewide Distribution)

Unused slots that have not been awarded under the first priority will be distributed statewide to other qualifying school divisions participating in regional programs who have requested additional slots. School divisions having unused slots will be listed from lowest to highest by composite index. School divisions requesting additional slots will be listed from lowest to highest by composite index. Unused slots will be assigned one at a time in order from lowest to highest composite index to divisions requesting additional slots in order from lowest to highest composite index until no slots remain or all requests are met. Once the process has been completed, regional alternative education programs will be notified of adjustments to the original approved slots.

Appendix D

Virginia Department of Education
Alternative Education Redistribution of Slots for 2008-2009

Reg. No.	Division No.	School Divisions	Budgeted Slots Allocated to Each Division	Slots Not Intended to be Used	Additional Slots Requested	Additional Slots Funded	Total Funded Slots Columns
401	115	Lynchburg City	34	0	0	0	34
	006	Appomattox Co.	5	0	0	0	5
	005	Amherst Co.	8	0	4	4	12
	010	Bedford Co.	12	-4	0	0	8
	062	Nelson Co.	8	0	0	0	8
402	117	Newport News City	153	0	0	0	153
	112	Hampton City	13	0	0	0	13
403	118	Norfolk City	41	0	32	0	41
	136	Chesapeake City	25	0	37	0	25
	135	Franklin City	2	0	4	0	2
	046	Isle of Wight Co.	2	0	7	0	2
	121	Portsmouth City	0	0	30	0	0
	087	Southampton Co.	4	0	0	0	4
	127	Suffolk City	9	0	2	0	9
	128	Virginia Beach City	33	0	64	0	33
404	124	Roanoke City	38	0	0	0	38
	139	Salem City	16	0	0	0	16
405	029	Fairfax Co.	33	0	20	0	33
	101	Alexandria City	11	0	0	0	11
406	032	Fluvanna Co.	3	0	3	0	3
	003	Alleghany Co.	3	0	3	0	3
	009	Bath Co.	3	0	3	0	3
	012	Botetourt Co.	3	0	3	0	3
	014	Buchanan Co.	3	0	3	0	3
	019	Charles City Co.	3	0	3	0	3
	022	Clarke Co.	3	0	3	0	3
	023	Craig Co.	3	0	3	0	3
	024	Culpeper Co.	3	0	3	0	3
	031	Floyd Co.	3	0	3	0	3

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Reg. No.	Division No.	School Divisions	Budgeted Slots Allocated to Each Division	Slots Not Intended to be Used	Additional Slots Requested	Additional Slots Funded	Total Funded Slots Columns
	033	Franklin Co.	3	0	3	0	3
	039	Greene Co.	3	0	3	0	3
	041	Halifax Co.	3	0	3	0	3
	045	Highland Co.	3	0	3	0	3
	056	Madison Co.	3	0	3	0	3
	068	Orange Co.	3	0	3	0	3
	086	Smyth Co.	3	0	3	0	3
	085	Shenandoah Co.	3	0	3	0	3
	122	Radford City	3	0	3	0	3
407	060	Montgomery Co.	15	0	15	0	15
	077	Pulaski Co.	46	0	0	0	46
408	120	Petersburg City	11	0	0	0	11
	106	Colonial Heights City	2	-2	0	0	0
	027	Dinwiddie Co.	3	-3	0	0	0
	114	Hopewell City	7	0	3	3	10
	074	Prince George Co.	3	0	0	0	3
	091	Sussex Co.	2	0	2	2	4
	090	Surry Co.	0	0	0	0	0
409	071	Pittsylvania Co.	18	0	0	0	18
	108	Danville City	18	0	0	0	18
410	072	Powhatan Co.	22	0	0	0	22
	037	Goochland Co.	11	0	0	0	11
	054	Louisa Co.	22	0	0	0	22
411	102	Bristol City	13	0	0	0	13
	094	Washington Co.	13	0	0	0	13
412	123	Richmond City	14	0	0	0	14
	042	Hanover Co.	11	0	0	0	11
	043	Henrico Co.	16	0	0	0	16
413	089	Stafford Co.	34	0	1	1	35
	017	Caroline Co.	9	0	2	2	11
	110	Fredericksburg City	2	0	2	2	4
	048	King George Co.	3	0	2	2	5
	088	Spotsylvania Co.	7	-7	0	0	0

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Reg. No.	Division No.	School Divisions	Budgeted Slots Allocated to Each Division	Slots Not Intended to be Used	Additional Slots Requested	Additional Slots Funded	Total Funded Slots Columns
414	013	Brunswick Co.	22	0	0	0	22
	040	Greensville Co.	22	0	0	0	22
	058	Mecklenburg Co.	43	0	0	0	43
415	050	King William Co.	22	0	0	0	22
	028	Essex Co.	11	0	0	0	11
	036	Gloucester Co.	22	0	0	0	22
	049	King & Queen Co.	11	0	0	0	11
	057	Mathews Co.	11	0	0	0	11
	059	Middlesex Co.	11	0	0	0	11
	063	New Kent Co.	11	0	0	0	11
	207	Town of West Point	11	0	0	0	11
416	075	Prince William Co.	56	0	10	0	56
	143	Manassas City	4	0	0	0	4
	144	Manassas Park City	4	0	0	0	4
417	083	Russell Co.	81	0	20	0	81
	092	Tazewell Co.	81	0	10	0	81
418	097	Wythe Co.	20	0	0	0	20
	011	Bland Co.	5	0	0	0	5
419	098	York Co.	22	0	0	0	22
	047	Williamsburg-James City Co.	16	0	0	0	16
	142	Poquoson City	8	0	0	0	8
420	067	Nottoway Co.	11	0	0	0	11
	004	Amelia Co.	11	0	0	0	11
	015	Buckingham Co.	11	0	0	0	11
	020	Charlotte Co.	11	0	0	0	11
	025	Cumberland Co.	11	0	0	0	11
	055	Lunenburg Co.	11	0	0	0	11
	073	Prince Edward Co.	11	0	0	0	11
421	095	Westmoreland Co.	12	0	10	0	12
		Lancaster Co.	3	0	9	0	3
	066	Northumberland Co.	12	0	10	0	12
	079	Richmond Co.	12	0	10	0	12
	202	Town of Colonial Beach	5	0	5	0	5

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Reg. No.	Division No.	School Divisions	Budgeted Slots Allocated to Each Division	Slots Not Intended to be Used	Additional Slots Requested	Additional Slots Funded	Total Funded Slots Columns
422	126	Staunton City	51	-6	0	0	45
	008	Augusta Co.	28	0	0	0	28
	113	Harrisonburg City	8	0	3	3	11
	130	Waynesboro City	5	0	3	3	8
423	044	Henry Co.	13	0	0	0	13
	070	Patrick Co.	5	0	0	0	5
	116	Martinsville City	13	0	0	0	13
424	018	Carroll Co.	25	0	0	0	25
	111	Galax City	4	0	0	0	4
	038	Grayson Co.	3	0	23	0	3
426	096	Wise Co.	30	0	8	0	30
	026	Dickenson Co.	18	0	0	0	18
	119	Norton City	11	0	0	0	11
427	030	Fauquier Co.	43	0	0	0	43
	078	Rappahannock Co.	22	0	0	0	22
428	065	Northampton Co.	11	0	14	0	11
	001	Accomack Co.	11	0	24	0	11
429	084	Scott Co.	28	0	0	0	28
	052	Lee Co.	33	0	0	0	33
430	080	Roanoke Co.	10	0	10	0	10
	010	Bedford Co.	16	0	4	0	16
431	103	Buena Vista City	2	0	2	2	4
	081	Rockbridge Co.	5	0	1	1	6
	137	Lexington City	3	-3	0	0	0
			1,822	(25)	419	25	1,822