

**VIRGINIA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
2011**

- I. To safeguard and improve the Virginia Retirement System
  - A. Improving benefits of retirees
    - 1. Increase the multiplier in the retirement formula from 1.7 to 2.0 with a corresponding increase for current retirees
    - 2. Provide health insurance credit for school support personnel
    - 3. Maintain health insurance credit parity with state retirees
    - 4. Provide a mechanism whereby the life insurance may be used to purchase prepaid funeral services
  - B. Opposing any attempt by legislators to place limits, requirements or regulations on VRS investments
  - C. Opposing any attempt to change the VRS from a defined-benefit plan to a defined-contribution plan
  - D. Following the actuaries' recommendations for the VRS contribution rate
  - E. Raising the cap from 1980 to 1990 for the enhanced retirement benefit
- II. To support and improve public education
  - A. Protecting the Standards of Quality and fully funding state mandates through the SOQ formula
  - B. Funding salaries at a level which ensures teaching as a viable career choice and is consistent with the goal of reaching the national average
  - C. Providing stipends for National Board Certification as a means of encouraging excellence
  - D. Opposing merit pay initiatives until Virginia reaches the national average in teacher pay
  - E. Opposing practices that would place financial burdens on localities, thereby adversely affecting local school funding
  - F. Opposing vouchers and tuition tax credits
  - G. Ensuring that charter schools have adequate state and local supervision and do not negatively impact traditional public schools