



## Subcommittee #3 Education

### Action Items

#### I. Legislation

1. Legislation amending § 22.1-272.2 of the Code of Virginia to include in the model memorandum of understanding procedures for providing the option for students to receive counseling from school counselors via telehealth.  
**Observation 3.1:** the pandemic had a profound impact on students' and educators' well-being.  
**Recommendation 3.1.1(a):** Expand the availability of mental health counselors and social workers, both physically in schools and having telehealth options.
2. Legislation codifying the Mental Health First Aid Trainings established in partnership between the Departments of Education and Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. The legislation would also provide for the expansion of the mentor teacher program to include an ongoing mental health support program or system for teachers from a staff support perspective. *(Subcommittee Chair Recommendation)*  
**Observation 3.1**  
**Recommendation 3.1.1(b):** Provide training for teachers and staff on recognizing mental health concerns in students and themselves, including trauma-informed care and psychological first aid.  
**Recommendation 3.1.1(c):** Create school-based peer-to-peer support networks for students and educators to create a sense of community and shared resilience
3. Legislation directing the Department of Education to develop and post on its website guidelines and information relating to virtual learning, including (i) statewide policies relating to virtual learning, (ii) the availability of online or virtual learning options and pertinent information on such options, and (iii) guidelines for educators and schools relating to online or virtual learning policies and best practices. These guidelines are to be updated annually and made available to each school board for distribution to parents. *(Subcommittee Chair Recommendation)*  
**Observation 3.1**  
**Recommendation 3.1.3:** Propose strategies for hybrid learning models and mental health initiatives

4. Legislation amending § 22.1-98 of the Code of Virginia to require that all schools in Virginia include in their annual safety audits comprehensive plans for school closures due to public health emergencies. *(Subcommittee Chair Recommendation)*

**Observation 3.2:** School districts encountered challenges in managing public information and operations due to legal restrictions, information needs, and capacity.

**Recommendation 3.2.3:** Propose strategies for hybrid learning models and mental health initiatives

## II. Budget Language

Budget amendment supporting the funding of individualized education program training and implementation. An estimated cost to support special education staffing needs for Level I Services is \$8.7 million. *(Chair Recommendation)*

**Observation 3.2**

**Recommendation 3.2.1:** Strengthen communication and public information strategies.