



Virginia Educational Media Association

The Voice of Virginia's School Librarians

April 1, 2010

Office of the Governor
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

To the Honorable Governor McDonnell,

Thank you for your support of public education in Virginia. I am writing to ask that you amend the current budget document in the veto session.

Please remove the waiver of staffing ratio requirements in the SOQ for:

Elementary resource teachers	Career and Technical education
Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation	Instructional technology support positions
English as a Second Language	Librarians
Gifted and Talented	Guidance Counselors

We recognize that this has been an especially challenging budget year. However, education involves much more than what happens in a traditional classroom. The Standards of Quality set minimum requirements for preparing Virginia students to pass standardized tests and meet educational requirements to prepare them for the 21st century workplace. Each of these specialists supports teachers and students in special and important ways to meet these goals. Our children are the losers if these people are removed from our schools or not replaced when positions are vacated. We cannot afford to have today's students lose ground because of the current budget crisis. They may never catch up. We owe it to these children and young adults to keep their schools strong and fully staffed throughout the budget crisis.

It is one of the primary duties of states to educate its children. I am counting on you to maintain Virginia's tradition of excellence and the Board of Educations' Standards of Quality as they stand without this waiver.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlie F. Makela".

Charlie Makela
President, Virginia Educational Media Association
www.vemaonline.org
president@vemaonline.org