

**REPORT OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

**Status Report on the
No Child Left Behind
CCSSO Cost Consortium Project
(May 23, 2005)**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 50

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
2005**



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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JO LYNNE DEMARY, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Public Instruction

May 23, 2005

Office: (804) 225-2023
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The Honorable John H. Chichester
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
Virginia General Assembly
P.O. Box 904
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404-0904

The Honorable Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
Virginia General Assembly
P.O. Box 1173
McLean, Virginia 22101

Dear Senator Chichester and Delegate Callahan:

Pursuant to Item 144, paragraph E.5.b., of the Appropriation Act (Chapter 4, 2004 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I), I am required to report on the status of the department's effort to estimate the cost impact of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

As I indicated in my correspondence dated, July 31, 2004 and December 29, 2004, the department is participating in a consortium of state departments of education sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). This consortium was formed to develop a coordinated approach for analyzing the costs of NCLB. The purpose of this NCLB cost consortium is to pool resources to estimate the cost of implementing the requirements of NCLB. The CCSSO contracted with Augenblick, Palaich, and Associates, Inc. (APA) to develop a model framework that states can use to determine the activities required to implement NCLB and their associated costs. In addition to the benefits of a process developed in collaboration with other states, the use of a third party brings independent objectivity to the process.

In the correspondence to you dated December 29, 2004, I provided to you a summary of the APA framework as well as a list of activities that the department has created in conformance with the CCSSO methodology. I also indicated that the department's efforts to cost out NCLB activities at the state level were underway and I provided you with a list of eight (8) school

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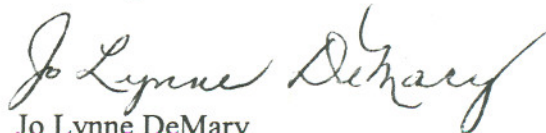
divisions, one from each region of the Commonwealth that would be participating in the local cost study. I am pleased to inform you that the local study is currently underway with each of these school divisions actively participating. The department has contracted with APA to collect and analyze the local cost data.

The level of effort needed to collect and analyze state and local cost data is significant. It is also very important that the data collection be undertaken in a manner consistent with the CCSSO model framework that APA developed. For this reason, I am writing to inform you that the state and local cost data will not be completely analyzed and a report will not be ready for distribution by the mid-June time frame that I had indicated in my December correspondence.

The 2005 General Assembly enacted emergency legislation (Chapters 11 and 13) requiring the department to "examine the fiscal and other implications for the Commonwealth and its local governments in the event that Virginia continues its compliance with, or withdraws from participation in, the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The Board of Education "shall convey its findings from such examination to the House Committees on Education and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Education and Health and Finance no later than October 1, 2005." The department intends to bring the final report of the state and local cost study to the Board of Education for review in September so that the October 1 deadline will be met.

I look forward to sharing the final report with you. If you have questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Dr. Patricia I. Wright, deputy superintendent, at (804) 225-2979. You may also contact Michelle Vucci, director of policy, (804) 371-0558.

Sincerely,



Jo Lynne DeMary
Superintendent of Public Instruction

JLD/MMV/cb

c: The Honorable Mark R. Warner
The Honorable Belle S. Wheelan
The Honorable James H. Dillard, II
The Honorable H. Russell Potts, Jr.
The Honorable R. Steven Landes
The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger