



**Status of Regional Alternative Education
Placements for 2006-2007**

**Pursuant to New Provisions Enacted in the
Final 2006-2008 Biennial Budget Chapter 3,
2006 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I**

PRESENTED TO

**The Honorable Vincent F. Callahan, Jr., Chairman
House Appropriations Committee**

**The Honorable John H. Chichester, Chairman
Senate Finance Committee**

June 1, 2007



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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June 1, 2007

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

The Honorable John H. Chichester, Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
P.O. Box 904
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404-0904

Dear Delegate Callahan and Senator Chichester:

As required by Item 135.C.11.f of Chapter 3, 2006 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I, enclosed is the report for the 2006-2007 school year on the status of Regional Alternative Education Placements. The provisions state that the "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."

If you have questions or require additional information relative to this transmittal, please contact Diane Jay, associate director, Office of Program Administration and Accountability, at Diane.Jay@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2905.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Billy K. Cannaday, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Billy K. Cannaday, Jr.

BKCJr/dj
Enclosure

c: The Honorable Thomas Morris, Secretary of Education

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 Virginia Department of Education formula based on staffing patterns and the composite index of local ability to pay determines funding amounts for each of the 29 operating programs.

Item 135.C.11.f of Chapter 3, 2006 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I, included several new provisions for reallocating unused student slots in regional alternative education programs and stated that the “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 29 regional alternative education programs for 2006-2007. Twenty-seven (27) of the 29 programs indicated that they would have placements for all slots assigned to each division in each regional program. Two regional programs reported that there would be unused slots in one of their participating divisions. In each of these two regional programs, one of the other participating school divisions requested the additional slots.

Based on the process for distribution of slots established by the Department of Education, the unused slots were distributed to the requesting school division being served in the Regional Alternative Education Program. As stipulated in the new biennial budget provisions, 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 their school divisions.

Status of Regional Alternative Education Placements for 2006-2007

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 Virginia Department of Education formula based on staffing patterns and the composite index of local ability to pay determines funding amounts for each of the 29 operating programs. A list of the regional programs can be found in Appendix A.

The final enacted 2006-2008 biennial budget (Chapter 3, 2006 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I) included several new 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 only receive 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 197, dated September 22, 2006, "Provisions for Reallocating Unused Student Slots in Regional Alternative Education Programs – Effective Fiscal Year 2007." The memorandum advised division superintendents of the new 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 2006-2007 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 2006-2007 to the project directors of the 29 programs.

Results: Statewide, there were 1,822 slots allotted by formula among 29 regional programs for 2006-2007. Twenty-seven (27) of the 29 programs indicated that they would have placements for all slots assigned to each division in each regional program. Two regional programs reported that there would be unused slots in one of their participating divisions. In each of these two regional programs, one of the other participating school divisions requested the additional slots.

In the Pittsylvania regional program, Danville reported that five of its assigned slots would not be used, and Pittsylvania requested the five 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.

Based on the process for distribution of slots established by the Department, the unused slots were distributed to the requesting school division being served in the Regional Alternative Education Program. As stipulated in the new biennial budget provisions, 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.

In follow-up correspondence in May 2007, the school divisions receiving the unused slots indicated that the reassigned slots were used by their school divisions.

Appendix A
Regional Alternative Education Programs
2006-2007

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
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, Lancaster, 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, and Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 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
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

School Division-Fiscal Agent	Other Participating Divisions
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	Northumberland and Richmond County 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

135.C.11.f. of Chapter 3, 2006, Acts of Assembly, Special Session I

(<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?062+bud+51-135>)

f. Regional Alternative Education Programs

1) An additional state payment of \$6,156,107 the first year and \$6,301,359 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.

3)a) 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
Fiscal Year 2007**

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.