



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Louise Lucas, Chair, Senate Finance and Appropriations
The Honorable Luke Torian, Chair, House Appropriations

FROM: Scott Fleming

DATE: 11/01/2025

SUBJECT: Report on Tuition and Fee Waivers authorized under Title 23.1, Chapter 6

Pursuant to the 2025 Act of Appropriation, Chapter 725, Item 130, SCHEV provides the following data collection representing the projected usage rates of tuition and required fee waivers authorized under Title 23.1, Chapter 6.

The [2025 Act of Appropriation, Chapter 725, Item 130](#) requires the following:

- J. 1. As a condition of this appropriation, \$75,000,000 the first year and \$65,000,000 the second year from the general fund is designated to offset the impact of programs under Title 23.1, Chapter 6, Code of Virginia.*
- 2. The State Council of Education for Virginia shall work with public higher education institutions to determine the appropriate allocation of these funds.*
- 3. Any unexpended balance in this item at the close of business on June 30 each year shall not revert to the general fund, but shall be carried forward and reappropriated to support the purposes specified in paragraphs J.1. and J.4. in the subsequent fiscal year.*
- 4. By November 1 of each year, the Council shall report on the status of programs under Title 23.1, Chapter 6, Code of Virginia.*

Over the past seven years, the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependent Education Program (VMSDEP) has experienced unprecedented growth. From 2018-19 to 2024-25, the total value of tuition and fees waived under the program grew from \$12 million to \$122.8 million; a gain of more than 900%. The growth of the program

combined with the speed of the growth, over just six years, has made it difficult for institutions to plan or adjust. Institutions can respond in several ways, including reducing costs in other areas, but it is not realistic that this hard-to-prepare for unfunded program would not have an impact on tuition and fees charges.

To mitigate the fiscal impact on institutions and students, the 2025 General Assembly provided \$75 million for the first year and \$65 million for the second year, with an additional \$20 million available in FY2026 through a separate provision. SCHEV disbursed 60% of available funds for FY2026 in September 2025, based on program usage in prior years. The remaining balance will be disbursed in January 2026, based on reported fall 2025 totals used to estimate full year totals for the waived tuition and fees.

Table 1 provides the calculations used to prorate \$51 million (60% of the total \$85 million available). Using the most recent available data, the Chapter 6 tuition and fee waivers totaled \$129.2 million. The \$51 million disbursed offsets 39.5% of these totals with an additional \$34 million available to be disbursed in January.

Table 1

Institutions	2024-25: Year-End Reported VMSDEP Tuition Waivers	2023-24: Other Chapter 6 Waivers	Total Chapter 6 Waivers	% of Total Waivers	Fall 2025 Disbursement Amounts (Rounded)
Christopher Newport University	4,846,828	76,463	4,923,291	3.8%	1,944,000
William & Mary	7,612,009	114,646	7,726,655	6.0%	3,051,000
George Mason University	16,650,212	2,130,830	18,781,042	14.5%	7,416,000
James Madison University	8,743,517	39,720	8,783,237	6.8%	3,468,000
Longwood University	2,308,769	40,285	2,349,054	1.8%	928,000
Norfolk State University	2,855,547	52,702	2,908,249	2.3%	1,148,000
Old Dominion University / EVMS	17,403,674	467,724	17,871,398	13.8%	7,056,000
Radford University	3,217,426	76,958	3,294,384	2.6%	1,301,000
University of Mary Washington	3,006,580	23,775	3,030,355	2.3%	1,197,000
University of Virginia	8,861,162	168,204	9,029,366	7.0%	3,565,000
University of Virginia - College at Wise	240,123	0	240,123	0.2%	95,000
Virginia Commonwealth University	21,731,056	721,722	22,452,778	17.4%	8,865,000
Virginia Military Institute	1,516,516	0	1,516,516	1.2%	599,000
Virginia State University	1,990,186	1,068	1,991,254	1.5%	786,000
Virginia Tech	14,060,883	1,413,332	15,474,215	12.0%	6,110,000
Richard Bland College	441,262	0	441,262	0.3%	174,000
Virginia's Community Colleges	7,320,651	1,028,341	8,348,992	6.5%	3,297,000
System Totals	122,806,401	6,355,770	129,162,171		51,000,000

Table 2 presents the data provided by the institutions for fall 2025 and then extrapolated to estimate the program totals for the full year. Combined, all Chapter 6 tuition waivers experienced a \$27.8 million increase, a 22% increase. However, the

VMSDEP program accounted for nearly all the increase, with the other Chapter 6 programs growing by less than \$700,000 combined. The total available \$85 million will mitigate 54% of the foregone tuition and fees under all programs.

Table 2

Chapter Six Tuition Waiver Programs

	VMSDEP Tuition and Fee Waivers § 23.1-608				Other Chapter 6 Waivers				Combined Total	
	Fall 2025 - Preliminary		2025- 2026 Estimate		Fall 2025 - Preliminary		2025- 2026 Estimate		2025- 2026 Estimate	
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
Christopher Newport University	351	3,073,813	356	6,191,412	13	54,220	13	108,440	369	6,299,852
William & Mary	296	3,681,660	296	7,363,320	26	44,085	26	88,170	322	7,451,490
George Mason University	1,246	9,533,857	1,487	20,506,377	438	1,130,248	567	2,579,157	2,054	23,085,534
James Madison University	826	5,829,269	838	11,994,468	10	57,835	11	119,156	849	12,113,624
Longwood University	191	1,355,852	218	2,709,700	9	53,471	9	106,942	227	2,816,642
Norfolk State University	181	985,510	269	2,552,318	7	34,402	7	68,804	276	2,621,122
Old Dominion University / EVMS	1,527	9,841,293	1,811	21,494,386	79	154,500	98	355,524	1,909	21,849,910
Radford University	273	1,677,532	293	3,484,584	8	21,341	8	42,682	301	3,527,266
University of Mary Washington	274	2,025,100	308	4,210,200	17	11,369	38	24,731	346	4,234,931
University of Virginia	387	4,961,333	392	10,037,019	-	-	-	-	392	10,037,019
University of Virginia - College at Wise	28	142,406	32	299,705	11	111,567	11	223,134	43	522,839
Virginia Commonwealth University	1,439	13,568,596	1,537	28,667,408	95	364,096	132	786,514	1,669	29,453,922
Virginia Military Institute	81	865,323	81	1,730,643	-	-	-	-	81	1,730,643
Virginia State University	207	1,137,018	435	2,386,674	6	41,904	12	86,086	447	2,472,760
Virginia Tech	916	8,167,218	923	17,173,604	58	808,051	60	1,544,544	983	18,718,148
Richard Bland College	57	217,449	113	447,873	-	-	1	1,577	114	449,450
Virginia's Community Colleges	2,504	4,208,271	3,873	8,676,847	896	902,440	896	910,000	4,769	9,586,847
System Totals	10,784	71,271,500	13,262	149,926,539	1,673	3,789,529	1,889	7,045,461	15,151	156,971,999

Table 3 provides a breakout of the other Chapter 6 tuition and fee programs.

Table 3

Other Chapter Six Tuition Waiver Programs

Institutions	Commissioned Officers § 23.1-605				Public Safety § 23.1-609				Foreign Students § 23.1-611				Senior Citizens § 23.1-639			
	Fall 2025 - Preliminary		2025- 2026 Estimate		Fall 2025 - Preliminary		2025- 2026 Estimate		Fall 2025 - Preliminary		2025- 2026 Estimate		Fall 2025 - Preliminary		2025- 2026 Estimate	
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
Christopher Newport University	-	-	-	-	2	17,794	2	35,588	1	15,720	1	31,440	10	20,706	10	41,412
William & Mary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	44,085	26	88,170
George Mason University	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	438	1,130,248	567	2,579,157
James Madison University	3	26,409	3	52,818	1	7,645	2	18,776	2	17,606	2	35,212	4	6,175	4	12,350
Longwood University	-	-	-	-	2	16,250	2	32,500	2	28,421	2	56,842	5	8,800	5	17,600
Norfolk State University	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	34,402	7	68,804
Old Dominion University / EVMS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	280	13	455	71	154,220	85	355,069
Radford University	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	21,341	8	42,682
University of Mary Washington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	11,369	38	24,731
University of Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
University of Virginia - College at Wise	-	-	-	-	2	11,780	2	23,560	7	98,035	7	196,070	2	1,752	2	3,504
Virginia Commonwealth University	-	-	-	-	2	18,272	2	36,544	4	70,447	6	117,418	89	275,377	124	632,552
Virginia Military Institute	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia State University	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	35,856	6	60,138	3	6,048	6	25,948
Virginia Tech	-	-	-	-	2	17,801	1	52,253	36	724,611	36	1,358,396	20	65,639	23	133,895
Richard Bland College	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1,577
Virginia's Community Colleges	-	-	-	-	2	6,834	2	10,000	-	-	-	-	894	895,606	894	900,000
System Totals	3	26,409	3	52,818	13	96,376	13	209,221	63	990,976	73	1,855,971	1,594	2,675,768	1,800	4,927,451

Any questions about this report or the tables contained therein can be directed to Mr. Lee Andes, Director of Finance Policy at leeandes@schev.edu or 804-640-7253.

cc: The Honorable Aimee Guidera, Secretary of Education
The Honorable Craig Crenshaw, Secretary Veterans and Defense Affairs
Chuck Zingler, Commissioner, Department of Veteran's Services
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