



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Department of Veterans Services*

Charles A. Zingler  
Commissioner

Telephone: (804) 786-0220  
Fax: (804) 786-0302

December 15, 2025

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin  
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

The Honorable Craig Crenshaw  
Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

The Honorable Luke Torian  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas  
Chair, Senate Finance and Appropriations  
Committee  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

### *Delivered via electronic mail*

Re: Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) – Annual Report

Dear Governor Youngkin, Secretary Crenshaw, Delegate Torian, and Senator Lucas:

Pursuant to Code of Virginia [§ 23.1-608\(F\)](#), the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS), in coordination with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), submits this annual report on the number of qualified survivors and dependents, as of December 1, 2025, who:

- Have been approved for the Virginia Military Survivors & Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) but are not enrolled in a public institution of higher education for the current fall term; and
- Are enrolled at each public institution of higher education while utilizing the VMSDEP tuition and mandatory fee waiver.

As of December 1, 2025, a total of 10,652 unique VMSDEP beneficiaries were enrolled at Virginia's public institutions of higher education, while 5,248 approved beneficiaries were not enrolled during the Fall 2025 term. Of those not enrolled, 4,665 had previously used the benefit but did not enroll this semester, and 583 had been approved but had never used the benefit. Additionally, 5,061 applicants (867 spouse-applicants vs. 4,194 child-applicants) were approved over the past year (December 2, 2024, to December 1, 2025).

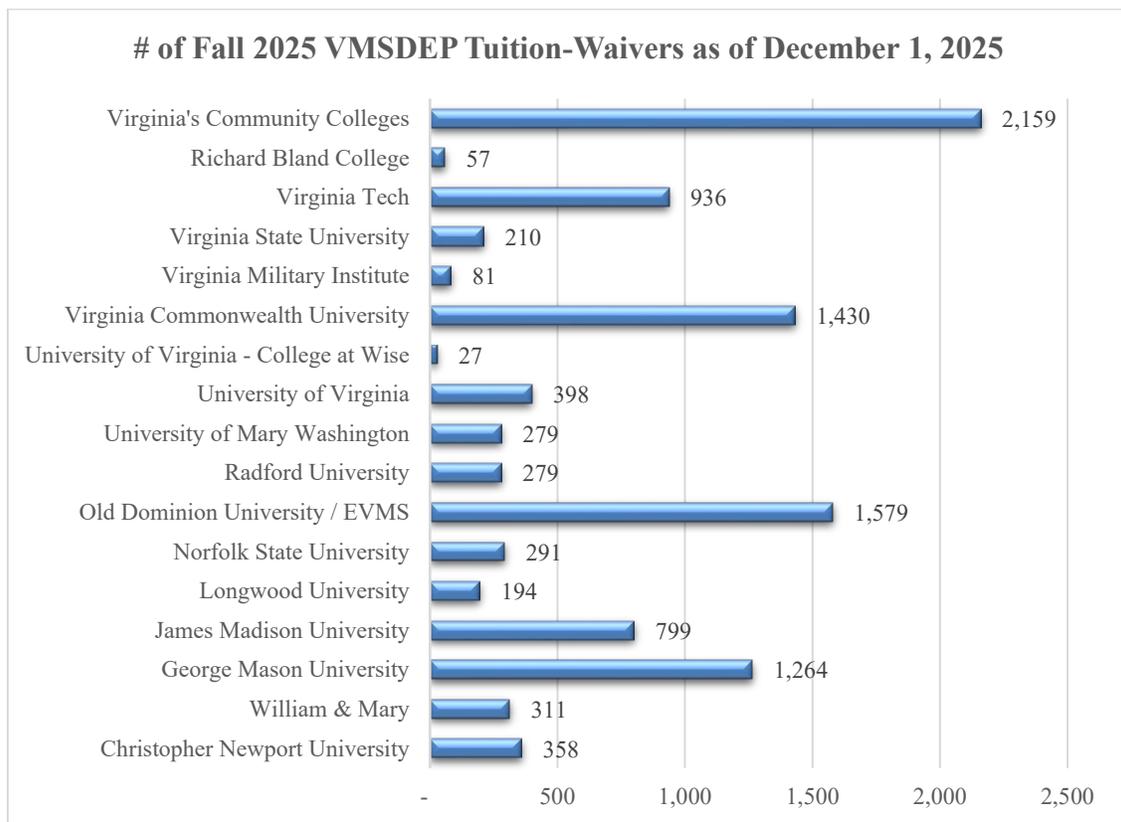
**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

101 North 14th Street, 17th Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23219 [www.dvs.virginia.gov](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov)

The number of approved beneficiaries not enrolled this term (5,248) reflects an active population that often cycles between enrollment and temporary stop-outs due to academic pacing, changing schedules, or personal circumstances. The number of approved beneficiaries previously enrolled but not during this term (4,665) and the number that have never used the benefits (583) indicate that temporary pauses and delays in enrollment are common. This behavior aligns with typical patterns among adult learners balancing work, caregiving, military transitions, and personal responsibilities.

Enrollment is broadly distributed across all segments of Virginia’s public colleges and universities, with the most significant numbers of VMSDEP recipients reported at Virginia’s Community Colleges (2,159), Old Dominion University/EVMS (1,579), Virginia Commonwealth University (1,430), George Mason University (1,264), Virginia Tech (936), and James Madison University (799).

**Chart 1: Unique VMSDEP Tuition-Waiver**



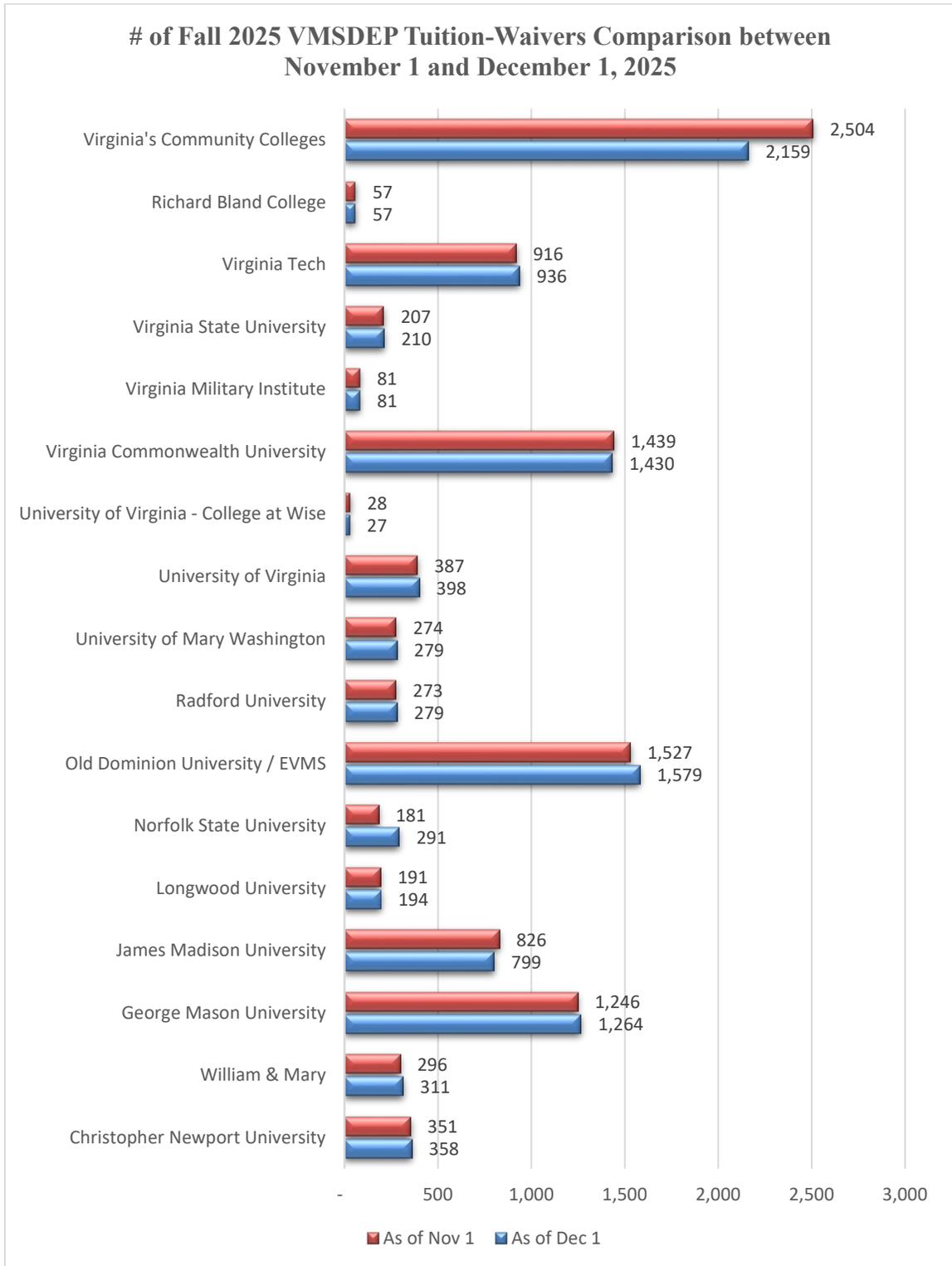
**Changes Between November 1 and December 1, 2025**

Enrollment Changes

Overall enrollment decreased slightly (e.g., from 10,784 to 10,652); however, several institutions experienced increases, including Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University/EVMS, George Mason University, the University of Virginia, and Virginia Tech. The declines were driven primarily by reductions within the Virginia Community College System. The chart below

shows how enrollment changed across institutions.

**Chart 2: Unique VMSDEP Tuition-Waiver Comparison**

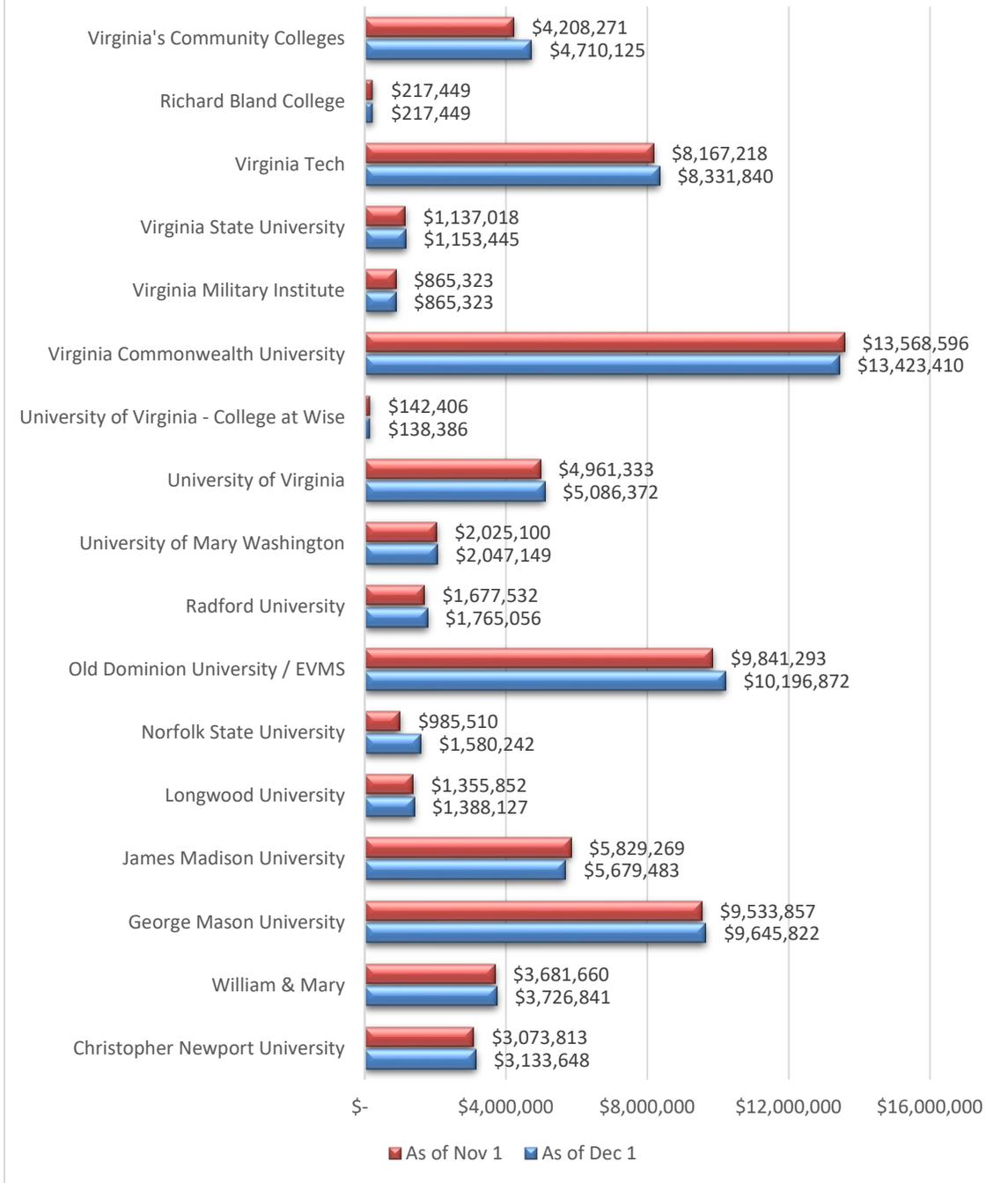


### Tuition-Waiver Value Changes

Despite a slight reduction in enrollment, the total value of tuition waivers increased from \$71.27 million to \$73.09 million (+\$1.82 million). The chart below shows how tuition-waiver values changed across institutions.

### Chart 3: VMSDEP Tuition-Waiver Value Comparison

## Fall 2025 VMSDEP Tuition-Waiver Value Comparison between November 1 and December 1, 2025

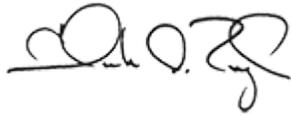


Overall, this data demonstrates that the Program continues to serve a large and dynamic population of military survivors and dependents across all sectors of Virginia’s public higher

education system. The DVS remains committed to fulfilling its statutory responsibilities and ensuring accurate, timely reporting in collaboration with the SCHEV. We appreciate your ongoing leadership and support as the Commonwealth continues to honor its promise to those who have sacrificed on behalf of Virginia and the nation.

Please let me know if we may provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. A. Zingler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" and last name "Zingler" clearly legible.

Charles A. Zingler

cc: The Honorable Aimee Guidera, Secretary of Education  
A. Scott Fleming, Executive Director, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia  
April Kees, Director and Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Senate Finance and Appropriations  
Anthony Maggio, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, House Appropriations  
Kendra Shifflett, Analyst Senate Finance and Appropriations