



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REDUCED MANDATES FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the County of Mathews, Virginia, through its Board of Supervisors and its School Board, to construct a balanced budget within the confines of available federal, state and local funds; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia provides direction to and imposes requirements on the public schools within the state; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2011 Mathews County School budget required cuts of \$1.2 million from the previous year's budget of \$12.2 million to achieve a balanced budget; and

WHEREAS, according to James Regimbal, Jr., reporting to the Virginia Association of Counties on June 17, 2010, "adopted FY 2011 K-12 state distribution from all funding sources is \$512 million lower than this year's adopted FY 2010 distribution;" and

WHEREAS, Mathews County has no reason to believe that state funding for K-12 education in FY 2012 will increase and may in fact decline; and

WHEREAS, despite making substantial cuts in services and positions, the Mathews County School Board is faced with the difficult choice of reducing educational programs or facing non-compliance with state regulations in this current difficult economy; and

WHEREAS, there is substantial need to ease burdens placed on all localities by Commonwealth-imposed unfunded mandates which force difficult choices between untenable tax increases or cuts in educational services for our children;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mathews County Board of Supervisors requests that the Virginia Department of Education substantially reduce the current number of unfunded mandates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Virginia Department of Education delay implementation of all new unfunded mandates until the economy has substantially recovered.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Virginia Department of Education place a moratorium on penalties for noncompliance until the substantial recovery of the economy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education shall reduce the need for locally-generated paperwork and statistics which do not provide actual benefit to students.

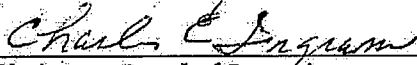
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that careful consideration be given to the impact of mandates on small school systems, such as Mathews County, which has a school population of approximately 1250, a population that has not varied greatly in the past 90 years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Virginia Department of Education align SOL testing schedules with federally-mandated testing in order to minimize the time students spend testing rather than learning.

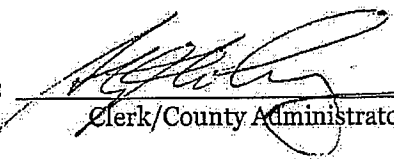
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in agreement with the 2010 Legislative Policies of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, "the state should assume a role of support and direction rather than one of punitive enforcement in accountability and accreditation."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be presented to Robert McDonnell, Governor of Virginia; State Senator Ralph Northam; Delegate Harvey B. Morgan; U. S. Senator Mark Warner; U. S. Senator James Webb; Congressman Robert Wittman; the Virginia Board of Education; and the Virginia Department of Education.

Adopted this 27th day of July, 2010.


Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest:


Clerk/County Administrator