

Update

January 25, 2005

The newsletter of the
Virginia Municipal League

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Feb. 3
Call VML
804-649-8471
for information

JLARC: State funding for education still lags

Despite a \$1.3 billion increase in spending for K-12 education in the 2004-2006 biennium, the state should be appropriating even more money for teaching Virginia's 1.2 million school-age children.

That was the conclusion of a report delivered to the House Education Committee Jan. 17 by a Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission staff member.

Bob Rotz said that state funding for the "Tier One" recommendations made by JLARC in its 2003 study of education funding was from \$692.3 million to \$754.7 million short of what it should be.

A major reason for the shortcoming is that the state does not follow JLARC's suggested methodology for computing the L-

estimator salary for teachers. The L-estimator salary produces a conservative average salary figure.

The state bases its calculation of SOQ costs (including teacher salaries) on data collected for fiscal year 2002.

These cost figures are then projected forward by applying inflation and other cost factors, including salary increases. The salary increases used by the state in projecting forward these 2002 costs are based on the salary increases included in the state budget. The state budget included no teacher salary

increases in FY02 or FY03, and only a 1.13 percent increase was given in FY04. These



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Wallerstein Scholarship applications available

March 1 is the deadline for submitting applications for the 2005-2006 Wallerstein Scholarship administered by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service and the Virginia Municipal League.

The \$5,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a student with an interest in local government who has been accepted into either a graduate or undergraduate program at the University of Virginia, University of Virginia's Wise campus or any of UVA's regional centers. Interest in local government can be demonstrated by past experience with internships, volunteering, or relevant research or by a brief essay defining an interest in local government. The scholarship may also be awarded to a fellow, defined as a practitioner who would like to undertake a significant research project within a higher education

environment, and who has reached a point in his/ her career with time to pursue a sustained program of research. A fellow can also be a retired practitioner or academician (in government or a related field) interested in pursuing research of potential benefit to Virginia local government.

The Wallerstein Scholarship was established in 1973 at the University of Virginia by a gift from Ruth C. and Morton L. Wallerstein to foster interest and research in Virginia local government. Several previous scholarship recipients hold policy-making and management positions in state and local government in Virginia.

Questions? Contact the Cooper Center at 804/371-0202 or wallerstein@virginia.edu, or call the Virginia Municipal League at 804/649-8471. ♦

FROM THE CAPITOL

2005 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JLARC: Education funding continued ...

increases lagged far behind those actually given teachers.

Thus, the state budgeted teacher salary in FY04 was \$36,583 (not taking into account the cost of competing in Northern Virginia jurisdictions). The salary based on the L-estimator, as developed by JLARC, would be \$39,187, or \$2,604 higher. The actual average teacher salary (the traditional average resulting from dividing total salaries by the total number of teachers) in FY04 was \$43,936.

Seventy-four percent of the school divisions now have an average teacher salary above the state budget salary figure, and 90 percent of students are taught in divisions with average teacher salaries above the state budgeted salary. Were the L-estimator salary figure used in the budget instead, about 45 percent of divisions would pay more than that figure.

Ironically, localities have long criticized the L-estimator for failing to produce a realistic salary figure for

teachers, but what the state actually bases its costs on falls short of even that conservative calculation.

The presentation made the point that the state estimates of the costs of the Standards of Quality need to be reasonable and realistic in relation to “the actual expense prevailing in the Commonwealth,” and emphasized that it was important for the state to make a good faith effort to avoid underestimating and underfunding prevailing SOQ costs.

The presentation also presented several economic statistics as an explanation of why teacher salaries were increasing at the local level.

From FY 2000 to FY 2004:

- Virginia personal income per capita increased 14.7 percent;
- private industry salaries for white collar occupations increased 14.3 percent;
- the national average teacher salary increased 12.2 percent; and
- the consumer price index increased 9.9 percent.

In contrast, the state budget teacher salary figure increased 3.6 percent and the actual statewide average teacher salaries increased 13.4 percent.

Rotz said that the state had made substantial progress in funding other Tier One recommendations made by JLARC and in funding Tier Two recommendations.

The Tier One recommendations related primarily to the cost of paying for what was then the Standards of Quality, while Tier Two recommendations related to updating the SOQ to reflect hiring practices among the school divisions.

The 2004-06 budget included funding for a number of additional positions in schools, including elementary resource teachers, additional positions at the secondary level, technology positions, and remediation positions.

Rotz gave the same presentation to a Jan. 18 meeting of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education. ❖

Local education spending still outstrips requirements by \$2.6 billion

Even after the state pumped an additional \$1.3 billion into K-12 spending for the 2004-2006 biennium, local governments have budgeted \$5.2 billion for public education for FY04. Of this amount, local governments are required to spend \$2.62 billion in order to meet the state Standards of Quality. In short, local governments have budgeted another \$2.59 billion – spending almost twice as much as the state requires.

The additional state funding paid for two primary categories of spending. First, the state funding went to “rebenchmark” or update the costs of meeting the SOQ. Second, the additional state funding reflected a revision of the SOQ in which the state increased the number of positions recognized – and paid – by the state. In so doing, required spending by both the state and local governments increased.

This is shown by comparing the FY05 figures given in the first paragraph to comparable figures for FY04. In FY04, local governments spent \$4.86 billion on public education. The required local share was \$2.25 billion; localities pumped in an additional \$2.61 billion.

The education statistics were included in a report on local spending on education submitted to the members of the General Assembly by the Department of Education. Required spending and budgeted spending for FY05 is shown for each locality. Required spending and actual spending for FY04 also is included.

A copy of the Required Local Effort Report from the Department of Education, including a chart with breakout data by locality, is available in PDF format on the What’s New page of the VML Web site at www.vml.org. ❖

ETCETERA

Water project assistance available from students

The Virginia Water Resources Research Center's Service Training for Environmental Progress (Va. STEP) program is seeking applications from community organizations that would like assistance this summer on local water-related issues.

The program places juniors, seniors, recent graduates and graduate students from Virginia schools in Virginia communities where they live and work for nine weeks while assisting on local water-related projects.

You can read more about STEP at www.vwrrc.vt.edu (click on "Education," then "STEP").

If you are interested in STEP assistance, you must submit a one-page application by April 1. For more information, contact STEP Assistant Director Alan Raflø at the Virginia Water Resources Research Center in Blacksburg at 540/231-5463 or araflø@vt.edu. ♦

Town seeks info on water tank cleaning, painting

The Town of McKenney in Dinwiddie County is looking for a reliable, reasonably-priced vendor to paint and clean its water tank.

If your town has had this service done recently, please contact Virginia Howard,

Town of McKenney, P.O. Box 309, McKenney VA 23872. Phone: 804/478-4621 (town offices) or 804/478-4771 (work) or FAX to 804/478/4121 (town offices). ♦

POSITIONS

Longer version of job ads posted at www.vml.org

Because of the number of requests it receives to publish job advertisements, VML reduces the length of the position descriptions in Update. A full version of all of the job listings published here for the past two months appears on VML's Web site at www.vml.org. Visit the VML site and click on "Marketplace" to read the complete descriptions.

Management Interns, Loudoun County

SALARY: \$33,661. Seeking 3 candidates for 12-month 2005-2006 Management Internship Program beginning in July. Involves entry-level research and analytical work applied to the study of county government systems, policies and practices. Interns serve as staff members in the Department of Management and Financial Services. For an application package, contact the Human Resources Division at vcaranfa@loudoun.gov or call 703/777-0449. Visit <http://www.loudoun.gov/hr/jobs.htm> for a county employment application. # 05-246. Deadline: Feb. 25.

Librarian II, Williamsburg Regional Library

SALARY: \$39,689 (+) benefits. Provide reference and readers' advisory services serving as community services librarian. Alternates between James City County Library and Williamsburg Library and includes working some nights and weekends. ALA-accredited MLS deg. req.; 2 yrs. public library exper. preferred. Completed James City County application must be submitted. Info: visit www.JccEgov.com or call 757/253-6736. # 832-04. Deadline: Feb. 11. EOE.

Director of Planning, Westmoreland County

SALARY: Negotiable (+) benefits. (Pop. 16,700) \$350,000 budget; 7 FTEs. Reqs. bachelor's degree in planning, public admin., urban or environmental planning, or closely related field and 6 + yrs. planning and development exper. in a growth-oriented community. Submit letter of application, detailed resume with salary history and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Vice President or Roger M. Scott, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 1206 Laskin Road, Suite 210, Virginia Beach, VA 23451; Fax 757-422-6617 or e-mail Janzivino@springsted.com. Deadline: Feb. 28. EOE.

Director of Public Utilities, Virginia Beach

SALARY: \$88,714-\$133,071 negotiable DOQ (+) benefits, including appropriate relocation. (Pop. 430,000) \$83 million bdt.; 393 employees. Provides leadership to department responsible for meeting the city's water supply and sanitary sewer needs through installation and maintenance of a water and sanitary sewer infrastructure. Public Utilities is a self-funded department with revenue generated from more than 130,000 water and sanitary sewer accounts. Master's degree preferred. Submit resume and salary history to: Department of Human Resources, City of Virginia Beach, 2424 Courthouse Drive, Bldg. 18 Room 106, Virginia Beach, VA 23456. Attention: Regina S. Hilliard. Electronic and faxed resumes not accepted. Deadline: Feb. 19. EOE.

Assistant Town Manager, Luray

SALARY: DOQ (+) benefits. (Pop. 5,000) \$7.8 million operating bdt.; 50 employees + seasonal PTs. Support town manager and advise assigned department heads. Areas of responsibility include building and zoning compliance, comprehensive planning, facilities maintenance, fleet services, purchasing and general services. Strong background in land-use planning preferred. Resumes with cover letter to: Luray Town Manager, 45 E. Main St., P.O. Box 629,

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POSITIONS

Luray, VA 22835. Phone 540/743-5511, e-mail: toll@earthlink.net. Deadline: Feb. 25. EOE.

Town Planner, Cape Charles

SALARY: \$31,000-\$41,000 (+) benefits DOQ. Annexed areas being developed as traditional village and residential areas, creating rapid growth and change. Perform professional planning, zoning, subdivision, site plan, erosion and sediment control plan review, and act as liaison to boards and commissions. Master's or equiv. + exper. preferred. Submit cover letter that incorporates salary history, resume and 3 professional references to: Town Manager, Municipal Corporation of Cape Charles, 2 Plum St., Cape Charles, VA 23310. Fax: 757/331-4820. E-mail: townmanager@capecharles.org. Deadline: March 1. EOE.

Public Information Specialist II, Norfolk

SALARY: \$36,051. Involves PR activities, including planning, directing and maintaining promotional, informative and educational programming as it pertains to environmental and engineering information. Disseminate storm water / environmental information to city employees and general public. Apply: City of Norfolk, Dept of Human Resources, 810 Union Street, Norfolk, VA, 23510. See <http://www.norfolk.gov>. Contact: 757/664-4010. Open until filled. EOE.

Assistant Controller/Loan Accountant, Virginia Resources Authority

SALARY: Mid-\$30,000s-mid-\$40,000s DOQ (+) benefits. Hands-on, non-supervisory position that makes journal entries and processes and services all authority loans and bonds; records and monitors data on financing transactions. Prefer 2 yrs. exper. in govt. accounting. CPA, or CPA candidate, a plus. Cover letter, resume and recent salary history (required) to: Cecile F. Harrison, Virginia Resources Authority, 707 E. Main St., Suite 1350, Richmond, VA 23219. Deadline: Feb. 2. EOE.

Operations Engineer, Virginia Beach

SALARY: \$72,985-\$109,478. Plan, manage and direct activities of the Operations Group of Public Works, including the divisions of Highways, Operations Management, and Building Maintenance. Submit

required city application to: Human Resources Department, City of Virginia Beach, 2424 Courthouse Drive (Municipal Center Bldg. #18 Rm. #106) Virginia Beach, VA 23456. For more information and to download an application visit www.vbgov.com/careers. No faxed or e-mailed applications accepted. #G5020 Deadline: March 16. EOE.

Librarian I / Research Analyst, Virginia Beach

SALARY: \$36,662-\$54,933. Reqs: Master's degree in Library Science from ALA-accredited college or university or Virginia State Library Certification. Submit city application to: Human Resources Department, City of Virginia Beach, 2424 Courthouse Drive (Municipal Center Bldg. #18 Rm. #106) Virginia Beach, VA 23456. For more information and to download an application visit www.vbgov.com/careers. No faxed or e-mailed applications accepted. #D5003 Deadline: Feb. 10. EOE.

Other positions

NOTICE: *The following positions also are listed on VML's Web site at www.vml.org.*

Emergency Management Planner and Training Coordinator, Bedford

SALARY: \$30,903-\$43,666. Open until filled.

Fire Chief, Manassas Park

SALARY: \$63,207-\$110,835 (+) benefits DOQ. Open until filled.

Senior Planner, Franklin County

SALARY: \$38,053-\$41,478 (+) benefits. Open until filled.

County Planner, Franklin

SALARY: \$33,586-\$52,059. Open until filled.

Fire Chief, Portsmouth

SALARY: \$62,044-\$105,475 DOQ (+) benefits, including auto. Deadline: Feb. 11.

Deputy County Administrator, Hanover

SALARY: \$90,933-\$135,759 hiring range (+) benefits. Open until filled.

Zoning Administrator/Planner, King and Queen County

SALARY: \$32,000-\$34,000 (+) benefits. Open until filled.

Public Works Director, Elkton

SALARY: \$31,695 min. negotiable DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Open until filled.

Accountant, City of Bedford

SALARY: \$30,903-\$43,666. Open until filled.

Fleet Manager, City of Roanoke

SALARY: \$52,380-\$78,570. Open until filled.

Executive Director, Luray Downtown Initiative

SALARY: DOQ. Open until filled.

Assistant Town Manager, Black Mountain, N.C.

SALARY: DOQ/DOE. Open until filled.

Director of Planning and Community Development, Ashland

SALARY: \$50,000-\$68,988 DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Deadline: Feb. 1.

County Administrator, Bedford

SALARY: Negotiable DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Deadline: March 4.

Director of Economic Development, Roanoke

SALARY: \$73,510-\$110,264 negotiable DOQ (+) benefits. Open until filled.

Director of Housing and Neighborhood Services, Roanoke

SALARY: \$65,119-\$97,679 negotiable DOQ (+) benefits. Open until filled.

Senior Civil Engineer / VDOT Projects Manager, Hampton

SALARY: From \$47,374 (+) benefits. Negotiable. Open until filled.

Director of Finance, Front Royal

SALARY: DOQ (+) benefits. Deadline: Feb. 18.

DEADLINE: *The deadline for placing a job advertisement in the next issue of Update is Friday, Feb. 4. Submit ads via e-mail to David Parsons at dparsons@vml.org. You may also submit via FAX at: 804/343-3758. VML publishes job advertisements at no cost to its local government members. Non-members are charged a flat rate of \$25 per ad per issue, which includes posting on VML's Web site and publication in Virginia Town & City (deadlines permitting). VML edits position descriptions in printed publications because of space limitations.*

CALENDAR



VML/VACo Legislative Day, Feb. 3, Richmond

Annual legislative briefing and program for local officials will be held at the Richmond Marriott Hotel in downtown. Contact: Peggy Blunt at pblunt@vml.org or (804) 649-8471.

Time and Meeting Management Seminar, Feb. 9, Richmond

Timing is everything is the theme of this seminar that will be held from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the University of Virginia's Richmond Center. Learn how to be more productive with your time and your relationships. Classes are taught by expert learning consultants from Chesterfield County's Chesterfield University. Sponsored by the Virginia Institute of Government. Registration: \$100 (includes lunch). Contact: Jovan Hackley at 804/371-0202, e-mail jh5sr@virginia.edu, or visit www.VaInstituteofGovernment.org.

ICMA Southeast Regional Meeting, March 3-4, Savannah

Includes ICMA University Workshop presented by Bob O'Neill on "A Sea of Change: Sailing in Uncharted Waters." Additional details forthcoming. Contact: ICMA's Careen Campbell-Hussein at 202/962-3599 or Chussein@icma.org.

Diversity and the Generation Gap at Work, March 9, Richmond

Held from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the University of Virginia's Richmond Center. Sponsored by the Virginia Institute of Government. Registration: \$100 (includes lunch). Contact: Jovan Hackley at 804/371-0202, e-mail jh5sr@virginia.edu, or visit www.VaInstituteofGovernment.org.

Virginia Rural Water Association 17th Annual Exposition, March 20-23, Williamsburg

Attend VRWA's 17th Annual Exposition at the Marriott Williamsburg where you can chose from 60 sessions, visit more than 80 vendors and renew acquaintances. Beware, "Barney Fife" will be on patrol again. For more information visit www.vrwa.org or call 540/261-7178.

Virginia Municipal Clerks Association Conference, April 20-22, Chesterfield County

Hosted by Region IX. For information, contact Lisa Elko at 804/748-1200.

Governor's Conference on Greenways, Blueways and Trails, May 1-4, Richmond

Conference speakers and workshops will address ways in which trail development facilitates public health, economic revitalization, conservation and historic preservation. Expert-led sessions in five tracts: planning and design; construction and maintenance; building capacity; long-term marketing; and maximizing health benefits. General information at: BikeWalk Virginia at www.bikewalkvirginia.org/conference/index.html, info@bikewalkvirginia.org or 757/229-0507.

Delivering Effective Presentations Seminar, May 11, Richmond

Held from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the University of Virginia's Richmond Center. Sponsored by the Virginia Institute of Government. Registration: \$100 (includes lunch). Contact: Jovan Hackley at 804/371-0202, e-mail jh5sr@virginia.edu, or visit www.VaInstituteofGovernment.org.

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Seminar, June 8, Richmond

Held from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the University of Virginia's Richmond Center. Sponsored by the Virginia Institute of Government. Registration: \$100 (includes lunch). Contact: Jovan Hackley at 804/371-0202, e-mail jh5sr@virginia.edu, or visit www.VaInstituteofGovernment.org.

Preferred method of submitting items is via e-mail to David Parsons at: dparsons@vml.org. You may also submit via FAX at: 804/343-3758.

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CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS WORKING TOGETHER