**RURAL VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

This profile shows key information and trends about the demographics, staffing, and funding for rural public schools in Virginia.

**STUDENTS**

Enrollment since 2008-2009:

- 7% decrease

Rural school divisions had 291,013 students in 2008-2009. Rural school divisions are projected to have 270,511 students in 2018-2019.

- 17% of all school-aged children lived in poverty in 2015-2016 compared to 13% statewide.
- 48% of all students got free or reduced lunch in 2013-2014 compared to 41% statewide.
- 4% of all students were English learners in 2017-2018 compared to 12% statewide.
- 90% of slots with state funding for the Virginia Preschool Initiative were filled in 2017-2018.

**STAFFING**

Overall, the number of staff per student has held steady for rural schools in Virginia from 2008-2009 to 2016-2017. There are now:

- 1,788 fewer teachers and instructors
- 45 fewer principals and assistant principals
- 99 fewer school counselors and librarians
- 298 fewer teacher aides
- 779 fewer support staff

3,009 fewer staff

16,451 fewer students

**FUNDING**

State direct aid has fallen for rural public schools in Virginia, adjusting for inflation.

The local, state, and federal shares of school operations funding has shifted since 2008-2009. Local governments have taken on a larger share of funding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Funding (FY18 dollars)</th>
<th>Local Share</th>
<th>State Share</th>
<th>Federal Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>$3.4 billion</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
<td>58.2%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>$3.2 billion</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Did you know....**

- That a one-cent increase in the property tax rates for all of Virginia's rural localities can raise about $19,623,500?
- That rural divisions invested 70.7% above the required local effort for SOQ programs in 2016-2017?

Sources: Virginia Department of Education, U.S. Census Bureau, The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis
September 2018