

The proposed reduction in state funding for support staff would be a permanent change in how the state funds education, reducing the state's investment in students by \$893 million in 2010-12. School support personnel play crucial roles helping students to learn, and teachers to teach. The



Virginia instructional technology resource teacher program, highlighted this past summer at the National Educational Computing Conference showcased the success of instructional technology support positions across Virginia to an international audience substantiating that effective professional development programs, such as the ITRT program prepare teachers to provide innovative, technology rich learning environments to meet the needs of Virginia's students. As indicated in the Standards of Quality, divisions should employ one technology support person and one instructional technology resource teacher for every 1,000 students. With the increased role of evolving technologies in instruction, assessments, and operations, the staffing ratios for technology support personnel should be updated and increased to reflect the greater demand of implementing initiatives such as the General Assembly's interest in electronic textbooks and digital instructional materials as well as providing professional development and support to Virginia's teachers. Each year the Virginia Society for Technology in Education's annual conference highlights wonderful examples of how these educators have helped teachers and students learn and implement new technology within the core content areas and beyond as well as providing a framework for innovation that fosters 21st-century learning skills.

The mission of the Virginia Society for Technology in Education is to promote excellence in education through professional development endeavors supporting the integration of existing and emerging technologies.

When state education funding is reduced, smaller, low income schools and communities suffer the most and inequities increase. Virginia's economic prosperity depends upon a continued investment in Virginia's students, our future workforce. The Virginia Society for Technology in Education, a 5,500-member organization, supports the updating of technology staffing ratios to reflect the increased role of technology in instruction and assessment.

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