

**VIRGINIA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
2014**

**Safeguarding and improving the Virginia Retirement System**

- Improve benefits of current retirees and strengthen the defined benefit component of the retirement plan.
- Provide the health insurance credit for all retired school support personnel.
- Follow the VRS Board certified contribution rate.
- Update the enhanced retirement benefit.
- Oppose any attempt by legislators to place limits, requirements, or regulations on VRS investments.

**Protecting Retirees**

- Support and enhance educational and safety-net programs for retirees such as programs offered through the Virginia Division for the Aging.
- Support and improve driver safety courses.

**Supporting and improving public education**

- Protect the Standards of Quality and fully fund state mandates through the SOQ formula.
- Fund salaries at a level which ensures teaching as a viable career choice and is consistent with the goal of reaching the national average salary.
- Support recruitment and retention programs such as the continuing contract and grievance procedure.
- Support methods of encouraging excellence such as stipends for National Board Certification.
- Provide adequate state and local supervision of charter and virtual schools and prevent them from negatively impacting traditional public schools.
- Oppose vouchers and the expansion of tuition tax credit programs.
- Oppose merit pay/pay for performance/differentiated compensation models.
- Oppose legislation that would adversely affect public school programs and funding.