

Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission



**State Spending on Standards of Quality
(SOQ) Costs, FY 2008**

Commission Briefing

December 8, 2008



Study Mandate

- Section 22.1-97 of the *Code of Virginia* requires annual reports on SOQ spending
- Virginia Department of Education (DOE) is required to
 - Report on whether school divisions have sufficient budgeted funds to meet their required local expenditure
 - Verify localities have expended the required amount
 - Report to standing education and money committees
- JLARC is required to
 - Report annually on the State expenditure in each locality for an educational program meeting the SOQ
 - Report to the same committees as DOE

State and Local SOQ Spending

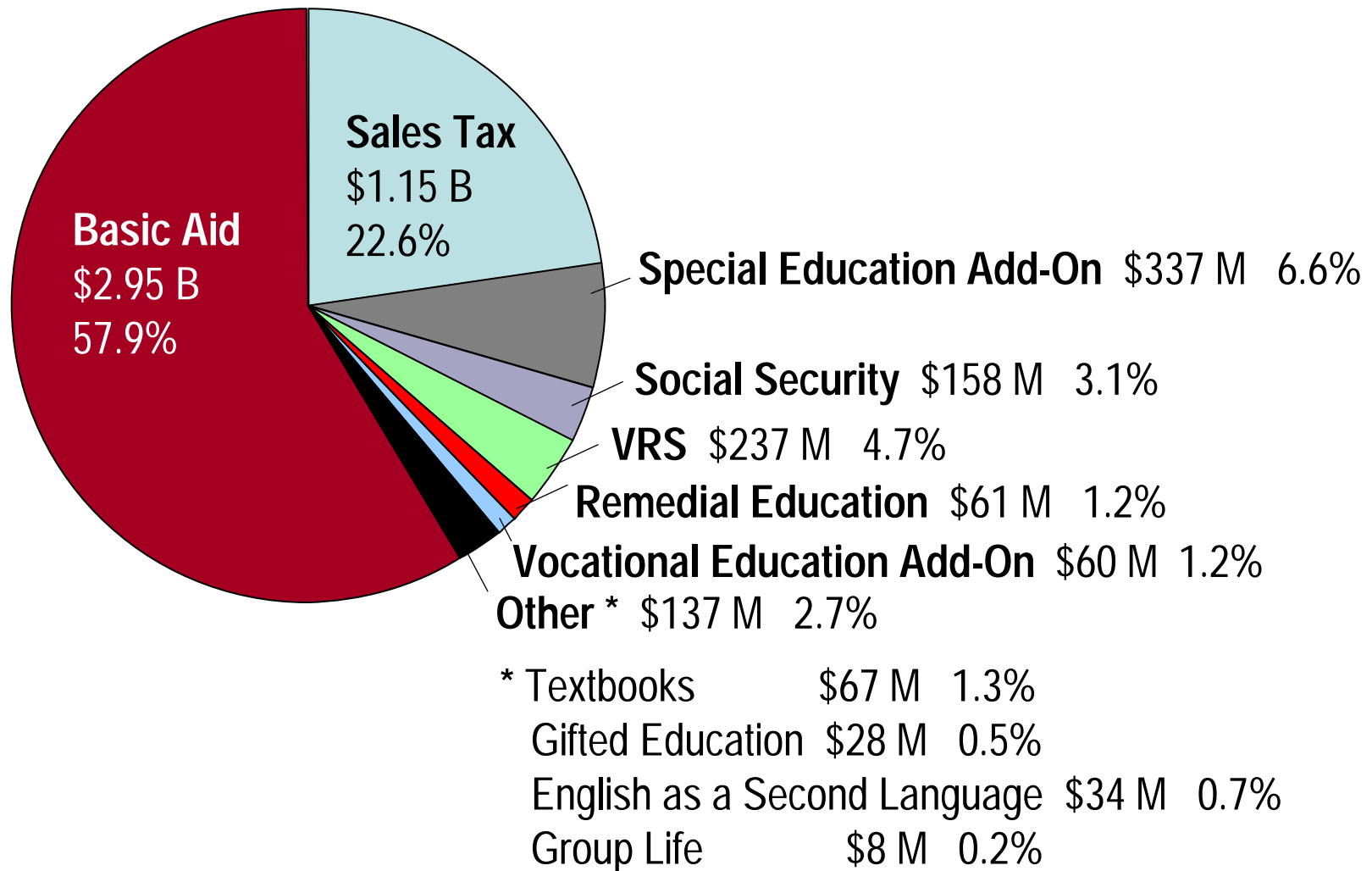
- *Constitution of Virginia* requires State Board of Education to determine and prescribe Standards of Quality (SOQ)
- Standards are subject to revision by the General Assembly
- General Assembly determines costs of the standards and apportions costs between State and local governments
- State spending on SOQ is done through its allocation of State funds to school divisions
- Required SOQ costs not paid by the State are paid by local governments (the “required local expenditure”)

State SOQ Spending, Total for All Accounts

- According to data from DOE, total State spending from SOQ accounts in FY 2008 was **\$5.09 billion**
- Equates to about **\$4,269 per pupil**

(Based on average number of pupils in public schools from start of the school year to March 31, 2008, adjusted for half-day K programs)

State SOQ Spending Totaled \$5.09 Billion



Source: DOE data on State payments to school divisions, FY 2008.

Factors Impacting the Size of Total State SOQ Spending

- Number of pupils
- Number of instructional positions required by SOQ
- Instructional salary levels
- Prevailing support staff levels and salaries
- Fringe benefit costs
- Non-personnel support costs
- Deductions from SOQ costs
- State and local shares of SOQ costs

Ten Divisions With the Largest Expenditures From State SOQ Fund Accounts, FY 2008

Division	State SOQ Spending (\$ millions)	Number of Pupils
Fairfax County	\$ 413.5	159,768
Virginia Beach	\$ 327.0	70,473
Prince William	\$ 315.6	70,611
Chesterfield	\$ 258.7	58,266
Henrico	\$ 197.6	47,800
Chesapeake	\$ 189.8	39,002
Norfolk	\$ 164.0	32,213
Newport News	\$ 154.8	29,441
Loudoun	\$ 148.0	52,776
Stafford	\$ 119.5	26,114
Total, Top Ten	\$2,288.5	586,464

Ten School Divisions With the Most and Least State SOQ Spending Per Pupil, FY 2008

<u>MOST</u> Per Pupil			<u>LEAST</u> Per Pupil		
Division	State SOQ Per Pupil	Composite Index	Division	State SOQ Per Pupil	Composite Index
Lee	\$6,913	.1769	Goochland	\$2,065	.8000
Scott	\$5,992	.1962	Williamsburg	\$2,118	.8000
Lunenburg	\$5,948	.2399	Falls Church	\$2,217	.8000
Buckingham	\$5,939	.2591	Fairfax City	\$2,280	.8000
Greensville	\$5,861	.2199	Arlington	\$2,285	.8000
Brunswick	\$5,846	.2540	Bath	\$2,349	.8000
Halifax	\$5,845	.2380	Alexandria	\$2,353	.8000
Nottoway	\$5,843	.2429	Surry	\$2,431	.7842
Smyth	\$5,803	.2184	Fredericksburg	\$2,454	.7538
Petersburg	\$5,803	.2188	Fairfax County	\$2,588	.7456

JLARC Staff for This Report

Robert B. Rotz

For More Information

<http://jlarc.virginia.gov> (804) 786-1258

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and on the table by the door.

