

FAIRFAX COUNTY
F E D E R A T I O N
of Citizens Associations Established 1940

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
4022 Hummer Road Annandale, VA 22003
www.fairfaxfederation.org

February 7, 2010

Governor Bob McDonnell
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor McDonnell:

I am writing on behalf of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations to urge that the Local Composite Index (LCI) for the distribution of funds to the state's school districts be recalculated this year according to the normal two-year schedule, and not delayed by a year.

It is especially important that the LCI be recalculated to reflect today's economic situation. Fairfax County must already close a budget shortfall of \$315 million for the county and \$176 million for the schools. Delaying the LCI recalculation could result in the loss of another \$60 million for Fairfax County Public Schools, in one of the most difficult budget climates in years.

Recently, the high quality of Fairfax County's and other nearby public schools was critical in attracting the headquarters for SAIC, Volkswagen, and Hilton, benefiting the entire commonwealth. To attract other employers (such as Northrop Grumman) and aid in Virginia's economic recovery, we must support the schools to maintain the quality of education that is a key criterion for relocation here. This added cut could have negative economic effects on the county, region, and state.

The Federation's position, adopted by a membership vote, is as follows:

The Federation supports fair and equitable state funding distribution formulas, including recalculation of the Local Composite Index (LCI) that accurately reflects both local ability to pay and the resource needs of local school divisions, and especially opposes the one-year delay of the LCI recalculation proposed by the ex-Governor.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to your support of the LCI recalculation.



Jeffrey M. Parnes, President
Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

CC:
Northern Virginia State Senators and Delegates
Fairfax County School Board
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors