PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY:
THE VIRGINIA PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Virginia will advance equitable, affordable and transformative higher education. Virginia seeks to be the best state for education by 2030.

EQUITABLE
Close access and completion gaps.

WHY
VIRGINIANS WITH A POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL OR DEGREE
54%
RURAL POPULATION 27%
MINORITY POPULATION 31%

BEST STATE FOR EDUCATION

AFFORDABLE
Lower costs to students.

WHY
AVERAGE STUDENT DEBT FOR CLASS OF 2018
$30,363 (national average is $29,200)

TRANSFORMATIVE
Expand prosperity.

WHY
GRADUATES WITH POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION (degree or credential)
Have higher average earnings for each level of college degree
Are more likely to have health insurance, pay taxes, vote & volunteer

54% RURAL POPULATION
27% MINORITY POPULATION
31%
PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY:
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Remove barriers to access and attainment, especially for Black, Hispanic, Native American and rural students; students learning English as a second language; students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; and students with disabilities.

Increase the social, cultural and economic well-being of individuals and communities within the Commonwealth and its regions.

SCHEV’S ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As the coordinating body for higher education in Virginia, SCHEV staff work closely with the 13-member Council to advocate for and promote the development and operation of an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of higher education in the Commonwealth. SCHEV’s responsibilities cover the higher education areas of academic, budget and finance and research, including:

- Statewide Strategic Plan
- Academic Policy and New Program Approval Authority
- Educational Programs for Public Institution Board Members
- Certification of New Out-of-State and Private Institutions
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Finance Policy Analysis and Budget Recommendations
- Financial Aid Programs Oversight
- Institutional Performance Reviews
- Advisory Services to Nonprofit Private Higher Education

Invest in and support the development of initiatives that provide cost savings to students while maintaining the effectiveness of instruction.