

# 2014-16 Strategic Plan

## State Council of Higher Education for Virginia [245]

### Mission

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) advocates and promotes the development and operation of an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of higher education and leads state-level strategic planning and policy development and implementation based on research and analysis.

### Vision

The State Council of Higher Education enhances Virginia's already-robust and vigorous higher education system by bringing the institutions together to collectively and collaboratively serve the goals, needs, and interests of the Commonwealth in a way that recognizes, utilizes, and maximizes the distinctive mission of each college and university. The State Council is committed to ensuring that each institution performs at the highest possible level in terms of quality of instruction and service to students, while fostering an environment of innovative contributions to Virginians' economic and cultural prosperity through research and public service.

### Values

### Finance

#### Financial Overview

The State Council of Higher Education has a total budget in FY 2015 of approximately \$90.65 million. Of this amount, \$81 million (89.6 percent) comes from the general fund. The remainder comes from a combination of federal and other sources.

Of the general fund amount, about \$69.5 million is for direct student financial assistance, including \$1.65 million for the Two-Year College Transfer Grant program. Another \$1.92 million is provided for the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents program, which provides an annual stipend of up to \$1,800 to offset the costs of room, board, books and supplies for qualified survivors and dependents of military service members.

Also from the general fund, \$7.4 million is provided to support the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) project, and \$308,000 is provided to support Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership at Mary Baldwin College.

Of the \$90.65 million annual budget total, only about \$5.66 million (6.24 percent) goes to support agency operations (staff salaries and fringe benefits, supplies and materials, contractual services, equipment, travel, rent, etc.).

#### Biennial Budget

	2015 General Fund	2015 Nongeneral Fund	2016 General Fund	2016 Nongeneral Fund
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	81,222,260	9,426,916	81,258,038	9,430,265
Changes to Initial Appropriation	50,000	0	1,535,000	0

*(Changes to Initial Appropriation will be 0 when the plan is created. They will change when the plan is updated mid-biennium.)*

### Customers

#### Anticipated Changes to Customer Base

##### Current Customer List

Predefined Group	User Defined Group	Number Served Annually	Potential Number of Annual Customers	Projected Customer Trend
Higher Education Students	Students	550,000	656,000	Stable
General Assembly	Governor and General Assembly	141	141	Stable
Higher Education Institutions	Public Colleges and Universities	17	17	Stable
Organization	Non-public Institutions and Schools	296	296	Stable
State Agency(s),	Council Members	13	13	Stable
Taxpayer	Taxpayers and Citizens	8,300,000	8,300,000	Increase

## Partners

Name	Description
Southern Regional Education Board	The SREB operates the minority doctoral-scholars program; the agency facilitates Virginia's participation in the program.
Dominion Foundation	The foundation underwrites the awards (plaques and monetary gifts), the ceremony, and publicity.
U.S. Department of Education	The department awards the funds for the College Access Challenge Grant, the Improving Teacher Quality NCLB grant, and the GEAR UP grant.

## Agency Goals

### • Promote the strategic management of Virginia's system of higher education.

#### Summary and Alignment

SCHEV's primary mission is to promote the continuous improvement of the Commonwealth's nationally recognized higher education system through state-level strategic planning, coordination and collaboration that recognize the individual missions of the institutions while reflecting and meeting the needs and goals of the Commonwealth as a whole. Virginia statute clearly defines the educational goals and objectives that SCHEV and the public institutions must address, and SCHEV's new state-wide strategic plan articulates broad goals and strategies for the system and the Commonwealth. Many of the duties and activities inherent in this goal are codified in Virginia law (see Agency Background Information, Statutory Authority in this report). This goal is consistent with SCHEV's mission to promote the development and operation of a sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of higher education. Ultimately, the responsibility for planning and execution of these duties and responsibilities rests with the Council itself.

#### Associated State Goal

Education: Elevate the levels of educational preparedness and attainment of our citizens.

#### Associated Societal Indicator

Educational Attainment

#### Objectives

#### » Promote the strategic management of Virginia's system of higher education.

##### Description

The agency's first objective is to promote strategic management through SCHEV's leadership of key constituencies, thereby creating a comprehensive strategic plan for Virginia's higher education system that harnesses multiple resources and that: 1) meets student needs and the Commonwealth's vital interests; 2) promotes the effective coordination of systemwide and institutional academic, financial, and enrollment plans; and 3) serves as a catalyst for policy implementation and collaboration. The Council approved a new statewide strategic plan for Virginia higher education in fall 2014. The plan sets four goals: 1) provide affordable access for all; 2) optimize student success for life and work; 3) drive change and improvement through investment and innovation; and 4) advance the economic and cultural prosperity of the Commonwealth and its regions. Additional information on the statewide strategic plan is available on the SCHEV website, [www.schev.edu](http://www.schev.edu).

##### Objective Strategies

- Develop the statewide strategic plan for Virginia higher education, including goals, strategies, initiatives and performance targets and measures, and then monitor progress toward achievement of the plan's goals.

##### Measures

- ◆ Number of public institutions of higher education certified by SCHEV as having met all education-related, financial and administrative performance targets as defined in the Higher Education Opportunity Act and the Appropriation Act.
- ◆ Number of students who complete their credentials on-time.
- ◆ On-time (by November 1) transmission of "cost of education" calculations to the Governor, General Assembly, and public colleges and universities.
- ◆ Percent (level) of overall satisfaction with the agency's annual educational orientation for recent appointees to the governing boards of the public institutions of higher education as reported by attendees.

#### » Advocate the interests of Virginia higher education

##### Description

We strive to advocate the interests of Virginia higher education by: 1) communicating higher education interests through research-based reports, public briefings and hearings, and electronic and other communication devices; 2) preparing and presenting testimony on pending legislation affecting higher education, particularly regarding State Council priorities (e.g., access, affordability, transfer and articulation, research, etc.) that results in adoption or rejection of SCHEV advocacy principles; and 3) developing empirically-based resource

allocation models to determine the adequacy of the existing funding structure of higher education in Virginia (e.g., base operating adequacy, faculty salary benchmarks, capital outlay space needs assessment, etc.). Further, SCHEV advocates the interest of Virginia higher education by presenting formal funding recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly based on the results of these models.

#### *Objective Strategies*

- Develop the roadmap and funding model to support policies established in the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011 in order to enable the Governor and the General Assembly to base the biennial budget on the new funding model and policies, thereby aligning ongoing higher education investment with the reform and innovation objectives of statute.

#### Measures

- ◆ Average number of working days between receipt and completion of Legislative Action Summaries (LASs) and Fiscal Impact Statements (FISs).
- ◆ On-time (by November 1) transmission of budget recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly.

### » **Enhance the six-year planning and review process to assist state-level and institutional-level determinations regarding higher education policies.**

#### *Description*

[Nothing Entered]

#### *Objective Strategies*

[Nothing Entered]

#### Measures

### » **Advance non-public postsecondary education in the Commonwealth through the effective and efficient regulation of certain private and all out-of-state institutions.**

#### *Description*

We strive to effectively and efficiently regulate: (1) all for-profit postsecondary entities; (2) all new non-profit postsecondary entities; and (3) all out-of-state postsecondary entities that seek to operate (initially and continually) in the Commonwealth.

#### *Objective Strategies*

- Review non-public postsecondary educational entities' initial and continued eligibility to operate in the Commonwealth.

#### Measures

- ◆ Average number of processing days until our formal response to applicants' initial requests for certification to operate in Virginia.

## • **Maximize higher education access and affordability for all qualified citizens.**

### **Summary and Alignment**

SCHEV is committed to supporting the investment of higher education funds so as to maximize the benefits of financial resources for all students seeking postsecondary education. In addition, SCHEV supports policies that optimize the effective use of financial resources to minimize costs to students.

### **Objectives**

#### » **Maximize higher education access and affordability for all qualified citizens.**

#### *Description*

We strive to maximize access and affordability through: (a) the administration of need-based and nonneed-based financial aid programs; and (b) identification of and reporting on the impacts of educational-costs increases on student financial need.

#### *Objective Strategies*

- Advocating for increased allocations to support needy students in Virginia's public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education.

#### Measures

- ◆ Amount of annual allocation of state funds for student financial aid.

#### » **Maximize educational options.**

#### *Description*

Through administration of the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) program, we strive to ensure that financial aid provides Virginia's students with the ability to consider private institutions.

#### *Objective Strategies*

- Advocate for increased allocations to support larger per-student awards for qualifying Virginia residents attending eligible private, nonprofit institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth.

#### Measures

- ◆ Amount of annual TAG (Tuition Assistance Grant) appropriation per eligible student

#### » **Maximize allocation of available funds to qualified students for financial assistance.**

#### *Description*

Through administration of appropriations for "regional financial assistance for education," we strive to assist students who: (a) attend colleges of optometry; and (b) participate in the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) minority doctoral scholars program.

#### *Objective Strategies*

- Awarding all available funds to eligible students.

#### Measures

- ◆ Amount of available funds awarded annually to qualified applicants.

#### • **Promote and convey progress toward state goals for educational attainment and workforce development.**

#### **Summary and Alignment**

The agency collaborates with public and private institutions of higher education to develop enrollment projections and estimates for credential awards (degrees and non-degree workforce credentials). It also assists institutions with efforts to improve students' educational attainment and workforce readiness, and it reports on progress toward relevant goals set by the Governor and General Assembly.

#### **Associated State Goal**

Education: Elevate the levels of educational preparedness and attainment of our citizens.

#### **Associated Societal Indicator**

Lifelong Learning

#### **Objectives**

#### » **Develop system capacity.**

#### *Description*

We strive to develop system capacity by producing college and university enrollment projections, degree estimates, non-degree workforce credential estimates and economic-opportunity scorecards that are consistent with institutional six-year plans, performance measure responses and the goals of the Governor and General Assembly.

#### *Objective Strategies*

[Nothing Entered]

#### Measures

- ◆ Number of economic-opportunity scorecards for non-degree workforce credentials developed.
- ◆ Percent of enrollment projections that are accurate.
- ◆ Percent of institutions' aggregated degree estimates that are accurate.

#### • **Coordinate and enhance the federal programs that support Virginia's postsecondary education system.**

#### **Summary and Alignment**

The purpose of the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title II, Part A, Improving Teacher Quality State Grants," is to increase the academic achievement of all students by helping schools and school districts improve teacher and principal quality and ensure that all teachers are highly qualified. SCHEV is responsible for competitively administering federal grants to institutions of higher education that partner with local school districts to support this purpose. The purpose of the GEAR UP program is to increase the awareness and readiness of low-income school childhood for postsecondary education and training. This goal is consistent with SCHEV's mission to promote the development and operation of an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of higher education.

### Associated State Goal

Education: Elevate the levels of educational preparedness and attainment of our citizens.

### Associated Societal Indicator

Educational Attainment

### Objectives

#### » Administer federal grants efficiently, in accordance with federal requirements.

##### Description

We strive to efficiently administer two federal grant programs: 1) the Title II, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act grant, which seeks to improve the quality of teachers and principals in grantee-selected schools; and 2) the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) grant, which seeks to increase the awareness and readiness of low-income school childhood for postsecondary education and training.

##### Objective Strategies

- Ensure that federal funds are expended efficiently and in accordance with all state and federal requirements.

##### Measures

- ◆ Rate of compliance with the reporting requirements of the federal GEAR UP program.
- ◆ Rate of compliance with the reporting requirements of the federal Improving Teacher Quality State Grant (Title II, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001) program.

#### • Maximize productivity through the efficient use of resources.

##### Summary and Alignment

SCHEV's fifth goal is to maximize productivity through the efficient and effective use of resources in the administration of the agency's budget and finance functions, while adhering to all applicable state laws and regulations.

### Objectives

#### » Ensure that resources are used efficiently and programs are managed effectively, and in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal requirements.

##### Description

We strive to be efficient and effective in our use of resources in the administration of the agency's budget and finance, human relations, and facilities management functions.

##### Objective Strategies

- Enhance the productivity and efficiency of state government operations.

##### Measures

- ◆ Percent of compliance (annually) with the Small Purchase Charge Card (SPCC) program. Maximized compliance with SPCC requirements maximizes the associated cost savings for the Commonwealth.
- ◆ Percent of vendor invoices paid on or before the "required payment due date" (as defined in Virginia's Prompt Payment Statutes) annually.

## Major Products and Services

As a coordinating body, SCHEV serves as a reliable source of accurate data, objective information, and policy expertise to elected and appointed officials, students, families, colleges and universities, media, and the public. SCHEV's statutory authorities and responsibilities include:

- ○ Development of a statewide strategic plan for higher education (new plan approved in fall 2014);
- Policy guidance and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly regarding capital and operating budget planning, faculty salaries, college/university equipment and technology needs, performance and innovation incentive funding, and financial aid;
- Certification of public institutions' performance on various education-related state goals and measures;
- Oversight of the Commonwealth's need-based and non-need-based student financial aid programs;
- Approval of various academic matters at public colleges/universities, such as new mission statements, degree levels, degree programs, and certain organizational changes;
- Review and potential discontinuance of public-institution degree programs deemed to be unproductive and/or unnecessarily

- duplicative;
- Review and approval of public and private institutions' enrollment projections and degree estimates;
- Provision of educational training programs for new appointees to public institutions' governing boards;
- Maintenance of publicly-accessible data system containing vast amounts of longitudinal information;
- Provision of advisory services to private, nonprofit institutions;
- Regulation of proprietary and out-of-state postsecondary entities that seek to begin or continue operating in Virginia; and
- Administration of various federal grants.

## Performance Highlights

The Council and its staff perform excellently SCHEV's responsibilities for: (a) developing calculations and recommendations regarding significant components of the higher education system; and (b) transmitting this mandated information in a useful and timely manner to the Governor and General Assembly. The agency performs similarly well in its responsibilities to project accurately future student enrollment and degree production and to advocate for funds for student financial aid and assistance.

## Staffing

Authorized Maximum Employment Level (MEL)	51
Salaried Employees	39
Wage Employees	7
Contracted Employees	0

## Key Risk Factors

The key risk factors most likely to impact the agency over the next four years are factors related to funding and workload, and to the interplay of the two. Multiple budget cuts since 2001 have significantly reduced the agency's operating budget and staff; budget reductions in FY15 again impacted the agency's ability to plan for and execute procurement of supplies, materials, and equipment, funding of staff professional development and work-related travel, and contracting for certain services. The efforts of the Council and its staff are complicated by a changing and growing agency workload. The number and complexity of the agency's legislatively-mandated responsibilities expanded in recent years, without a corresponding increase in staffing. As a result, the Council and its staff continue to explore ways to focus agency human and fiscal resources more strategically in an effort to mitigate current and future risks. The new statewide strategic plan for higher education serves as guide for this strategic re-focusing.

## Management Discussion

### General Information About Ongoing Status of Agency

The future direction of the agency will be charted largely by the priorities of the Council, the goals of its statewide strategic plan, and evolving statutory responsibilities, namely: 1) coordinating Virginia's system of higher education; 2) aligning statewide enrollment demand with institutional enrollment projections; 3) providing guidance and oversight in the development and update of the six-year institutional plans required of the public institutions; and 4) making fiscal and policy recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly to ensure that the Commonwealth's needs for higher education are met consistently. The Council recently undertook a review of agency responsibilities and processes in order to better align its processes and personnel with the needs of the Commonwealth and the goals of the new statewide strategic plan for higher education.

### Information Technology

At this time, agency staff are not aware of any external factors, requirements or mandates that will necessitate non-routine IT investments in the foreseeable future. Most agency desktop computers were updated in Fall 2012.

### Estimate of Technology Funding Needs

### Workforce Development

In recent years, expanding workloads and expectations have outpaced growth in the number of SCHEV's approved staff positions. Some approved positions remain vacant due to funding issues, and retirements may become an issue for the relatively small agency over the next few years. To address current and potential workforce issues, the agency is: (a) restarting efforts to improve the knowledge, skills, and abilities of current staff through tuition-assistance programs and other professional development opportunities, such as the Commonwealth Management Institute, the Virginia Executive Institute, Lead VA, and professional conferences; and (b) continuing to seek maximum alignment between current staff and the future needs of the higher education system.

### Physical Plant

Office space leased on the 9th and 10th floors of the James Monroe Building adjacent to Capitol Square in Richmond provides SCHEV with area,

functionality, and accessibility that are adequate for its needs.

## Supporting Documents

Title

File Type

### Service Area Plan

## Scholarships [10810]

### Description of this Program / Service Area

Activities in this service area are designed to ensure that state need-based assistance mitigates the financial barriers faced by Virginia's neediest students and to ensure the accuracy of projections for student financial need at public institutions. This service area also includes the administration of assigned financial aid programs as required by law.

### Mission Alignment

Student financial aid programs administered by SCHEV amount to about \$69 million annually. Aid is a key component in developing an economically sound system of higher education.

### Products and Services

#### Description of Major Products and Services

Student Financial Aid (16 programs)

#### Anticipated Changes

Increasing numbers of eligible students, coupled with the recent economic downturn, is resulting in significant additional demand for financial aid; if aid does not increase, then individual students will receive less than their demonstrated-need amounts.

#### Factors Impacting

The addition of more duties without the addition of more support dilutes the agency's ability to service the institutions. The product's (financial aid's) impact on students is being reduced as costs continue to increase.

### Financial Overview

The Commonwealth allocates about \$69 million annually for 16 student-aid programs. During the 2015 legislative session, the General Assembly appropriated an additional \$50,000 in the first year and \$600,000 in the second year to the Two-year College Transfer Grant program to promote additional transfer of students from the public two-year colleges to six designated public four-year institutions of higher education.

Biennial Budget

	2015 General Fund	2015 Nongeneral Fund	2016 General Fund	2016 Nongeneral Fund
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	69,072,665	260,000	69,087,665	260,000
Changes to Initial Appropriation	50,000	0	600,000	0

## Supporting Documents

Title

File Type

**Regional Financial Assistance for Education [10813]**

**Description of this Program / Service Area**

This service area provides student financial assistance for qualified students seeking degrees in disciplines not offered by Virginia public institutions.

**Mission Alignment**

This service area provides student financial assistance for qualified students seeking degrees in disciplines not offered by Virginia public institutions.

**Products and Services**

**Description of Major Products and Services**

Student Financial Assistance

**Anticipated Changes**

**Factors Impacting**

**Financial Overview**

General funds appropriated to program 10813.

Biennial Budget

	2015 General Fund	2015 Nongeneral Fund	2016 General Fund	2016 Nongeneral Fund
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	190,000	0	190,000	0
Changes to Initial Appropriation	0	0	0	0

**Supporting Documents**

**Title** **File Type**

**Eminent Scholars [11001]**

**Description of this Program / Service Area**

Attract and retain eminent scholars in Virginia's public colleges and universities.

**Mission Alignment**

The policy and procedures for this program were initially developed by SCHEV. Discontinued in 2011, for many years the program provided state matching funds for income from qualified endowments to attract and retain nationally prominent faculty.

**Products and Services**

**Description of Major Products and Services**

Prior to being defunded, this program provided funding to attract and retain eminent faculty.

**Anticipated Changes**

**Factors Impacting**

**Financial Overview**

This program was defunded beginning in FY13.

Biennial Budget

	2015 General Fund	2015 Nongeneral Fund	2016 General Fund	2016 Nongeneral Fund
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	0	0	0	0
Changes to Initial Appropriation	0	0	0	0

**Supporting Documents**

**Title** **File Type**

**Outstanding Faculty Recognition [11009]**

**Description of this Program / Service Area**

Enhance the visibility of Virginia's outstanding faculty.

**Mission Alignment**

SCHEV's mission is to promote the development and operation of an educationally and operationally sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of higher education. By periodically recognizing Virginia's outstanding postsecondary faculty, at no cost to the taxpayer, SCHEV improves the morale among our educators, thereby providing a positive workplace environment.

**Products and Services**

**Description of Major Products and Services**

Eleven (11) faculty awards annually

**Anticipated Changes**

**Factors Impacting**

**Financial Overview**

This program is funded entirely from private contributions (\$75,000 per year).

Biennial Budget

	2015 General Fund	2015 Nongeneral Fund	2016 General Fund	2016 Nongeneral Fund
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	0	75,000	0	75,000
Changes to Initial Appropriation	0	0	0	0

**Supporting Documents**

**Title** **File Type**

**Higher Education Coordination and Review [11104]**

**Description of this Program / Service Area**

Serve as the Commonwealth’s higher-education academic, fiscal, and facility planning and coordinating agency.

**Mission Alignment**

As set forth in the Code of Virginia, this service area is the cornerstone of SCHEV's mission.

**Products and Services**

**Description of Major Products and Services**

Statewide Higher-education Strategic Plan Development; Performance Indicator Development; Operating Budget Recommendations; Capital Outlay Budget Recommendations; Academic Program Approval; Academic Program Productivity Review; Guidelines for Student-learning Assessment; Academic Site Approval; Mission-change Approval; New (Academic) Organizational Unit (at or above the Departmental Level) Approval; Articulation Agreement Facilitation; Private Institutional Approval/Certification; Financial Aid Administration (16 programs); Six-year Capital Outlay Plan; Tuition and Fee Report; Full-Cost Report; Report on E&G Expenditures by Institution and Program; Administration of the Higher Education Equipment Trust Fund; Financial Feasibility Studies; Data Collection; Data Warehousing; Virginia Longitudinal Data System; Enrollment Projection Approval; Enrollment Demand Projections; Advisory Services; Board of Visitor Orientation/Training; Policy Discussions and Studies

**Anticipated Changes**

**Factors Impacting**

- The agency's products and services may be impacted by:
- Executive and legislative initiatives
  - General fund appropriations for operations
  - Staff retention/turnover
  - Ad hoc assignments
  - Pending staff retirements.

**Financial Overview**

General funds appropriated to Program 11104. In the 2015 legislative session, the General Assembly appropriated an additional \$300,000 to support initiatives related to the new statewide strategic plan for higher education and to facilitate implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC).

Biennial Budget

	2015 General Fund	2015 Nongeneral Fund	2016 General Fund	2016 Nongeneral Fund
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	11,959,595	440,000	11,980,373	440,000
Changes to Initial Appropriation	0	0	335,000	0

**Supporting Documents**

**Title** **File Type**

**Regulation of Private and Out-of-State Institutions [11105]**

**Description of this Program / Service Area**

To advance postsecondary education (non-public) in the Commonwealth and to ensure consumer-protection of our citizens through the regulation of private and out-of-state institutions.

**Mission Alignment**

By monitoring the legitimacy and viability of non-profit, for-profit, and out-of-state institutions operating in the Commonwealth, SCHEV's expands the educational opportunities for all of the citizens of the Commonwealth. This activity is a major component of SCHEV's goal to maximize higher education access and affordability.

**Products and Services**

**Description of Major Products and Services**

Institutional certifications, renewals, and suspensions/revocations

**Anticipated Changes**

Revisions to the related Virginia regulations are under review as of mid-2012, but these revisions will not significantly change the agency's provision of these services.

**Factors Impacting**

Factors that impact the agency's ability to provide certification, renewal, and suspension/revocation services include the number of applications received for initial certification each year, the number of postsecondary educational entities eligible to have their certifications renewed each year, and the number of such entities audited by the agency and found to be seriously deficient each year, thereby warranting suspension or revocation of their certifications. Some suspensions/revocations result from student complaints, the volume of which can also impact the agency's provision of these services as SCHEV is legally obligated to investigate all written complaints.

**Financial Overview**

This functional area is entirely self-supporting.

Biennial Budget

	2015 General Fund	2015 Nongeneral Fund	2016 General Fund	2016 Nongeneral Fund
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	0	971,459	0	974,808
Changes to Initial Appropriation	0	0	0	0

**Supporting Documents**

**Title** **File Type**

**Higher Education Federal Programs Coordination [11201]**

**Description of this Program / Service Area**

The purpose of the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title II, Part A, Improving Teacher Quality State Grants," is to increase the academic achievement of all students by helping schools and school districts improve teacher and principal quality and ensure that all teachers are highly qualified. SCHEV is responsible for competitively administering federal grants to institutions of higher education that partner with local school districts to support this purpose. This goal is consistent with SCHEV's mission to promote the development and operation of an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of higher education.

**Mission Alignment**

Via this federal grant program, SCHEV assists in improving secondary-school teacher and principal quality, which improves the preparation that Virginia youth receive for postsecondary education. Therefore, students can achieve more, and fewer resources are expended on remedial education, which renders the higher-education system more educationally and economically sound (which is central to SCHEV's mission).

**Products and Services**

**Description of Major Products and Services**

Grant awards to applicants to improve teacher and principal quality.

**Anticipated Changes**

No changes are anticipated in the program in 2012.

**Factors Impacting**

Factors that impact the grant awards include the number of applications, the amount of funds sought by the applicants, and the amount of funds available to make awards.

**Financial Overview**

Item 147

"Out of this appropriation, \$2,440,426 the first year from nongeneral funds and \$2,440,426 the second year from nongeneral funds is designated for grants to improve teacher quality (No Child Left Behind Act).

Out of this appropriation, \$2,240,031 the first year from nongeneral funds and \$2,240,031 the second year from nongeneral funds is designated for federal grants to increase college access and success for underprivileged students from the College Access Challenge grant."

Biennial Budget

	2015 General Fund	2015 Nongeneral Fund	2016 General Fund	2016 Nongeneral Fund
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	0	4,680,457	0	4,680,457
Changes to Initial Appropriation	0	0	0	0

**Supporting Documents**

**Title** **File Type**

**Early Awareness and Readiness Programs [17117]**

**Description of this Program / Service Area**

The U.S. Department of Education awarded a new GEAR UP grant to Virginia in 2014, which will begin in 2015; a previous grant expired in 2012, but SCHEV continues to operate the scholarship component of the prior grant.

**Mission Alignment**

By increasing the rate at which students from low-income families who attend participating Virginia middle schools persist through high-school graduation and enroll in college, SCHEV is furthering the progressiveness of Virginia’s system of higher education, which is a component of the agency’s mission. The GEAR UP program also contributes to the agency’s goals, as stated in its systemwide strategic plan, of promoting access to and preparation for postsecondary opportunities for Virginia’s youth.

**Products and Services**

**Description of Major Products and Services**

This program provided assistance in preparation for postsecondary education.

**Anticipated Changes**

**Factors Impacting**

**Financial Overview**

The U.S. Department of Education awarded a new GEAR UP grant to Virginia in 2014, which will begin in 2015. In addition, SCHEV continues to administer the scholarship component of a previous GEAR UP grant that expired in 2012.

Biennial Budget

	2015 General Fund	2015 Nongeneral Fund	2016 General Fund	2016 Nongeneral Fund
Initial Appropriation for the Biennium	0	3,000,000	0	3,000,000
Changes to Initial Appropriation	0	0	0	0

**Supporting Documents**

**Title** **File Type**