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03-24-2025



## **Virginia Institute for Public Policy Applauds Governor Youngkin’s Vision for State Education Reform**

**LEXINGTON, VA** — The Virginia Institute for Public Policy (VIPP), a leading think tank dedicated to advancing free-market solutions and individual liberty, today issued a strong endorsement of Governor Glenn Youngkin’s response to an Executive Order by President Donald Trump instructing Secretary of Education Linda McMahon to “take all steps within her authority” to return control of education from the federal government to the states. In a statement<sup>1</sup> released on March 20, 2025, Governor Youngkin outlined his administration’s commitment to empowering Virginia families and local leaders by reducing federal overreach in education, a move VIPP hails as a critical step toward fostering education choice, reform, and deregulation.

The Governor’s remarks underscore a vision of education that prioritizes parental rights and state sovereignty. Youngkin emphasized that “education is a state issue, not a federal one,” pledging to work with the federal government to dismantle bureaucratic barriers and return decision-making power to Virginia’s communities, families and parents.

VIPP has long championed policies that provide genuine school choice, streamline regulations, and restore accountability to local stakeholders. Governor Youngkin’s stance aligns seamlessly with these principles, offering a roadmap for Virginia to lead the nation in innovative education reform.

“Our education system is still stuck in a 19<sup>th</sup>-century thought process,” said Lynn Taylor, President of the Virginia Institute for Public Policy. “We need to recognize that a one-size-fits-all education system is, in reality, one-size-fits-none. Children are unique; they learn best in a variety of different environments and types of school. Education should embrace technology, innovation, and the entrepreneurial spirit that has made America a great nation.”

The announcement has also garnered support from allied organizations across the Commonwealth. Craig DiSesa, President of Middle Resolution, a Virginia-based advocacy group focused on practical conservative solutions, echoed VIPP’s enthusiasm: “Governor Youngkin’s commitment to breaking the federal stranglehold on education is a win for Virginia families. This is about trusting parents and local leaders to know what’s best for their children—an approach that’s both principled and pragmatic.”

VIPP calls on policymakers to seize this opportunity to enact bold reforms, including passing education savings accounts legislation, supporting charter school growth, and eliminating outdated regulations that hinder innovation. The Institute stands ready to collaborate with the Youngkin administration to ensure Virginia sets a national standard for educational freedom and excellence.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/2025/march/name-1043143-en.html>