

Pre-retreat Council Member Survey Responses

Responses to the pre-retreat survey indicate **considerable satisfaction** among Council members with *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*.

- **The plan's four goals received strong support**, with no members recommending deletion of any goal, and with only one or two respondents recommending modification of each goal. Goal 1 (affordable access) and Goal 2 (student success) received the strongest support for retaining in their current forms.
- **The 16 strategies associated with the four goals also received overall support.** At least two-thirds of each strategy's responses were "keep as is," with only one "delete" recommendation across all strategies. Those most likely to be identified as in need of modification were the strategies associated with Goals 1 and 2, although the strategy recommended for deletion by one member is associated with Goal 4 (prosperity).
- Based on responses' weighted averages and written comments, **members appear to be highly invested in Goals 1 and 2 – favoring alteration of the strategies while preserving the goals** -- and less invested in Goal 3 (innovation and investment) and Goal 4 (prosperity) – perhaps favoring alteration of these goals (or at least the wording of the two goal statements) over changing their strategies.

In terms of other **potential changes** to *The Virginia Plan*, while the survey responses show no consensus among members regarding whether to add another goal, the responses indicate **considerable agreement that many of the attainment report's "action items" be incorporated into the statewide strategic plan.**

- Responses as to whether to add another goal were practically evenly split between yes, unsure and no. Of those members responding yes or unsure, a preference exists for adding at least one goal related to/reflective of the attainment report. A goal related to employment outcomes was recommended as well.
- Eight of the attainment report's nine "action items" received support from at least half of responding members for incorporation into the plan. Those receiving the most support were Action 4 (support services), Action 2 (re-enrollment of near completers) and Action 6 (alignment of sectors), with only Action 8 (establishing a center for education attainment) not being supported by five or more respondents.

For the Council Retreat, **members' responses show a preference for "affordability" as a priority topic**, with five of eight respondents giving it their highest priority. Conversely, **"financing/cost" appears to be the lowest priority among the five options provided**. Members' priorities were rather split on "workforce development," with two members rating it their highest priority, while three rated it their lowest and none rated it in the middle. Other priorities that members volunteered include employment outcomes, addressing the gaps in and developing a Marshall Plan for the Rural Horseshoe, and state support for institutions' economic-development activities. Members called for better alignment between activities/sectors and better/stronger communications with the public as ways SCHEV can increase the likelihood of achieving the best-educated-state goal.