**Governance and Finance: K-12 Education Funding (Controlled for Inflation)**



Source: Fiscal Analytics, Ltd using Virginia DOE - http://www.doe.virginia.gov/school\_finance/budget/calc\_tools/index.shtml

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* **Blue** – Nominal Dollars
* **Red** – Adjusted for Inflation
* FY 2005 – Benchmark Year Virginia adopted budget for K-12 education = $4084 per pupil
* FY 2009 – Inflation adjusted high point for K-12 state funding = $4692 per pupil
* FY 2024 – Inflation adjusted per pupil = $4885 (a 1% increase per pupil in FY 2024 than FY 2009)

Current Reality: The budget ultimately adopted by the 2023 General Assembly made necessary and appreciated investments in K-12 education. The adopted budget, when controlled for inflation, represents the first time in 14 years that the state per pupil investment exceeded 2009, but that represents only a 1.04% increase. In the 2023 JLARC study, Virginia lags on every school funding benchmark.

RCPS recommends the General Assembly:

1. Make legislative investment goals for PK-12 Public Education *measurable* by establishing a plan to provide the state’s share of funding necessary to move teacher pay to the national average in two biennia;
2. Be transparent when communicating budgeted raises by using a July 1 start date for all compensation increases; and
3. Commit to avoiding unfunded mandates on schools, including additional training requirements without funding, as new requirements do have a fiscal impact at the local level.