



EDUCATION

The Alliance is **committed** to empowering the region's **public and private educational institutions** to meet the needs of students and the broader community. The Alliance continues to support implementation of innovative strategies to ensure our systems of K-12 education system remain competitive nationally and globally. The Alliance continues to champion our regional higher education partners, ensuring affordability and accessibility.

2026 Focus

- Full funding for all past renovations and maintenance requests at CVCC.
- Support for all required facility upgrades to address increased enrollment.
- Dedicated per pupil funding for STEM and CTE education.
- K-12 curriculum emphasizing business, economics, and entrepreneurship.
- Maximize the TAG award amount for qualified students at eligible Virginia private colleges or universities.
- Adequate funding support for VCCS FastForward and G3 programs.

WORKFORCE

The Alliance is **committed** to bridging the gap between employers, job training programs, and removing barriers to workforce participation presented by affordability and accessibility of child care. The Alliance is firmly committed to championing pathways to higher earning potential and economic mobility for the current and future workforce.

Minimum Wage: The Alliance believes the market better reflects demand for fair wages. The Alliance opposes mandates for increasing the minimum wage outright and opposes the failure to adjust increases for economic differences between the regions of the Commonwealth.

Right-to-Work: The Alliance opposes laws or regulations that undermine Virginia's Right to Work status, including Fair Share or any other initiative that compels employees join a union or any organization as a requirement of employment.

2026 Focus

- Protect Virginia's Right-to-Work status.
- Robust investment and adequate funding for all workforce credentials, job training, and in-demand skills programs at CVCC.
- Initiatives to encourage guidance counselors to emphasize CTE and Apprenticeship opportunities for high school students.
- Support the Virginia Business Roundtable for Early Education to address investment and innovation in early childhood care and education, within the Lynchburg region and across the state.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Alliance is **dedicated** to enhancing regional competitiveness. The Alliance will **continue to champion** the growth of our existing industry cluster in nuclear and advanced manufacturing services, funding of economic development programs and incentives, and affordable housing for our current and future workforce.

2026 Focus

- Virginia Business Ready Sites Program, the Virginia Talent Accelerator Program, Major Business Facilities Job Tax Credit, and GO Virginia.
- Alleviating permitting roadblocks and reducing local impact fees.
- Promotion of reasonable and cost-effective building codes.
- Oppose state mandates that restrict local authority without regard to local conditions.
- Support of the regional Housing Needs Study.
- \$10 million remediation funding for CVTC property.
- Tax code simplification that reduces the cost of compliance on businesses and individuals.

The Alliance **supports** reliable, cost-effective energy solutions that ensure the region's energy needs are met sustainably and affordably. The Alliance is **committed** to the continuation of regional broadband expansion that supports business growth. The Alliance **opposes** policies that increase energy costs and fail to fully address the steep increases in base-load demand.

2026 Focus

- Review and possibly rewrite the Virginia Clean Economy Act.
- Support for safe, cost-effective energy production to meet surging base-load demand.
- Advocacy for inclusion of commercial nuclear energy in regional energy strategies.
- Continued implementation of the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI)

The Alliance is **committed** to market-based solutions to address quality and affordable healthcare needs.

2026 Focus

- Oppose "Medicare for All" insurance programs at state or federal level.
- Oppose mandatory Paid Family Leave programs.
- Continued implementation of consortium healthcare plans and expansion of Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements (MEWAs).
- Comprehensive, multipronged strategy to address the Commonwealth's behavioral health crisis.
- Address federal cuts to Medicaid and SNAP funding.

The Alliance **supports** expanding air, rail, and surface transportation options that enhance region's connectivity and economic opportunity.

2026 Focus

- Continued expansion of air service to the Lynchburg region.
- Expansion and improvement of the Governor's New Airline Service Incentive Fund.
- Better communication and coordination between passenger and freight rail service.
- Oppose any changes to VDOT SMART Scale that negatively impacts parity in funding with Virginia's larger metro areas.
- Continued emphasis of safety in SMART Scale weighting of transportation needs in our region.
- Support streamlined fund utilization and marketing to airlines.

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY



Thank You To Our 2025 Legislative Advocacy Partners

For more information, contact Barry Butler, Director of Government Relations, at BButler@LynchburgRegion.org
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