



Hunger-free campuses invest in Virginia: support for H.B. 485, 583 & 629

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* Presenting as a Virginia citizen and ally of college students, not representing any institution or party.

Prof. Dann Sklarew, Ph.D.

Full Professor in College of Science:

- PhD from George Mason University (2000)
- Joined F/T faculty in 2008

Dedicated ally for students' success:

- Taught 1,000+, advised 200+
- University awards for teaching excellence, mentoring excellence, business partnerships and career connections for students

Concerned that students w/o affordable food less likely to succeed in courses/careers.

Higher Ed. Pays Off...

College grads > earnings, < unemployment vs. those w/"some college," no degree:

- In 2020, college grads' unemployment 5.5% vs. 8.3% for those w/"some college" (at age 25+).
- College grads earned \$22,000 more than those w/"some college" (at age 25+).

Earning a college degree is a big boost to our economy and to individuals' financial liberty, autonomy and self-reliance.

Higher Ed. Pays Off... but many don't graduate.

In 2019,

Sources: BLS 2020; ACS 2019

- ~40% of Virginians age 25+ had at least Bachelor's degree
- ~20% – 1.1 million people – [age 25+] had only some college courses

Incomplete college equates to \$24 billion lost from our economy, even as businesses struggle to recruit skilled labor to fill vacancies.

Enrollment down 2.5% since 2019 at our public colleges and universities, as fewer low income learners enroll, while struggling to make ends meet.

Those that enroll face FUBAR tradeoffs/food insecurity: buy books or bread?

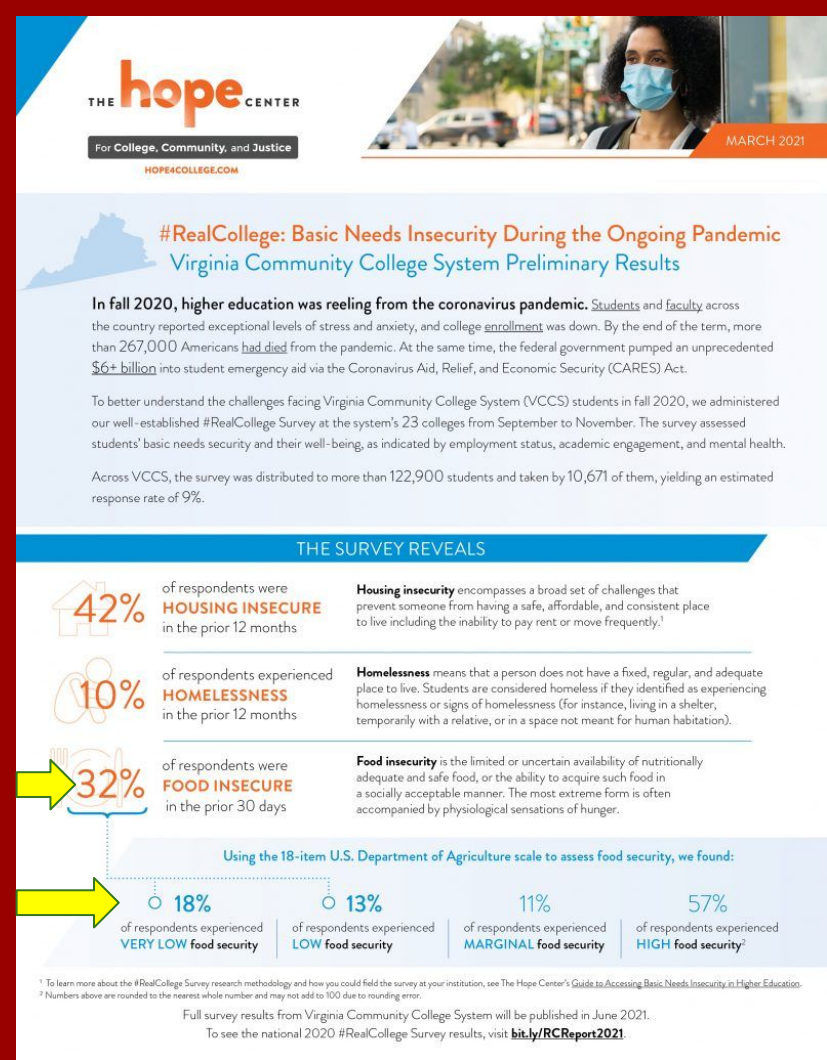
“Without access to food [...] and other basic needs, earning a college degree is difficult—if not impossible”

How are our community college students doing?

Fall 2020

1 in 3: Food Insecure

1 in 5 VERY LOW food security



<https://hope4college.com/rc2021-vccs>

How are our public university students doing?

2018-2021

30% of VT students
36% of Mason students
food insecure.

<https://hope4college.com/rc2021-bni-during-the-ongoing-pandemic>

#realcollege
2021 survey



Meal plan swipes
donation program

Published large
hunger survey



Unpublished
demographic
hunger surveys

Need outgrowing
Mason's 1-room
Patriot Pantry

unique student users

FY 2019/20	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22
166	238	305 (Fall) + TBD (Spring)

Ideal for VA college students' food security

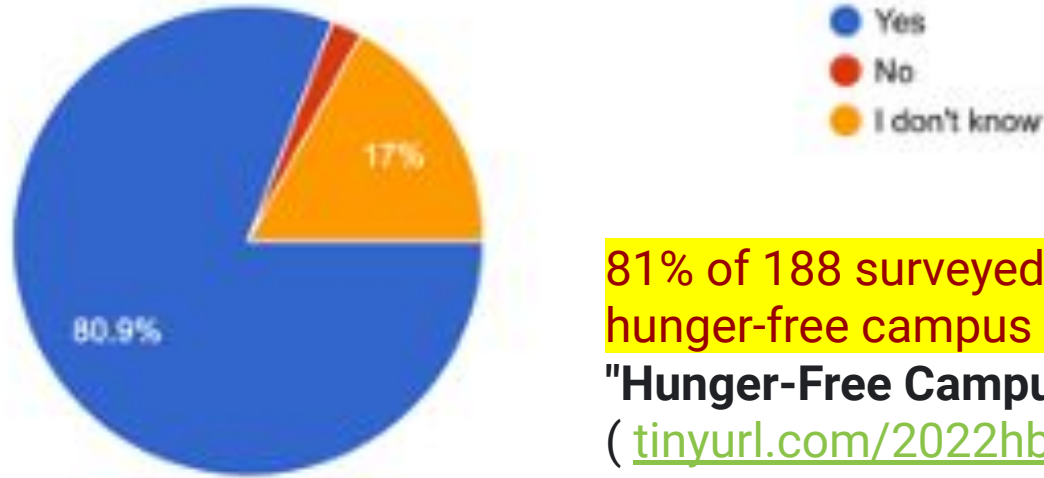
Hungry students aware, able to access & use food security resources:

1. **SNAP** eligibility, rules & enrollment.
2. **Food banks, kitchens & pantries.**
3. Donated **meal swipes** @ dining halls.
4. **Recovered food, farming, fishing & foraging** options?
5. **Food security coordinators** at all VA colleges & universities.
6. The Commonwealth & schools **systematically track & regularly report** on students' food insecurity demand & success in their hunger alleviation.

Relevant sectors & **resources are mobilized** to address college students' hunger.

"Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program" (HB 629)

Do you think the Hunger Free Bill is important and necessary for public colleges across Virginia?
188 responses



81% of 188 surveyed students deem hunger-free campus bill necessary.

"Hunger-Free Campus" HB 629
(tinyurl.com/2022hb629),

Source:
EVPP 480 students'
Fall 2021 peer survey at
George Mason University

Please vote “yes” on H.B. 629.

Thank you very much!

College students' hunger across VA campuses

*Help students unaware, unable to access, “unworthy” &/or stigmatized regarding
— use of these sorts of food security resources:*

1. **SNAP eligibility, rules & enrollment.** **HB 582**
2. **Food banks, kitchens, campus-based food pantries.**
3. **Meal swipes** @ dining halls, donated by peers/others (only available at W&M).
4. **Recovered food, farming, fishing & foraging** opportunities (e.g., grocers, caterers, farms & cafeterias; food forests, gardens, Bay, hydroponic greenhouses & apiaries).

W/o dedicated **Food Security Coordinators** (FSCs), schools not systematically tracking students' food insecurity or progress towards “no hunger” on campus.

No systematic **examination of how** VA food systems, education, social services, private sector, etc. are/could be mobilized to support the food security of our college students.

Number and value of students not participating in SNAP but might qualify

Institution	# of students who might be eligible but not receiving benefits	Annual value of SNAP benefits not used (avg. of \$127 / month)
CNU	322	\$490,728
GMU	3,484	\$5,309,616
JMU	1,077	\$1,641,348
LU	447	\$681,228
NSU	1,407	\$2,144,268
ODU	3,366	\$5,129,784
RU	1,188	\$1,810,512
UMW	351	\$534,924
UVA	1,316	\$2,005,584
UVA - WISE	377	\$574,548
VCU	2,952	\$4,498,848
VMI	95	\$144,780
VSU	1,477	\$2,250,948
VT	1,941	\$2,958,084

Many VA university students unaware of their SNAP eligibility.

HB 582 ([tinyurl.com/2022hb582](https://www.tinyurl.com/2022hb582))

big picture: There could be 60,000 students in Virginia who might qualify for snap but aren't receiving benefits



that's \$93 million of funding to reduce food insecurity virginia students may be giving up

Credited source: Tom Allison (VA SCHEV)

Please vote “yes” on H.B. 582.

Thank you very much!

Ideal for VA college students' food security

Potentially food insecure students are –

- ***identified** upon and after enrollment,*
- ***informed** and using food security resources as needed,*
- ***supported and tracked** to ensure they remain food secure throughout their VA college and university studies.*

HB 485

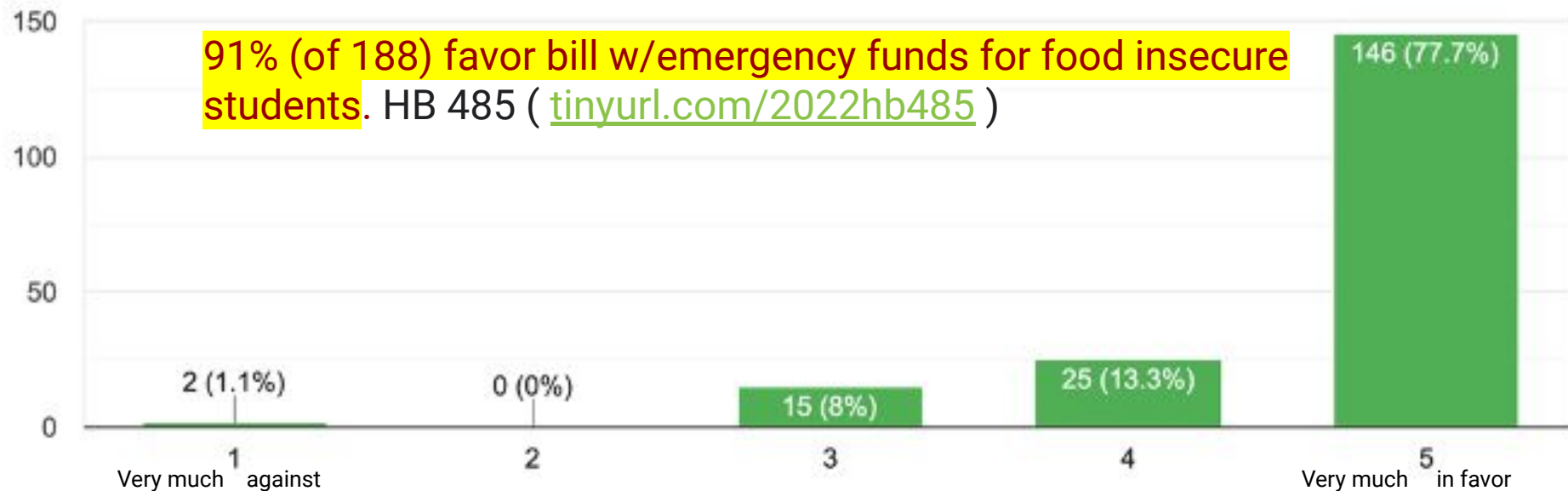
Students in crisis, screened and assessed as critically food insecure, promptly receive:

- ***emergency food** to keep them functioning, with;*
- ***guidance and support** as needed to ensure resources & skills to feed themselves.*

Food Security Coordinators ensures above succeeds .

If there was a bill passed in Virginia that provided emergency funds to students facing food insecurity, how likely would you be in favor?

188 responses



Source:
EVPP 480 students'
Fall 2021 peer survey at
George Mason University

Please vote “yes” on H.B. 485.

Thank you very much!