

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**  
*Office of the Governor*

Timothy M. Kaine  
Governor

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**GOVERNOR KAINE RECOGNIZES HIGH-PERFORMING  
VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*~ 162 Earn Governor's Excellence Awards;  
Board of Education Honors Additional Schools & School Divisions ~*

**RICHMOND** – Governor Timothy M. Kaine today announced that 162 Virginia public schools have earned the 2009 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence. The award is the highest honor under the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) incentive program created by the Board of Education to advance Governor Kaine's "competence to excellence" agenda to encourage advanced learning and achievement in the Commonwealth's public schools. Last year, 89 schools received the award.

"The fact that nearly twice as many schools met or exceeded the rigorous criteria for the award this year speaks to the progress Virginia's public schools are making," Governor Kaine said. "It also speaks to the wisdom of the Commonwealth's approach of including in its accountability program incentives for schools to exceed minimum expectations for student achievement."

To qualify for the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence, schools and school divisions must meet all state and federal achievement benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and achieve Governor Kaine's goals for elementary reading; enrollment in Algebra I by grade 8; enrollment in college-level courses; attainment of advanced diplomas; increased attainment of career and industry certifications; and participation, if eligible, in the Virginia Preschool Initiative. Schools and school divisions also earn bonus points for other performance measures, including the Governor's Nutrition and Physical Activity Scorecard.

***The 162 schools earning the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence are***

- Albemarle County — Hollymead Elementary, Meriwether Lewis Elementary and Virginia L. Murray Elementary
- Alexandria — George Mason Elementary
- Alleghany County — Falling Spring Elementary

- Arlington County — Arlington Science Focus, Arlington Traditional, Long Branch Elementary, McKinley Elementary, Taylor Elementary and Tuckahoe Elementary
- Augusta County — Cassell Elementary, Craigsville Elementary and Verona Elementary
- Bedford County — Moneta Elementary and Otter River Elementary
- Botetourt County — Cloverdale Elementary, Eagle Rock Elementary and Greenfield Elementary
- Buchanan County — J.M. Bevins Elementary
- Carroll County — Gladesboro Elementary
- Charlotte County — Eureka Elementary
- Charlottesville — Johnson Elementary
- Chesapeake — Camelot Elementary, Hickory Elementary, Norfolk Highlands Primary and Sparrow Road Intermediate
- Chesterfield County — Bettie Weaver Elementary, Grange Hall Elementary, Midlothian High, Midlothian Middle, Robious Elementary, Robious Middle, Swift Creek Elementary, Swift Creek Middle, W.W. Gordon Elementary and Woolridge Elementary
- Danville — Woodrow Wilson Elementary
- Fairfax County — Benjamin Franklin Middle, Centreville High, Chantilly High, Chesterbrook Elementary, Churchill Road Elementary, Clifton Elementary, Colvin Run Elementary, Fairview Elementary, Flint Hill Elementary, Great Falls Elementary, Greenbriar West Elementary, Henry David Thoreau Middle, Herndon High, Hunt Valley Elementary, James Fenimore Cooper Middle, Kent Gardens Elementary, Langley High, Laurel Ridge Elementary, Louise Archer Elementary, Mantua Elementary, Oak Hill Elementary, Rachel Carson Middle, Sangster Elementary, Sunrise Valley Elementary, Vienna Elementary, Washington Irving Middle, West Springfield High, Westbriar Elementary, Westfield High, Westgate Elementary and Willow Springs Elementary
- Franklin County — Boones Mill Elementary, Glade Hill Elementary, Henry Elementary and Snow Creek Elementary
- Goochland County — Goochland Elementary
- Grayson County — Bridle Creek Elementary
- Hampton — Armstrong Elementary and Barron Elementary
- Hanover County — Hanover High, John M. Gandy Elementary and Rural Point Elementary
- Henrico County — Gayton Elementary, Nuckols Farm Elementary, Pocahontas Middle, Shady Grove Elementary, Short Pump Elementary, Short Pump Middle, Springfield Park Elementary, Tuckahoe Elementary and Twin Hickory Elementary
- Isle of Wight County — Hardy Elementary
- Lee County — Elydale Elementary, Ewing Elementary and St. Charles Elementary
- Lexington — Lylburn Downing Middle

- Loudoun County — Aldie Elementary, Banneker Elementary, Belmont Ridge Middle, Belmont Station Elementary, Briar Woods High, Broad Run High, Dominion High, Harper Park Middle, Horizon Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Lowes Island Elementary, Lucketts Elementary, Middleburg Elementary, Mill Run Elementary, Potomac Falls High, Round Hill Elementary and Waterford Elementary
- Mecklenburg County — Chase City Elementary and LaCrosse Elementary
- Montgomery County — Harding Avenue Elementary
- Newport News — General Stanford Elementary, Hilton Elementary and Joseph H. Saunders Elementary
- Norfolk — Poplar Halls Elementary, School of International Studies at Meadowbrook and Willoughby Elementary
- Nottoway County — Burkeville Elementary
- Pittsylvania County — John L. Hurt Elementary
- Portsmouth — Churchland Elementary
- Prince William County — J.W. Alvey Elementary, Mountain View Elementary, Old Bridge Elementary, Osbourn Park High, Rockledge Elementary, Springwoods Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Elementary and Westridge Elementary
- Richmond — J.E.B. Stuart Elementary
- Roanoke — Crystal Spring Elementary and Virginia Heights Elementary
- Roanoke County — Bent Mountain Elementary, Cave Spring Elementary, Glenvar Elementary, Green Valley Elementary and Hidden Valley High
- Rockingham County — South River Elementary
- Salem City — Andrew Lewis Middle and East Salem Elementary
- Scott County — Fort Blackmore Primary, Hilton Elementary and Yuma Elementary
- Spotsylvania County — Riverbend High
- Staunton — Thomas C. McSwain Elementary
- Tazewell County — Abbs Valley-Boissevain Elementary
- Virginia Beach — Creeds Elementary, Green Run Elementary, John B. Dey Elementary, Kemps Landing Magnet, Kingston Elementary, Old Donation Center, Strawbridge Elementary and Trantwood Elementary
- Washington County — Rhea Valley Elementary, Valley Institute Elementary and Watauga Elementary
- Waynesboro — Westwood Hills Elementary
- West Point — West Point Middle
- York County — Tabb Elementary

Each school earning a Governor’s Award for Educational Excellence will receive a display banner and a signed resolution of commendation from Governor Kaine.

Twenty-four school divisions and 544 schools earned the Board of Education’s Excellence Award, the second-tier honor in the VIP program. These schools and divisions also have met all state and federal accountability benchmarks for at least two

consecutive years and have made significant progress toward goals for increased student achievement and expanded educational opportunities set by Governor Kaine and the board. Nineteen school divisions and 475 schools earned the Board of Education's Excellence Award in 2008.

Ten school divisions and 276 schools earned the Board of Education's Competence to Excellence Award. This award recognizes schools and divisions that have met all state and federal benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and are making progress toward VIP objectives reflecting the goals of Governor Kaine and the board. Twenty-five school divisions and 322 schools received the award last year.

Two schools earned the Board of Education's Rising Star Award, which recognizes school divisions and schools that have met all state and federal accountability standards for two consecutive years and have improved their VIP scores significantly from the previous year. Data from last year was used as a base line for determining the first schools to earn the award.

"Each of these awards is a milestone on the journey to excellence," said Board of Education President Mark E. Emblidge. "That more than half of the Commonwealth's public schools qualified for a VIP award reflects the commitment of educators across Virginia to helping all students meet high standards for learning and achievement."

"The schools earning VIP awards include urban schools, schools in economically challenged rural areas and schools serving diverse communities with high percentages of English-language learners," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Patricia I. Wright. "They present many models of success for schools to build upon the strong foundation of the Standards of Learning."

Schools and divisions earning the Board of Education's Excellence Award, Competence to Excellence Award and Rising Star Award will each receive a resolution of commendation from the board.

The Board of Education approved the Virginia Index of Performance in July 2007 in response to Governor Kaine's call for a formal means of recognizing schools and school divisions that exceed minimum state and federal accountability standards.

The VIP program awards points to schools and divisions based on the percentage of students achieving at the advanced level on Standards of Learning assessments and progress made toward educational goals advocated by Governor Kaine and the board.

The multi-tiered VIP program also provides incentives for improved performance and opportunities for recognition regardless of where a school or school division is on the journey from competence to excellence.

A list of all schools and school divisions earning Virginia Index of Performance Awards is available on the Virginia Department of Education Web site.

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