

Governor's Press Release

Thirty-one Fairfax County public schools have earned the 2009 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence, and 45 Fairfax County public schools have also been recognized by the state Board of Education for 2009 Board of Education (BOE) Excellence Awards.

The 2009 Governor's Award for Education Excellence is the highest honor under the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) incentive program created by the Virginia Board of Education to advance Governor Tim Kaine's "competence to excellence" agenda to encourage advanced learning and achievement in Virginia public schools. This year, 162 Virginia public schools were honored with the Governor's Award; last year, 89 schools receive 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," said Governor Kaine. "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," Kaine added.

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 1 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.

Fairfax County public schools winning the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence are: 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, Thoreau Middle, Herndon High, Hunt Valley Elementary, Cooper Middle, Kent Gardens Elementary, Langley High, Laurel Ridge Elementary, Louise Archer Elementary, Mantua Elementary, Oak Hill Elementary, Carson Middle, Sangster Elementary, Sunrise Valley Elementary, Vienna Elementary, Irving Middle, West Springfield High, Westbriar Elementary, Westfield High, Westgate Elementary, and Willow Springs Elementary Schools. Each school earning a Governor's Award for Educational Excellence will receive a display banner and a signed resolution of commendation from Governor Kaine.

The 45 Fairfax County public schools earning the Board of Education's Excellence Award are: Crossfield Elementary, Armstrong Elementary, Belvedere Elementary, Bonnie Brae Elementary, Aldrin Elementary, Canterbury Woods Elementary, Cherry Run Elementary, Clermont Elementary, Daniels Run Elementary, Fairfax High, Fairfax Villa Elementary, Fairhill Elementary, Floris Elementary, Forestville Elementary, Fox Mill Elementary, **Franklin Sherman Elementary**, Marshall High, Graham Road Elementary, Haycock Elementary, Island Creek Elementary, Madison High, McLean High, Mosby Woods Elementary, Navy Elementary, Oak View Elementary, Oakton Elementary, Oakton High, Orange Hunt Elementary, Pine Spring Elementary, Ravensworth Elementary, Rolling Valley Elementary, Silverbrook Elementary, Sleepy Hollow Elementary, Spring Hill Elementary, Stenwood Elementary, Thomas Jefferson High for Science and Technology, Union Mill Elementary, Virginia Run Elementary, Woodson High, Wakefield Forest Elementary, Waples Mill Elementary, Waynewood Elementary, West Springfield Elementary, Westlawn Elementary, and Wolftrap Elementary Schools.

The schools that earned the Board of Education Excellence Award, the second-tier honor in the VIP program, 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 Virginia Board of Education. A list of all schools and school divisions earning Virginia Index of Performance Awards is available on the Virginia Department of Education web site, www.doe.virginia.gov