

PRESS RELEASE



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Virginia Joins Multi-State NCTAF Partnership Network

State Leaders to Improve Teaching Quality, Teacher Preparation, and Teacher Retention

March 8, 2004 (Richmond, VA) – Virginia has become the 21st state to join the partnership network founded by the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future (NCTAF), State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jo Lynne DeMary announced today.

As a NCTAF partner, Virginia's teacher educators, administrators, and policymakers will have access to guidance and technical support from other member states, as well as direct support for implementing strategies to enhance teaching quality, teacher retention, and professional development.

"We are pleased to join other exemplary states in working with NCTAF to improve teaching quality for all children," said DeMary. "As a partner state, we look forward to being a part of the identification of effective practice and the development of policy that will achieve high quality teaching for every child."

Virginia already has initiatives under way to attract, develop, and retain skilled, talented, and diverse teachers who effectively advance the learning of all students through Governor Mark Warner's Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant. The grant's activities are aligned with NCTAF's three strategic goals, which address: teaching conditions, teacher preparation, and the overall profession.

Now entering its seventh year, the NCTAF partnership facilitates networking among member states to develop strategies, ideas, and policies to improve the quality of teaching. States joining the partnership network pledge to undertake actions that will result in education policy reforms, beginning with an assessment of how well the state is faring on teacher recruitment, preparation, and support for high-quality teaching.

In addition to Virginia, the states that are a part of NCTAF's state partnership are: Alabama, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, and West Virginia.

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The National Commission on Teaching and America's Future (NCTAF) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to providing every child with competent, caring, qualified teachers in schools organized for success.