

# Board of Education Agenda Item

Item:

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Date:

November 30, 2005

**Topic:** Report on Virginia's High School Initiatives, Including the National Governors Association Honors States Grant Program

**Presenter:** Mr. James C. Firebaugh, Jr.

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**Origin:**

Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

Board review required by

State or federal law or regulation

Board of Education regulation

Other:

Action requested at this meeting  Action requested at future meeting:

**Previous Review/Action:**

No previous board review/action

Previous review/action

date \_\_\_\_\_

action \_\_\_\_\_

**Background Information:**

During the spring of 2005, under the leadership of Governor Mark R. Warner's office the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), and the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals (VASSP) collaboratively developed a comprehensive proposal to submit to the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) Honor States Grant Program. The proposal consists of several interrelated projects that work with and build upon the successful high school reform efforts currently underway in the commonwealth.

Analysis of state enrollment data has indicated that Virginia has a ninth-grade retention rate that exceeds the retention rates for the middle grades and grades ten, eleven, and twelve. In an effort to improve the transition of students to high school and enhance the opportunity for successful graduation, the commonwealth made this issue a central point in its proposal. Additional areas of focus for the grant include policy development to promote P-16 collaboration as well as leadership development for principals and teachers. College readiness and access are also key components of the grant. Thirty high schools, identified by multiple criteria including a higher than average 9<sup>th</sup>-grade retention rate, were invited to be part of many of the activities defined in the proposal.

The Governor's office submitted the grant application in June 2005, and the commonwealth was notified in August 2005, that its proposal was accepted. The proposal is funded at one million dollars each year for two years with the partnership providing a match of one million dollars each year. The partnership agencies and professional organization have moved rapidly forward to implement the multifaceted proposal with key activities beginning this fall.

### **Summary of Major Elements**

The major elements of Virginia's proposal include the following projects and activities, some of which are funded by the grant and others state funded as part of the match:

- Establish a P-16 Council
- Conduct a research study on high-performing high schools
- Conduct a study on the academic weaknesses of high school graduates
- Convene a policy forum to present findings of the P-16 Council
- Implement an administrative coaching program for the 30 high schools
- Provide scholarships for training for Advanced Placement and dual enrollment teachers
- Provide scholarships for teachers to be trained in the Strategic Instruction Model (SIM)
- Provide funds to include targeted schools in the Mathematics-Science Partnerships (MSP)
- Train selected mathematics and science teachers to assist students with FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics competition
- Expand Project Graduation in the 30 high schools
- Expand the Algebra Readiness Initiative program
- Conduct high school best practices and transition symposium
- Provide high school transition grants
- Provide PSAT fee support and AP Potential to the 30 high schools
- Expand Early College Scholars and Path to Industry Certification to target students in selected schools
- Purchase License for Kuder's Career Planning System and train high school personnel in its use
- Implement the College Awareness Project.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept the report.

### **Impact on Resources:**

The Department of Education provides financial support for many of the activities in the proposal. The agency's existing resources can absorb this responsibility at this time.

### **Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

The board will receive periodic reports on the status and progress of the project.

***Report on Virginia's High School  
Initiatives, Including the  
National Governors Association  
Honors States Grant Program***

***Presentation to the  
Virginia Board of Education***

*November 30, 2005*

*Jim Firebaugh  
Office of Middle and High School Instruction*

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**EDUCATION FOR A LIFETIME**



*"Creating a Commonwealth of Opportunity for all"*

*Mark R. Warner*

***Senior Year Plus***

- *Project Graduation*
- *Early College Scholars*
- *Virtual AP School*
- *Path To Industry Certification*

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# Project Graduation

"We will maintain standards and  
walk the extra mile with our students."

*Governor Mark R. Warner*



- Academic Year Regional Academy for class of 2006
- Virginia Online Reading Tutorial
- Virginia Online Algebra Tutorial
- Summer 2006 Academies
  - Summer Regional Academy (class of 2007)
  - Continuation Academy (class of 2006)

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## EDUCATION FOR A LIFETIME



*"Creating a Commonwealth of Opportunity for all"*

*Mark R. Warner*

**The Early College Scholars** program will allow and encourage eligible high school seniors to complete their high school diploma and concurrently earn at least 15 hours of transferable credits toward a college degree, resulting in a more productive senior year and potentially reducing the amount of college tuition for families.

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## EDUCATION FOR A LIFETIME



"Creating a Commonwealth of Opportunity for all"

*Mark R. Warner*

### Virtual AP School

Both televised and online Internet-based Advanced Placement (AP) courses are available to qualified Virginia students. Televised Virtual AP School courses are tuition-free for all Virginia public school students. DOE will pay tuition for students who sign the **Early College Scholars Agreement** providing students take the examinations associated with the AP courses.

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## EDUCATION FOR A LIFETIME



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### Path to Industry Certification

This path is intended for seniors who have not planned to continue their education beyond high school and yet are unprepared to enter an occupational or technical career upon graduation.

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## EDUCATION FOR A LIFETIME



Creating a Commonwealth of Opportunity for all

*Mark R. Warner*

- Participating students and their parents sign a **Path to Industry Certification Student Compact** agreeing that the student will complete high school and enroll in a community college to continue the technical training needed to prepare for an industry certification or state licensure.
- Certification or licensure exams will be **free** to students who successfully complete the prescribed courses for their selected industry certification or state license.

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## NGA Honor States Grant Program

- Virginia is one of 10 states selected for the Phase 1 NGA grant program.
- The grant is funded for two years.
- Virginia will receive \$1 million for each of the two years.
- Partners: The Governor's Office, SCHEV, VCCS, VDOE, and VASSP

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## **NGA Honor States Grant Program**

### **Objectives:**

- **Decrease ninth-grade retention (holdback) rates**
- **Decrease overall dropout rates**
- **Increase high school graduation rates**
- **Increase the amount of rigorous coursework selected by students**
- **Increase Advanced Placement test taking rates**
- **Increase preparedness for post-secondary education**
- **Increase college-going rates**
- **Increase college graduation rates**

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## **NGA Honor States Grant Program**

### **Three Components**

- **Policy Reform by Design**
- **Colleagues for Success: Building High School Leadership Capacity**
- **Commonwealth of Access: Transition, Readiness, and Access**

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## **NGA Honor States Grant Program**

### **Policy Reform by Design**

- **Establish a P-16 Council**
- **Conduct a research study on high-performing high schools**
- **Conduct a study on the academic weaknesses of high school graduates**
- **Convene a policy forum to present findings of the P-16 Council**

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## **NGA Honor States Grant Program**

### **Colleagues for Success: Building High School Leadership Capacity**

- **Implement an administrative coaching program**
- **Provide scholarships for training for Advanced Placement and dual enrollment teachers**

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## **NGA Honor States Grant Program**

### **Colleagues for Success: Building High School Leadership Capacity** (continued)

- **Provide scholarships for teachers to be trained in the Strategic Instruction Model (SIM)**
- **Provide funds to include targeted schools in the Mathematics-Science Partnerships (MSP)**

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## **NGA Honor States Grant Program**

### **Colleagues for Success: Building High School Leadership Capacity** (continued)

- **Train selected mathematics and science teachers to assist students with FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics competition**

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## **NGA Honor States Grant Program**

### **Commonwealth of Access: Transition, Readiness, and Access**

- **Expand Project Graduation**
- **Expand the Algebra Readiness Program**
- **Conduct high school best practices and transition symposium**

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## **NGA Honor States Grant Program**

### **Commonwealth of Access: Transition, Readiness, and Access** (continued)

- **Provide high school transition grants**
- **Provide PSAT fee support and AP Potential**
- **Expand Early College Scholars and Path to Industry Certification to target students in selected schools**

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## **NGA Honor States Grant Program**

### **Commonwealth of Access: Transition, Readiness, and Access** (continued)

- **Purchase License for Kuder Career Planning System and train high school personnel in its use**
- **Implement the College Awareness Project**

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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### Executive Order 100 (2005)

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#### **CREATING THE P-16 EDUCATION COUNCIL**

##### **Importance of the Initiative**

As the Commonwealth moves forward on a wide range of education reform initiatives from preschool to graduate school, it is more important than ever to coordinate the various reform efforts underway across the continuum of education. Students increasingly are moving from one educational system to the other, and the need for improved transitions between systems is greater than ever. Education is a shared responsibility of several citizen boards in the Commonwealth, and opportunities exist to collaborate on common problems in moving forward on education reform.

Virginia's reform efforts have been nationally recognized, including through the receipt of a National Governors Association Honor States Grant, funded by the Gates Foundation. As part of the efforts for implementing this grant, the Commonwealth will formalize its already strong efforts at coordinating education reform across the entire spectrum of education through a P-16 Council, to address education reform from preschool to graduate school.

The Council is created in full recognition of the Commonwealth's commitment to creating a seamless transition and ensuring effective articulation from preschool to graduate school, enabling students to meet high standards, preparing faculties to teach to high standards, and continuing to improve student achievement.

##### **The Council**

The Secretary of Education will chair the Council. It will consist of 19 members, appointed by the Governor and serving at his pleasure. The Council will consist of two members of the House of Delegates, two members of the Senate of Virginia, the

Secretary of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Director of the State Council of Higher Education, the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System, the President of the Board of Education, the Chairman of the Virginia Community College Board, the Chairman of the State Council of Higher Education, and eight citizen members. The citizen members will include educators, and business and community leaders. The Governor may appoint additional persons to the Council at his discretion.

The Council's responsibilities shall include the following.

1. Identify opportunities to better coordinate the state's education reform efforts from preschool to graduate school.
2. Serve as a steering committee for oversight of the state's education reform activities as part of the NGA Honor States Grant.
3. Develop approaches to improve transitions among levels of education, promote student success, and encourage students to continue their education.
4. Consider strategies for data systems that provide information about students at all educational levels.
5. Make any other recommendations as may seem appropriate.

The Council shall make a report of its activities by October 1, 2006. The Council shall meet at the call of the chairman.

#### Commission Staffing and Funding

Necessary staff support for the Commission's work during its existence shall be furnished by the Office of the Governor, the Virginia Department of Education, the Virginia Community College System, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Department of Social Services, and such other agencies and offices as designated by the Governor. An estimated 3,000 hours of staff time will be required to support the Commission's work.

Necessary funding to support the Commission and its staff shall be provided from federal funds, private contributions, and state funds appropriated for the same purposes as the Commission, as authorized by Section 2.2-135 of the Code of Virginia. Estimated direct costs for this Commission are \$15,000.

Commission members shall serve without compensation and shall receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

Executive Order 100 (2005)

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This Executive Order shall be effective October 15, 2005, and shall remain in full force and effect until October 14, 2006, unless sooner amended or rescinded by further executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 19th day of October 2005.

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Mark R. Warner, Governor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

## Commonwealth of Virginia National Governors Association Honor Schools

<u>Division</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Principal</u>
Bristol City Public Schools	Virginia High	Ina Danko
Caroline Co. Public Schools	Caroline Co. High	Patricia Taylor-Smith
Charlotte Co. Public Schools	Randolph Henry Sr. High	Gloria Talbott
Chesterfield Co. Public Schools	Meadowbrook High	Cornelius Fletcher
Colonial Beach Public Schools	Colonial Beach High	David Bridges
Dinwiddie Co. Public Schools	Dinwiddie High	Barbara Pittman
Franklin Co. Public Schools	Franklin Co. High	William B. Gibson
Frederick Co. Public Schools	James Wood High	Joseph Salyer
Hampton City Public Schools	Phoebus High	Donna Woods
Henrico Co. Public Schools	Highland Springs High	Al Ciarochi
Manassas City Public Schools	Osbourn High	Perry Pope
Norfolk City Public Schools	Norview High	Marjorie Stealey
Norfolk City Public Schools	Booker T. Washington High	Cynthia Watson
Northumberland Co. Public Schools	Northumberland High	Larry Shumaker
Pittsylvania Co. Public Schools	Dan River High	Martin Ringstaff
Pittsylvania Co. Public Schools	Gretna High	Deborah Powell
Portsmouth City Public Schools	Woodrow Wilson High	Timothy Johnson
Portsmouth City Public Schools	I. C. Norcom High	Lynn Briley
Prince William Co. Public Schools	Woodbridge High	Alan Ross
Prince William Co. Public Schools	Brentsville District High	Alex Carter
Richmond City Public Schools	George Wythe High	Earl Pappy
Richmond City Public Schools	Huguenot High	J. Austin Brown
Roanoke City Public Schools	William Fleming High	Susan Willis
Russell Co. Public Schools	Castlewood High	Scotty Fletcher
Southampton Co. Public Schools	Southampton High	Allene Atkinson
Spotsylvania Co. Public Schools	Spotsylvania High	David Eshelman
Suffolk City Public Schools	Lakeland High	Thomas Whitley
Suffolk City Public Schools	Nansemond River High	Tomas McLemore
Sussex Co. Public Schools	Sussex Central High	Gurnery Ramsey
Waynesboro City Public Schools	Waynesboro High	Sue Wright