



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Mark R. Warner
Governor

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**GOVERNOR WARNER RECOGNIZES JO LYNNE DEMARY FOR HER
LEADERSHIP AS STATE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT**

~Names deputy superintendent Patricia Wright acting superintendent ~

RICHMOND – Governor Mark R. Warner today recognized retiring Superintendent of Public Instruction **Jo Lynne DeMary** for her accomplishments as Virginia’s chief school officer. DeMary is retiring December 31 after five years as state superintendent and 11 years of state service.

“Jo Lynne DeMary was guaranteed a place in history when she became the first woman in the commonwealth to serve as state superintendent,” said Governor Warner. “But her real legacy has been remarkable achievement in student and school performance at a time when accountability standards demanded much of them. Jo Lynne has worked to make sure every child has a chance to succeed, even if extra help is needed.”

DeMary joined the department in 1994 as assistant superintendent for instruction and was subsequently appointed acting superintendent on December 9, 1999, and superintendent on June 1, 2000. Governor Warner reappointed DeMary to a full, four-year term on April 2, 2002. Prior to her state service, DeMary served as a teacher in Richmond, Fairfax County, and Henrico County, and as an assistant principal, principal, elementary school supervisor, director of special education, and assistant superintendent of instruction in Henrico County.

“Few public servants have the privilege of directing a reform they helped design, and then, before their watch is over, seeing that reform produce the desired results,” said Superintendent DeMary. “Leading the Department of Education during this historic time while working with Governor Warner to expand opportunities for students has been the highlight of my career as an educator.”

Governor Warner named Deputy Superintendent **Patricia I. Wright** to serve as acting superintendent of public instruction, effective January 1, 2006. Dr. Wright has 21 years of experience with the Department of Education and has held several leadership positions since her employment in 1985. She was appointed deputy superintendent on August 1, 2004, after serving as assistant superintendent for instruction from 2000 to 2004, and director of secondary instruction from 1997 to 2000. Prior to joining the department, Dr. Wright taught high school and middle school mathematics in Sussex County and Chesterfield County.

“Pat Wright’s leadership is reflected in the success during the last four years of important initiatives such as Project Graduation, Early College Scholars, and the Partnership for Achieving Successful Schools (PASS),” said Governor Warner. “She also has led Virginia’s on-going effort to bring reasonableness and flexibility to the implementation of No Child Left Behind.”

“The new opportunities Governor Warner has created for students are now integral components of the commonwealth’s public school system,” said Dr. Wright. “I am honored by the trust he has placed in me, and look forward to leading the department into the transition.”

Dr. Wright is Governor Warner’s representative on the National Governor’s Association (NGA) Task Force on Graduation and Dropout Rates. Virginia is one of ten states to receive a \$2 million high school reform grant from NGA. The two-year grant allows Virginia to continue the work of Governor Warner’s Redesigning the American High School Initiative. The initiative, which was launched by Governor Warner during his term as chairman of the NGA, lays out a 10-point agenda for reducing dropout rates, increasing the academic rigor of high school, coordinating secondary and post-secondary education, and expanding opportunities for career and technical education students to earn industry certifications.

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