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## State Board of Education Honors High-Achieving Title I Schools

RICHMOND, Va. — The Virginia Board of Education is honoring 55 Title I schools and one school division for raising the academic achievement of economically disadvantaged students. The awards are based on student performance on Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments during the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years. Each school and division will receive a certificate celebrating its status and achievement.

“Public schools don’t get to select their students, but division superintendents, principals, teachers and other public school educators do decide how they respond to the challenges economically disadvantaged children bring to the classroom,” Board of Education President Billy K. Cannaday Jr. said. “The Title I schools we are honoring combine effective instruction with the non-instructional supports that inspire many children in poverty to focus and succeed.”

The board recognized nine schools as Title I Highly Distinguished Schools. To qualify for the distinction, schools must exceed all state and federal accountability benchmarks for two consecutive years and achieve pass rates on reading and mathematics SOL tests at or above the 85th percentile. The nine Title I Highly Distinguished Schools are as follows, by division:

- Amherst County — Temperance Elementary
- Bath County — Millboro Elementary
- Franklin County — Snow Creek Elementary
- Norfolk — Willoughby Elementary
- Richmond — George W. Carver Elementary
- Scott County — Yuma Elementary
- Smyth County — Rich Valley Elementary
- West Point — West Point Elementary
- York County — Bethel Manor Elementary

Forty-six schools were recognized as Title I Distinguished Schools for meeting all state and federal accountability requirements for two consecutive years and achieving SOL pass rates at the 60th percentile or higher for reading and mathematics. These schools are as follows:

- Albemarle County — Scottsville Elementary
- Amherst County — Amherst Elementary and Pleasant View Elementary
- Arlington County — Henry Elementary
- Bedford County — Goodview Elementary
- Botetourt County — Buchanan Elementary
- Carroll County — Oakland Elementary
- Chesterfield County — Matoaca Elementary
- Danville — Forest Hills Elementary

*(more)*

- Franklin County — Callaway Elementary and Glade Hill Elementary
- Gloucester County — Botetourt Elementary
- Goochland County — Byrd Elementary
- Grayson County — Independence Elementary
- Henry County — Rich Acres Elementary
- Isle of Wight County — Carrsville Elementary
- King George County — Potomac Elementary
- Manassas — George Carr Round Elementary
- New Kent County — New Kent Elementary
- Norfolk — Sewells Point Elementary
- Page County — Springfield Elementary
- Patrick County — Woolwine Elementary
- Pittsylvania County — Chatham Elementary and Union Hall Elementary
- Prince George County — South Elementary and William A. Walton Elementary
- Prince William County — Minnieville Elementary
- Roanoke County — Mt. Pleasant Elementary
- Rockingham County — Pleasant Valley Elementary and South River Elementary
- Russell County — Belfast Elk Garden Elementary, Givens Elementary and Swords Creek Elementary
- Smyth County — Marion Elementary
- Southampton County — Nottoway Elementary
- Tazewell County – Abb’s Valley-Boissevain Elementary, Cedar Bluff Elementary and Tazewell Elementary
- Virginia Beach — Rosemont Elementary
- Washington County — Greendale Elementary and High Point Elementary
- Wise County — J.W. Adams Combined, Powell Valley Primary and St. Paul Elementary
- Wythe County — Speedwell Elementary
- York County — Dare Elementary

West Point Public Schools — for a fourth consecutive year — was recognized as a Highly Distinguished Title I School Division. The designation is earned by divisions that exceed all federal achievement objectives for two consecutive years, have all schools fully accredited for two consecutive years and graduate more than 80 percent of students with Standard or Advanced Studies diplomas.

“I congratulate all of the educators whose hard work and belief in the potential of all children have earned these recognitions from the Board of Education,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Steven R. Staples said. “Their success provides a model for others and a way forward as we seek to narrow and ultimately close the achievement gap.”

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act — which Congress reauthorized last month through passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 — authorizes federal funding for programs to raise the achievement of students identified as being at risk of academic failure.

The federal education law also encourages states to recognize schools and school divisions that exceed annual performance objectives in reading and mathematics.

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