

Academic Year Governor's Schools (AYGS)

Presentation to the Virginia Senate Finance Committee – Education Subcommittee

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Historical Perspective

- **Started in 1985 with four schools serving 736 students from 21 school divisions**
- **In 2012-2013 school year, 19 AYGS schools served 6,551 students from 122 school divisions**

Current AYGS Program Focus Summary

- **15 schools focus on STEM-related disciplines**
- **Three schools focus on Arts and/or Humanities**
- **Two schools focus on Core Academics**
- **One school focuses on Government & International Relations**

AYGS Statistics

- **On average, 2,000 students graduate each year from AYGS**
- **Since 1986, ~25,000 students have graduated AYGS programs**
- **On average, 80% of AYGS graduates attend instate colleges**
- **Three full-day programs; 16 shared-time programs**

AYGS Funding

- **Based on student enrollment by division and the funded state per pupil amount (FY2014 \$4,369)**
- **State allotment is adjusted by the division's composite index**
- **State allotment is further adjusted by the portion of the day the program is in operation**

AYGS Funding

- **Local school divisions contribute funds based on the school's regional governing board policy**
- **Each AYGS program is unique in its funding structure to meet local/regional needs**
- **AYGS rarely included in state funded mandates (e.g. 2% teacher pay increase)**

Update on Southwest GS Expansion Grant

- **Consultants have conducted program reviews and met with constituents**
- **Focus on moving from a shared-time to full-day program for 11th & 12th grade students in 2014-2015**
- **Focus on adding 10th grade in 2015-2016**

Update on Southwest GS Expansion Grant

Curriculum Outcomes

- **More extensive inquiry-based learning opportunities**
- **Partnership with the Center for Talent Development (CTD) at Northwestern University to provide advanced STEM curriculum for gifted students**

Update on Norfolk and Portsmouth STEM AYGs Planning Grant

- **Continue to work within the region on support and funding**
- **Virginia Beach Public Schools passed resolution to participate**
- **Taskforce website will be launched after web platform upgrade**

Update on Norfolk and Portsmouth STEM AYGS Planning Grant

- **Focusing on serving grades 9-12 in a full-day program model**
- **NPS/PPS STEM AYGS Co-Chair Barry Bishop will speak at the STEM Governor's Workshop on Sept. 27-28**



Future of Education for STEM Talented Adolescents

John T. Almarode, Ph.D.
James Madison University

Edward Crowe, Ph.D.
The Woodrow Wilson Foundation

Rena F. Subotnik, Ph.D.
American Psychological Association

Robert H. Tai, Ed.D.
University of Virginia

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NSF Study

- **Examined adolescent completion in STEM degreed programs in college**
- **25 specialized SMT schools from across the country were included; among those were five AYGS schools:**
 - **New Horizons Governor's School for Science and Technology**
 - **Roanoke Valley Governor's School for Science and Technology**
 - **Shenandoah Valley Governor's School for Arts and Science**
 - **Southwest Virginia Governor's School for Science, Mathematics, and Technology**
 - **Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology**

NSF Study Results

- **49.8% percent of specialized SMT high school graduates completed a STEM undergraduate degree**
 - **This is more than double the national average of 22.6%**
 - **no significant difference in outcome based on type of school (residential, shared-time, full-day, or school within a school)**

AYGS differs from Governor's Academies

- **AYGS advanced-level curriculum with appropriate differentiation for gifted learners**
- **Students graduate to 4-year institutions**

Questions?

Please contact

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