



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BRIEFING

# **VIRGINIA ACADEMIC YEAR GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2013**



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## I. OVERVIEW OF THE VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL PROGRAM

- Standard 1 of the *Standards of Quality* requires that local school boards implement the early identification of gifted students and enrollment of such students in appropriately differentiated instructional programs [§22.11-253.13:1D.6].
- In July 2010, the Virginia Board of Education promulgated the regulations addressing services for gifted students entitled, *Regulations Governing Educational Services for Gifted Students* [8 VAC 20-40-10 through 8 VAC 20-40-70].

These regulations currently define gifted students as:

*...students in public elementary, middle, and secondary schools beginning with kindergarten through twelfth grade who demonstrate high levels of accomplishment or who show potential for higher levels of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment. Their aptitudes and potential for accomplishment are so outstanding that they require special programs to meet their educational needs.*

- The Virginia Department of Education administers funds that are appropriated by the General Assembly for Governor's Schools.
- Three types of programs comprise the Virginia Governor's School Program for gifted students:
  - Academic-Year Governor's Schools
  - Summer Residential Governor's Schools
  - Summer Regional Governor's Schools
- During 2012-2013, forty-six (46) Governor's Schools operated across the Commonwealth and served 9,024 students:
  - 6,551 students in nineteen (19) Academic-Year Governor's Schools
  - 1,769 students in twenty (20) Summer Regional Governor's Schools
  - 704 students in seven (7) Summer Residential Governor's Schools

- Governor’s Schools provide challenging educational opportunities in agriculture, humanities, mathematics, science, technical arts, and visual and performing arts that are not available to the participants in their regular school programs.
- Governor’s Schools are evaluated by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to determine the extent to which they are fulfilling their missions and what, if any, modifications need to be made to ensure their continued success.
- The Department of Education maintains a Web site that contains information related to the Virginia Governor’s School Programs. Current listings of the schools are provided along with links to the Web sites for individual schools. Electronic versions of administrative forms as well as information and applications for the Summer Residential Governor’s Schools are available for public use at [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/governors\\_school\\_programs/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/governors_school_programs/index.shtml).

## II. ACADEMIC-YEAR GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL PROGRAM

- The first four Governor’s Schools opened in September 1985. Those schools, with their initial enrollment, participating school divisions, and locations are indicated in Table 1.

**TABLE 1: Original Academic-Year Governor’s Schools (1985)**

SCHOOL NAME	INITIAL ENROLLMENT	PARTICIPATING DIVISIONS	LOCATION (FISCAL AGENT)
Central Virginia Governor’s School	48 (ninth graders only)	Amherst County, Appomattox County, Bedford County, Campbell County, Lynchburg City	Heritage High School (Lynchburg City)
New Horizons Governor’s School	95	Hampton City, Poquoson City, Newport News City, Williamsburg-James City County, York County	New Horizons Regional Education Center (Hampton City)
Roanoke Valley Governor’s School	200	Botetourt County, Franklin County, Roanoke County, Roanoke City, Salem City	Patrick Henry High School (Roanoke City)
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology	393	Falls Church City, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Prince William County	Thomas Jefferson High School (Fairfax County)
<b>Total</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>21 localities</b>	

- Currently, 19 Academic-Year Governor's Schools serve 6,551 high school students from 122 school divisions. In 2012-2013, students from twenty-one (21) school divisions had access to more than one Academic-Year Governor's School. The following (21) school divisions participated in more than one Academic-Year Governor's School for the 2012-2013 school year: Amelia, Bedford, Botetourt, Caroline, Carroll, Charles City, Chesterfield, Gloucester, Goochland, Isle of Wight, King and Queen, King George, New Kent, Petersburg City, Powhatan, Prince George, Prince William, Richmond City, Smyth, Southampton, and Wythe. A map of the sites and participating school divisions operating in 2013-2014 is provided as Appendix A.
- Each Academic-Year Governor's School is governed by a regional board comprised of at least one school board representative from each of the participating school divisions in accordance with the *Code of Virginia* [§22.1-26]. The regional governing board is charged with developing policies for the school including the school's admission process, budget and local tuition contribution, and curriculum. Each school is funded in part by the state and by local contributions. Governor's Schools are unique in their focus area, selection of students, funding scenario, and curriculum in order to best serve their regional constituency.
- Table 2 provides information about the 2012-2014 Academic-Year Governor's Schools.

**TABLE 2: 2012-2014 Academic-Year Governor’s Schools Information**

<b>NAME (Fiscal Agent)</b>	<b>FOCUS</b>	<b>GRADES</b>	<b>ACTUAL ENROLLMENT 2012-2013</b>	<b>PARTICIPATING DIVISIONS IN 2013-2014</b>
A. Linwood Holton Governor’s School (Washington County)	Core Academics And Engineering	11 – 12	418	Bristol City, Galax City, Norton City, and the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Grayson, Highland, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise and Wythe
Appomattox Regional Governor’s School (Chesterfield County)	Visual and Performing Arts and Technology	9 – 12	400	Colonial Heights City, Franklin City, Hopewell City, Petersburg City, Richmond City, and the counties of Amelia, Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Powhatan, Prince George, Southampton, Surry and Sussex
Blue Ridge Governor’s School (Fluvanna County)	Science, Mathematics, and Technology	11 – 12	400	Counties of Fluvanna, Goochland, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson and Orange
Central Virginia Governor’s School (Lynchburg City)	Science, Mathematics, and Technology	11 – 12	121	Lynchburg City, and the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford and Campbell
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School (Essex County)	Marine and Environmental Science	10 – 12	271	Counties of Caroline, Colonial Beach, Essex, Gloucester, King George, King & Queen, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland
Commonwealth Governor’s School (Spotsylvania County)	Core Academics	9 – 12	570	Counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford
Governor’s School for the Arts (Norfolk City)	Visual and Performing Arts	9 – 12	361	Chesapeake City, Franklin City, Norfolk City, Portsmouth City, Suffolk City, Virginia Beach City, and the counties of Isle of Wight and Southampton
Governor’s School of Southside Virginia (Charlotte County)	Humanities or Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics	11 – 12	193	Counties of Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Greensville, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway and Prince Edward
Governor’s School at Innovation Park (Prince William County)	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics	11 – 12	81	Manassas City, Manassas Park City, and Prince William County
Jackson River Governor’s School (Alleghany County)	Science, Mathematics, and Technology	11 – 12	47	Buena Vista City, Covington City, and the counties of Alleghany, Bath and Botetourt
Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School for Government and International Studies (Richmond City)	Government and International Studies	9 – 12	718	Petersburg City, Richmond City, the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King & Queen, New Kent, Powhatan, Prince George, and the Township of West Point
Massanutten Regional Governor’s School (Shenandoah County)	Environmental Studies and Integrated Technology	11 – 12	76	Harrisonburg City and the counties of Page, Rockingham and Shenandoah

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<b>NAME (Fiscal Agent)</b>	<b>FOCUS</b>	<b>GRADES</b>	<b>ACTUAL ENROLLMENT 2012-2013</b>	<b>PARTICIPATING DIVISIONS IN 2013-2014</b>
Mountain Vista Governor's School (Fauquier County)	Science, Mathematics, and Technology	11 – 12	131	Winchester City and the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Frederick, Rappahannock and Warren
New Horizons Governor's School (Hampton City)	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics	11 – 12	156	Hampton City, Newport News City, Poquoson City, James City County/ Williamsburg and the counties of Gloucester, Isle of Wight and York
Piedmont Governor's School (Henry County)	Science, Mathematics, and Technology	11 – 12	146	Danville City, Martinsville City, and the counties of Henry and Pittsylvania
Roanoke Valley Governor's School (Roanoke City)	Science, Mathematics, and Technology	9 – 12	272	Roanoke City, Salem City, and the counties of Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke
Shenandoah Valley Governor's School (Augusta County)	Arts and Humanities or Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics	11 – 12	220	Staunton City, Waynesboro City, and Augusta County
Southwest Virginia Governor's School (Pulaski County)	Science, Mathematics, and Technology	11 – 12	126	Galax City and the counties of Carroll, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, Smyth and Wythe
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (Fairfax County)	Science, Mathematics, and Technology	9 – 12	1,844	Falls Church City and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William
<b>Total</b>			<b>6,551</b>	

### III. FUNDING HISTORY OF ACADEMIC-YEAR GOVERNOR'S SCHOOLS

- FY 2013 state funding = \$12,322,034
- FY 2014 projected state funding = \$12,733,644
- Funding for the Academic-Year Governor's Schools is provided to the fiscal agents of each program based on a funding formula using the certified number of students enrolled from each division and the funded per pupil amount. The state payment allocated to each participating division is adjusted for the division's composite index. Funding is further adjusted based on the portion of the day the program is in operation. Schools receive funds allocated in Item 139, Paragraph C. 27.a. (Chapter 3, 2012 Acts of the Assembly). The Appropriation Act states that:

*a. Out of the amounts for Governor's School Payments, the Department of Education shall provide assistance for the state share of the incremental cost of regular school year Governor's Schools based on each participating locality's composite index of local ability-to-pay. Participating school divisions must certify that no tuition is assessed to students for participation in this program.*

- The 2012 Appropriation Act, Chapter 3, Item 139, Paragraph C.27.f.(1) includes language from earlier biennia stating that *“local school divisions are encouraged to provide the appropriate portion of basic aid per pupil funding to the Governor's Schools for students attending these programs, adjusted for cost incurred by the school division for transportation, administration, and any portion of the day that the student does not attend a Governor's School.”* In the 2012 Appropriation Act, the program membership cap for funding was increased from 1,650 to 1,700 students beginning in FY 2014:

*Regular school year Governor's Schools are funded through this Item based on the state's share of the incremental per pupil cost for providing such programs for each student attending a Governor's School up to a cap of 1,650 students per Governor's School in the first year and a cap of 1,700 students per Governor's School in the second year. This incremental per pupil payment shall be adjusted for the composite index of the school division that counts such students attending an Academic Year Governor's School in their March 31 Average Daily Membership.*

- Table 3 depicts historical per pupil funding available to support the academic-year programs. The individual Governor’s School Regional Governing Board makes all budgetary decisions for each program, such as the establishment of the local share of the cost that is paid by the participating school divisions. Public school divisions must certify annually that no tuition is charged to students or their parents.

**TABLE 3: Academic-Year Governor’s School Per Pupil Funding**

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL PER PUPIL AMOUNT*</b>
1987	\$1,000
1988	1,000
1989	2,250
1990	2,250
1991	2,593
1992 -1998	2,765
1999	2,900
2000	2,900
2001	3,185
2002	3,185
2003	3,410
2004	3,412
2005	3,541
2006	3,543
2007	3,933
2008	3,933
2009	4,479
2010	4,479
2011	4,327
2012	4,327
2013	4,368
2014 projected	4,369

\* These are the total per pupil amounts that apply only to the Academic-Year Governor’s Schools. Governor’s School per pupil funding amounts are increased or decreased at the same percentage that Basic Aid per pupil amounts are adjusted. All per pupil figures reflect the total per pupil funding before application of the composite index of local ability-to-pay for student share of funding and the program model classification (i.e., full-day or part-day programs).

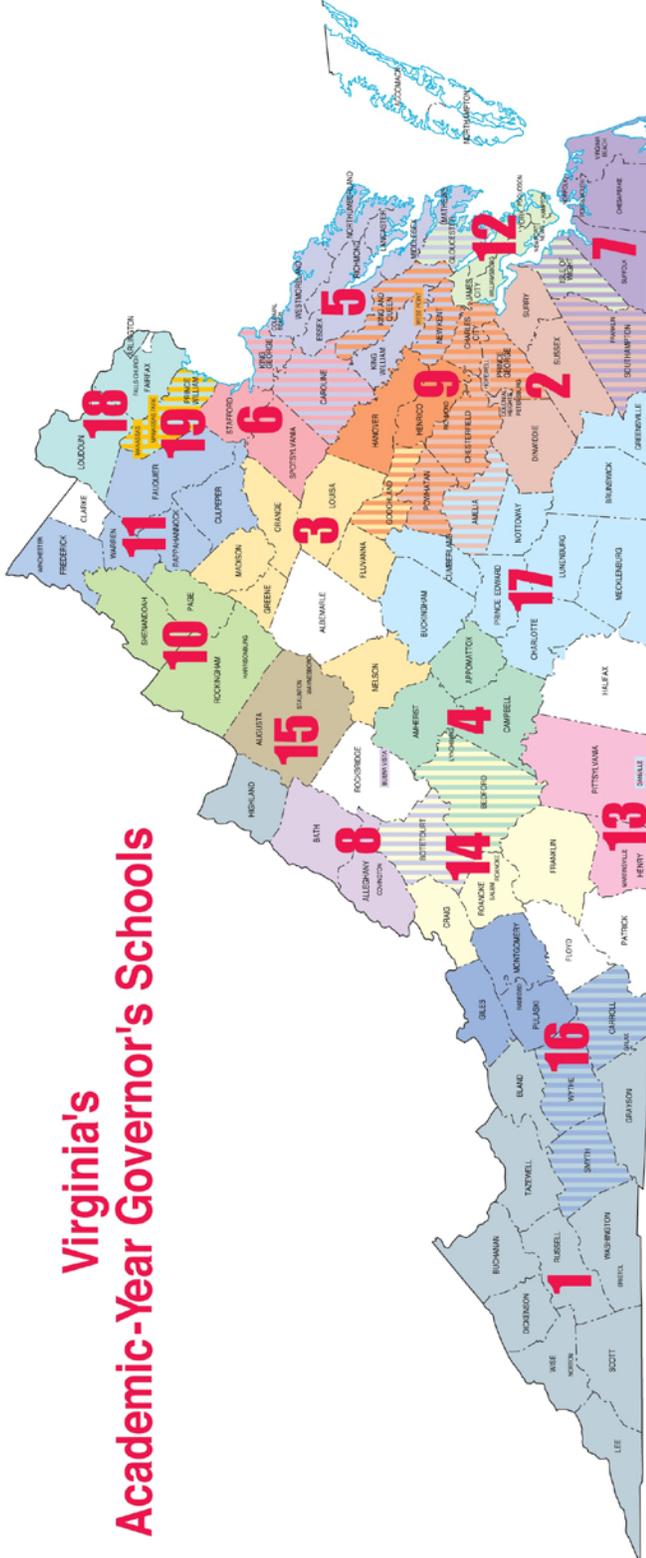
- The 2012 General Assembly appropriated funds to encourage part-day programs to offer a full-day course of study to each of its students, and if possible, to expand

to grades 9 through 12. Specifically, a \$100,000 appropriation for Fiscal Year 2013 provided planning grants for one or more existing part-day Academic-Year Governor's Schools to expand to full-day programs, including the possibility of merging with another Governor's School.

- The grant was awarded to Southwest Virginia Governor's School for Science, Mathematics, and Technology located in Pulaski. The current program serves students in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade for a portion of the day.
  - The grant has been extended to Fiscal Year 2014 in order to facilitate additional planning time.
  - An additional appropriation of \$100,000 is proposed to support start-up of an expanded program in Fiscal Year 2015 should Southwest Virginia Governor's School decide to expand.
- The 2012 General Assembly appropriated one-time funds in Fiscal Year 2013 to provide a planning grant of \$100,000 for a new full-day regional science and technology Governor's School serving grades 9-12 in the greater Hampton Roads area.
- The grant was awarded jointly to Norfolk Public Schools and Portsmouth Public Schools to conduct their planning prior to June 30, 2013, and present a full proposal to the Virginia Board of Education for first review no later than September 2013, with final review and approval in October 2013. However, the grant has been extended to Fiscal Year 2014 in order to facilitate the need for additional planning time.
  - The participating school divisions would then seek operational funding from the General Assembly during the 2015 session, with the Governor's School being fully operational for the 2015-2016 school year.

# Appendix A: 2013-2014 Map of Academic-Year Governor's Schools

## Virginia's Academic-Year Governor's Schools



- 1 A. Linwood Holton Governor's School
- 2 Appomattox Regional Governor's School for Arts and Technology
- 3 Blue Ridge Governor's School
- 4 Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology
- 5 Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science
- 6 Commonwealth Governor's School
- 7 Governor's School for the Arts
- 8 Jackson River Governor's School
- 9 Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies
- 10 Massanutten Governor's School for Integrated Environmental Science and Technology

- 11 Mountain Vista Governor's School
- 12 New Horizons Governor's School for Science and Technology
- 13 Piedmont Governor's School
- 14 Roanoke Valley Governor's School for Science and Technology
- 15 Shenandoah Valley Governor's School
- 16 Southwest Virginia Governor's School for Science, Mathematics, and Technology
- 17 The Governor's School of Southside Virginia
- 18 Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
- 19 The Governor's School at Innovation Park

Stripes indicate participation in two regional programs.