

VSBA Task Force on Schools in Challenging Environments

Final Recommendations v 1.0

Mr. Rodney Jordan, School Board Member, Norfolk City

Dr. Mark Lineburg, Superintendent, Winchester City

Our Purpose

Advocacy, Leadership, Thought Leader
on Challenged Schools

Our Charge and Challenge

- To make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education on how VSBA can partner to help challenged schools in Virginia.
- To identify and share research, best practices, resources and strategies that will empower Virginia's schools to reach higher levels of student achievement.

Task Force Outreach

- Hosted joint meeting with Virginia Board of Education members and state superintendent
- Met with Governor McAuliffe and Secretary of Education Anne Holton
- Presented to VSBA members at Annual Convention
- Hosted Challenged Schools Summit in December
 - Practical and Relevant
- Met with Virginia Chamber of Commerce and attended Virginia Chamber Economic Summit

Challenged Schools

Characteristics:

- 50 percent poverty and above
- Segregation legacy
- Hyper-poverty schools
- Priority schools
- Nexus between high poverty and students of color

**VSBA**Virginia School Boards Association
Leadership • Advocacy • Support

Priority Schools 2013-2014

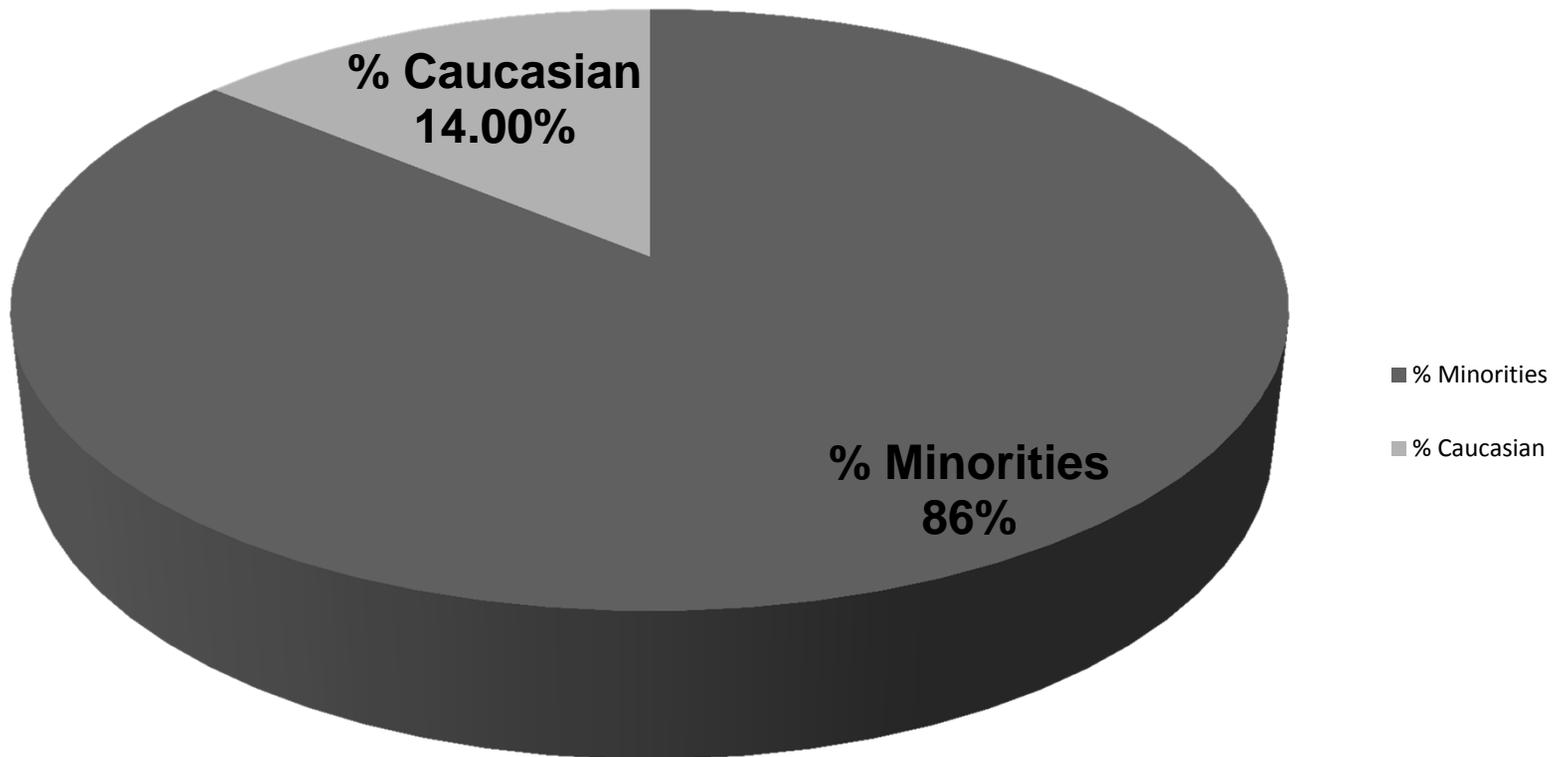
Brown, Black, and Poor

| School | Free/Reduced % | Minority % |
|------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Jefferson-Houston Elementary | 73.13% | 83% |
| Buckingham County Elementary | 72.69% | 42% |
| Buckingham County Primary | 79.76% | 49% |
| Joseph P. King Jr. Middle | 81.67% | 80% |
| S. P. Morton Elementary | 71.27% | 85% |
| Jane H. Bryan Elementary | 83.85% | 75% |
| L. Douglas Wilder Middle | 76.32% | 98% |
| Hopewell High | 62.78% | 64% |
| Albert Harris Elementary | 96.01% | 85% |
| Newsome Park Elementary | 93.76% | 93% |
| Sedgefield Elementary | 78.92% | 73% |
| Willis A. Jenkins Elementary | 70.81% | 78% |
| Campostella Elementary | 94.70% | 99% |
| Jacox Elementary | 89.84% | 99% |
| Lafayette-Winona Middle | 81.23% | 86% |
| Lake Taylor Middle | 79.93% | 84% |
| Lindenwood Elementary | 89.05% | 93% |
| P. B. Young Sr. Elementary | 96.29% | 98% |
| Tidewater Park Elementary | 85.08% | 98% |

| School | Free/Reduced % | Minority % |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Kiptopeke Elementary | 83.68% | 67% |
| Northampton High | 65.19% | 63% |
| A. P. Hill Elementary | 89.90% | 98% |
| J.E.B. Suart Elementary | 86.19% | 96% |
| Armstrong High | 83.46% | 98% |
| Binford Middle | 80.06% | 96% |
| Blackwell Elementary | 94.44% | 98% |
| Elkhardt Middle | 84.57% | 95% |
| Fred D. Thompson Middle | 89.19% | 97% |
| Ginter Park Elementary | 92.47% | 99% |
| Henderson Middle | 99.08% | 98% |
| John Marshall High | 80.88% | 93% |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Middle | 82.93% | 99% |
| Oak Grove/Belle-meade Elem. | 98.87% | 98% |
| Richmond Alternative | 73.83% | 100% |
| Thomas Boushall Middle | 96.15% | 95% |
| Lincoln Terrace Elementary | 92.09% | 79% |
| William Fleming High | 73.24% | 70% |
| State Averages: | 84.50% | 86% |

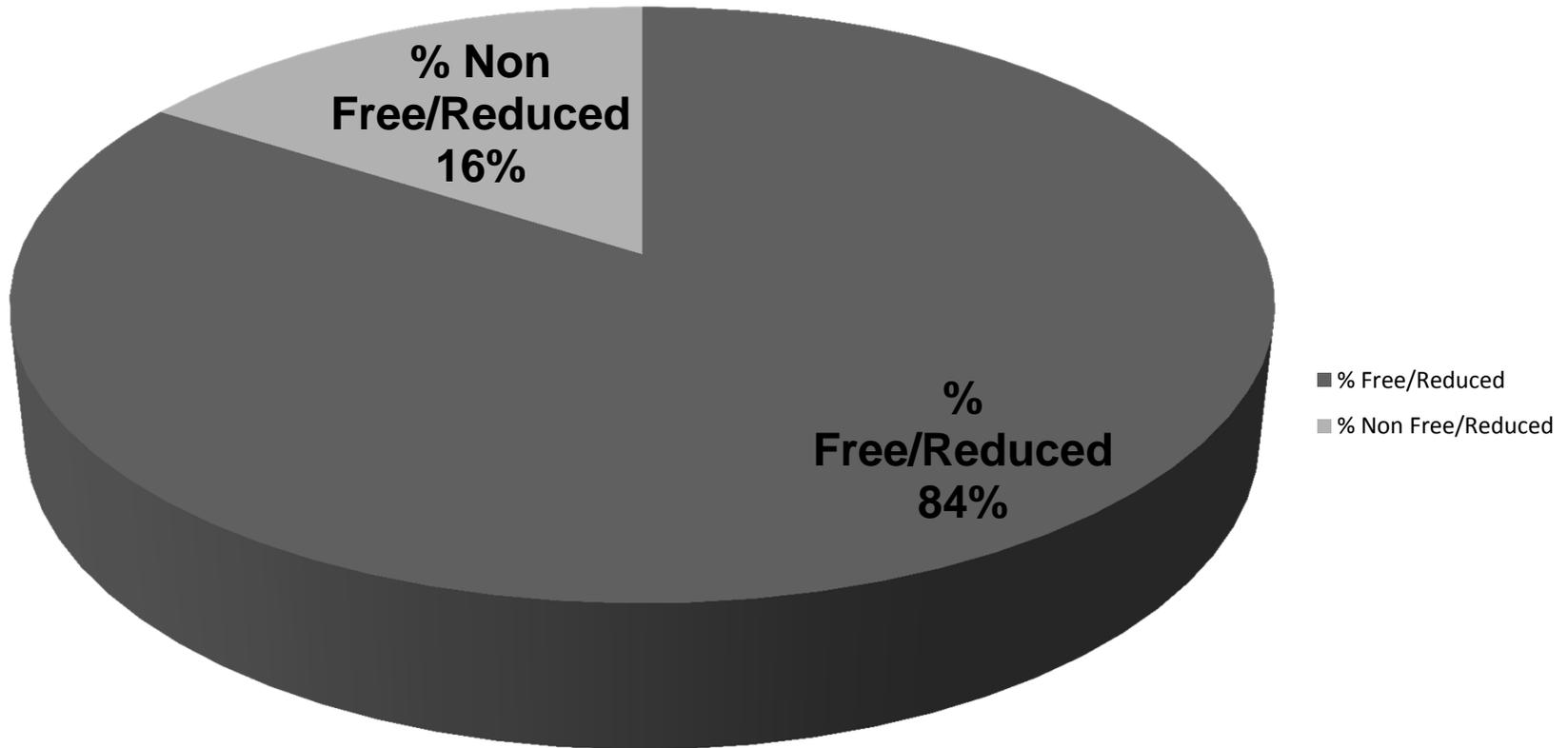
Priority Schools 7

2013-2014



Priority Schools 8

2013-2014



State Averages

41 percent F&R

9

| | ENGLISH: READING | MATH | |
|---|---------------------|-----------|--|
| All Students | 74 | 74 | |
| Economically Disadvantaged Students | 59 | 61 | |
| Non-Economically Disadvantaged Students | 84 | 87 | |
| Black Students | 59 | 60 | |
| LEP Students | 54 | 62 | |
| White Students | 82 | 80 | |

Real Numbers

2012-2013 Pass Rate

10

7th Grade Mathematics Pass Rate

- 43% disadvantaged
- 73% not disadvantaged

7th Grade Reading

- 59% disadvantaged
- 84% not disadvantaged

Characteristics of Virginia's High Poverty School Students (JLARC)

- Miss more days of school
- Change schools during the school year (transient)
- Score much lower on SOL tests
- Drop-out before graduating from High School

2008 Study Using Large National Data Set

Control for student background characteristics

- Demographics
- Family Background
- Academic Background

Control for school characteristics

- Urban vs. Suburban
- Size
- Resources

Student Learning

Concentrated Poverty School

Student Learning

Mixed-income school

Rate of learning is 30% higher

Source: Palardy, G. (2008). Differential school effects among low, middle, and high social class composition schools. *School Effectiveness and School Improvement* 19, 1: 37.

Five Domains

Parent, Family, and Community Engagement & Outreach

**Funding & Resources
(including infrastructure)**

Teacher Quality

Specialized Training

Student Learning

Improve Teacher Quality

Domain: Teacher Quality

Target: All Stakeholders

- Extend teaching contract by 10 days for teachers in most challenge schools, include Professional Development in Family Outreach, Data Analysis, and School Improvement Plans
- Improve Teacher Preparation with Colleges and Universities
- Teacher Mentors: Accountability
- Provide incentives through housing, student loan forgiveness, et al.

Specialized Board Training

Domain: Specialized Training

Target group: School Boards

Leadership Training including:

- Equity audits
- Resources and budgeting
- Reducing areas of poverty (zoning)
- Policy development
- Data analysis
- Crucial conversations
- Growing community support and awareness
- Knowing the right questions and looking forward

Expanding Preschool Opportunities

Domain: Student Learning

Target: School Boards, General Assembly

- Development of quality preschool
- Address urgent need for increased public investment
- Comprehensive kindergarten assessment

Student Access to Technology

Domain: Funding and Resources

Target: General Assembly and School Board

- Gain access to technology for every student in Virginia in school and at home
- Professional development for teachers
- State-wide technology audit: Who is technology rich and who isn't?
- Collaborate with VSBA Task Force on Virtual Learning

Update Standards of Quality

Domain: Student Learning

Target: General Assembly

- Review of the SOQs to ensure an equity framework
- Flexibility of SOQ funding: Secretarial staff (Homeless)
- Parent liaison

Family Outreach

Domain: Family and Community Engagement and Outreach
Target: School Boards

- Ensure a district commitment to family engagement through policy development with support for clearly articulated goals in family awareness.

Support for Basic Needs

Domain: Funding and Resources

Target groups: Community, General Assembly

Wraparound services

- Medical and Dental care
- Nutrition
- Employment and workforce development
- Community partnerships

Extended Calendar Opportunities

Domain: Student Learning

Target: School Boards, General Assembly

Extended day, extended year, inter-sessions

- Identifying funding resources
- Quality of programs
- Enhanced personalized/differentiated learning

Social & Economic Benefits

- The JLARC Report noted "the 10 percent highest poverty high schools had an average on-time graduation rate of 81.9% in 2013 compared to 96.5% for the 10 percent lowest poverty schools. Similarly, the dropout rate for the highest poverty high schools was 10 percent in 2013, compared to 1.9 percent in the lowest poverty high schools."
- Suppose our Challenged Schools efforts resulted in a 5 percentage point increase in high school graduation for males...
- Virginia's annual Crime Related Savings would be \$362,000,000 annually and Additional Earnings Savings of \$33,000,000 for a Total Annual Benefit to the State Economy of **\$395,000,000**

* Derived from Alliance for Excellent Education research

Impact Underway...

- VDOE adopts measures of progress in rating system
- “Schools in challenging environments” replaces “Failing Schools”
- VSBA Executive Director Gina Patterson is a lead trainer with AASA preparing national superintendents
- Virginia is leading nationally with work of VSBA, GA, VDOE, et. al. presented at NSBA CUBE and NSBA National 2016 Conference
- VSBA integrated Challenged Schools report into programs, legislative agenda, and encourage school divisions to implement the report.

Impact Underway...

- Higher Education reviewing teacher prep programs
- Virginia districts adopting policies such as Family Engagement & Equity Audits

Questions?

Additional task force resources available at
http://www.vsba.org/resources/task_force_on_schools_in_challenging_environments/