



NEWS RELEASE

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City school system's on-time graduation rate continues to improve

The on-time graduation rate for students attending Richmond Public Schools continues to improve, according to a report released today by the Virginia Department of Education.

The latest data for students in the 2005-2009 cohort indicate that nearly 69 percent (68.67) of Richmond's students graduated on time. The figure marks the second straight year that the city schools have posted a gain. In fact, the district's rate jumped nearly three points from the 2004-2008 cohort rate of 65.8 percent.

The latest numbers also indicate a significant increase in the on-time graduation rate of the city's economically disadvantaged students, climbing from 51.96 percent for 2004-2008 to 71.73 percent for the 2005-2009 cohort.

"We're pleased with our steady increase in our on-time graduation rate," said School Superintendent Dr. Yvonne W. Brandon. "The increased numbers clearly demonstrate our commitment to preparing students for postsecondary education and/or career opportunities. Specifically, our focus on enhanced academic rigor and alternative programs like our Twilight Academies and nationally recognized Performance Learning Centers is on target."

(More)

School officials also noted that four Richmond City high schools posted on-time graduation rates above the state average of 83.2 percent. They include: Thomas Jefferson at 84.95 percent, Franklin Military at 90 percent, Open High at 95.83 percent and Richmond Community at 100 percent. Huguenot's on-time graduation rate of 82.49 percent fell just below the state average.

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