

# School Division Highlights

The mission of Newport News Public Schools is to provide a quality education that encourages every student to realize his or her fullest potential. Listed below are some initiatives and achievements that illustrate the school division's mission in action.

- Thirty-four schools (87 percent) are fully accredited by the state, an increase from 20 schools (49 percent) in 2003.
- Since 2003, the number of schools meeting federally mandated Annual Yearly Progress benchmarks has increased from 12 to 32.
- All 26 elementary schools met or exceeded the 73 percent pass rate on the 2006-2007 reading and writing Standards of Learning tests, and 19 schools exceeded 80 percent.
- Standards of Learning pass rates rose 7 percent for English and 5 percent for science over the past three years for all students, kindergarten through grade 12.
- The achievement gap narrowed between African American and white students on all Standards of Learning tests in 3rd, 5th, and 8th grades and on 9 of 11 end-of-course tests.
- Students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes increased by 35 percent since 2003. Last school year, 3,300 tests were administered, and 37 percent of students qualify for college credit.
- 239 students are named 2006 Advanced Placement Scholars, Scholars with Honor, or Scholars with Distinction.
- The 2006 graduation rate is 88 percent, 9 percent above the state average.
- The 2007 graduating class earned more than \$16.3 million in scholarships and awards.
- Ninety-three percent of NNPS teachers are designated as highly qualified by No Child Left Behind standards.
- Discipline referrals have dropped by more than 30 percent since 2005.
- All five high schools are recognized by *Newsweek* magazine as among the top schools in America.
- Denbigh High School was one of only three schools in the nation to receive the 2007 College Board Inspiration Award for helping all students achieve equitable access to higher education.
- The school division is one of the "100 Best Communities for Music" according to a national survey of leading music and educational organizations.
- Educators and staff members from Newport News Public Schools have earned numerous awards for excellence: Virginia Library Media Specialist of the Year; Virginia Art Education Supervisor of the Year; the Virginia Educational Interpreter of the Year; Air Force Junior ROTC's Outstanding Instructor, National Outstanding Dance Teacher of the Year and 36 teachers have been certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
- NNPS has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting for five consecutive years.

