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SIX W-JCC SCHOOLS RECEIVE RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENCE FROM GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Honoring Of Six W-JCC Schools is Division's Best-Ever Showing

Williamsburg, VA, Jan. 12 – Clara Byrd Baker and Matoaka Elementary Schools were among 153 public schools announced by Gov. Timothy M. Kaine today as having earned the 2010 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence. The award is the highest honor under the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) incentive program created by the Board of Education in 2007 to advance Governor Kaine's "competence to excellence" agenda promoting advanced learning and achievement.

"My administration has made it a priority to move beyond merely meeting standards to truly encouraging excellent performance in our schools," said Gov. Kaine. "I'm pleased to recognize the many Virginia educators and students whom stepped up the challenge of exceeding the minimum expectations of the Standards of Learning to receive the coveted VIP awards this year."

To qualify for the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence, schools and school divisions must meet all state and federal achievement benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and achieve applicable excellence goals for elementary reading, enrollment in Algebra I by grade 8, enrollment in college-level courses, high school graduation, attainment of advanced diplomas, increased attainment of career and industry certifications, and participation in the Virginia Preschool Initiative.

(MORE)

W-JCC Schools Receive State Recognition

Page 2

The Virginia Board of Education also recognized **Jamestown High School, Matthew Whaley Elementary and Norge Elementary** along with 285 other Virginia public schools with its Board of Education Excellence Award in conjunction with Gov. Kaine's announcement. These schools and divisions also have met all state and federal accountability benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and have made significant progress toward goals for increased student achievement and expanded educational opportunities set by Gov. Kaine and the Board.

The Board of Education's Competence to Excellence Award was given to 281 schools in Virginia, including W-JCC's **Rawls Byrd Elementary**. This award is given to schools that have met all state and federal benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and are making progress toward the goals of the governor and the board.

"With recognition of six W-JCC schools in the Governor's and Virginia Board of Education's high-performing schools recognition programs, we are thrilled with the Division's best-ever showing," said Gary S. Mathews, W-JCC Superintendent. "I have little doubt that we will see even more in the list next year."

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