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FOUR WJCC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS EARN TITLE I “DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL” STATUS FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Williamsburg, VA, March 25 – The Virginia Board of Education honored four WJCC elementary schools Wednesday for raising the academic achievement of economically disadvantaged students. The awards are based on student achievement on state assessments during 2009-2010 and the previous school year.

James River, Matthew Whaley, Norge and Rawls Byrd elementary schools earned the designation of “Title I Distinguished School” by maintaining full state accreditation under the commonwealth’s Standards of Learning program for two consecutive years, meeting federal benchmarks in reading and mathematics and having average test scores in both subjects at the 60th percentile or higher.

“These schools share a commitment to instruction and accountability that is grounded in the belief that all children can succeed,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Patricia I. Wright said.

“These results I believe prove that academic excellence is achievable by all students, regardless of their background,” said WJCC Superintendent Dr. Steven M. Constantino. “I commend the teachers, students and families who have worked together at these schools to reach ‘Distinguished School’ status.”

Title I of ESEA provides funding to school divisions and schools for programs to raise the achievement of students identified as being at risk of academic failure. The federal education law requires schools and school divisions to meet annual objectives for

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increasing student achievement on statewide assessments in reading/language arts and mathematics. During 2009-2010, 482, or 66 percent, of Virginia's 733 Title I schools met all federal objectives.

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