Deeper Learning – Advancing Equity

Leah Dozier Walker, MPA
Director, Office of Equity and Community Engagement
Virginia Department of Education

Virginia is for Learners Campaign

- **Virginia is for Learners** is the campaign to inform parents, educators and the business community about the changes that have been made over several years to modernize K-12 education to prepare students to succeed as adults in a changing world.

- Virginia is transforming its educational approach to combine a strong knowledge of facts and figures with the real world skills it takes to apply those skills successfully in a modern economy.
Today’s economy requires people to be critical and creative thinkers, excellent communicators, collaborators and community-minded citizens. **Virginia is for Learners** is the commonwealth’s commitment to make sure every public school student is ready to thrive after graduation.

**What Is Virginia Is For Learners?**

The Virginia Department of Education, local school divisions and key partner organizations are working together on big changes that will connect the future of learning in the commonwealth with the future of work around the globe.
TRAINING K-12 STUDENTS TO GO DEEPER

Students in every grade will experience a new approach to instruction that focuses on key skills for success in a modern world – Virginia's 5C's: critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration and citizenship skills. This approach will prepare every student with the content knowledge they need and the skills they need to apply it successfully after graduation.
“Education either functions as an instrument which is used to facilitate integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity or it becomes the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world.”

- Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed
EQUITY

When EVERY Virginia student gets what he or she needs to succeed at the time that they need it.

OFFICE OF EQUITY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Leads statewide efforts aimed at advancing equity, closing achievement gaps, and decreasing disproportionality in student outcomes.
- Develops strategic partnerships and facilitates engagement and support for public education.
Student Enrollment by Race and Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>American Indian or Alaska Native (&lt;0.5%)</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (&lt;0.5%)</th>
<th>Two or More Races (2013 &amp; 2018)</th>
<th>Unspecified (2008)</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student and Teacher Diversity (2018-19 SY)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New and Provisionally Licensed Teachers are Concentrated in High Poverty Schools

Source: VDOE Fall Membership Reports & IPAL 2017

Students Suspended by Student Group Compared to Enrollment (2017-18 SY)
Diploma Type by Student Group (2018 Cohort)

Students with Disabilities
- Advanced Diploma 9%
- Standard/other Diploma 79%

"NOT EVERYTHING THAT IS FACED CAN BE CHANGED, BUT NOTHING CAN BE CHANGED UNTIL IT IS FACED."
- James Baldwin

Leah W. Walker, Director - Leah.Walker@doe.virginia.gov
English Pass Rate: **All Students**

Note: Pass rates are calculated as the number of students passing the assessment divided by the number of students tested.  

Source: VDOE Staff Analysis

---

English Pass Rate: **Hispanic Students**

Note: Pass rates are calculated as the number of students passing the assessment divided by the number of students tested.  

Source: VDOE Staff Analysis
English Pass Rate: ELL Students

Note: Pass rates are calculated as the number of students passing the assessment divided by the number of students tested.

Source: VDOE Staff Analysis

English Pass Rate: Black Students

Note: Pass rates are calculated as the number of students passing the assessment divided by the number of students tested.

Source: VDOE Staff Analysis
English Pass Rate: **Students with Disabilities**

- **Reading:** Students with Disabilities
  - 0-69%

Note: Pass rates are calculated as the number of students passing the assessment divided by the number of students tested.

Source: VDOE Staff Analysis

---

English Pass Rate: **Economically Disadvantaged Students**

- **Reading:** Economically Disadvantaged
  - 0-69%
  - 70-74%
  - 75-79%
  - 80-84%
  - 85-89%

Note: Pass rates are calculated as the number of students passing the assessment divided by the number of students tested.

Source: VDOE Staff Analysis
English Pass Rate: White Students

Note: Pass rates are calculated as the number of students passing the assessment divided by the number of students tested.

Source: VDOE Staff Analysis

---

English Pass Rate

Note: Reading pass rates are calculated as the number of students passing the assessment divided by the number of students tested.

Source: VDOE Staff Analysis
MAKING STUDENT SUCCESS THE HIGHEST STANDARD FOR EVERY SCHOOL

Virginia is changing how the commonwealth evaluates and accredits schools across the state.

These changes, in combination with a new approach to the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs):

• Provide a more comprehensive view of school quality;
• Place increased emphasis on racial and economic equity;
• Recognize schools that demonstrate continuous improvement; and
• Increase expectations that schools prepare students to succeed in college and the workforce after graduation.

A Successful Virginia Graduate Will

✓ Achieve and apply academic & technical knowledge;
✓ Demonstrate workplace skills, qualities, & behaviors;
✓ Build connections and value interactions with others as a responsible & responsive citizen;
✓ and align knowledge, skills & personal interests with career opportunities.
• Educators are being trained to emphasize new skills in the classroom.

• The Commonwealth is modernizing the Virginia Standards of Learning.

• Virginia is changing how the Commonwealth evaluates and accredits schools across the state.

• New graduation requirements will ensure every student will be prepared for what comes next.

Virginia’s early learning programs support the growth and development of young children to prepare them to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

Maximizing the Potential of ALL Students

Virginia is for ALL Learners

Virginia’s Equity Commitments:

➤ Establish Equity Goals
   Develop a clear definition and vision of education equity

➤ Focus On Teaching & Leading
   Advance the cultural competencies of teachers and education leaders

➤ Curriculum & Instruction
   Ensuring every student experiences high quality instruction

➤ Resourcing Schools
   Applying an equity lens to how schools are resourced
ADVANCING EQUITY FOR VIRGINIA’S STUDENTS

#EdEquityVA

- VBOE established equity priorities in its Annual Report & Comprehensive Plan – Focused on Resource Equity
- Convening EDEquityVA Community of Practice
  - Statewide & Regional Structure
- Launch of monthly EDEquityVA Webinar Series
- Advancing Culturally Responsive practice and support for CRT professional development

Culturally Relevant Pedagogy . . .

1. Must expect and yield academic success.
2. Must help students develop positive ethnic and cultural identities while simultaneously helping them achieve academically.
3. Must support students’ ability “to recognize, understand, and critique current and past social inequalities”.

- Gloria Ladson-Billings
### Culturally Responsive Educators:

1. See cultural differences as assets.
2. Validate the inequities impacting students lives.
3. Cultivate relationships beyond the classroom anchored in affirmation, mutual respect and validation.
4. Believe that all students can succeed.
5. Engage in reflection of students' beliefs, behaviors and practices.
6. Utilize students' culture as a vehicle for learning.
7. Challenge racial and cultural stereotypes, prejudices, racism, and other forms of intolerance, injustice, and oppression.

### Deeper Learning Competencies:

1. Students apply new knowledge to real-world situations.
2. Students demonstrate skills in active listening, clear writing, and persuasive presentation.
3. Students consider a variety of approaches to produce innovative solutions.
4. Students work with their peers, assume leadership roles, resolve conflicts, and manage projects.
5. Students use teacher feedback to monitor and direct their own learning, both in and out of the classroom.
6. Students feel a sense of belonging and the motivation to persist through their school work.

---

*If you can show me how I can cling to that which is real to me, while teaching me a way into the larger society, then and only then will I drop my defenses and hostility, and I will sing your praises and help you to make the desert bear fruit.*

- Ralph Ellison
Connect with Us!

www.VirginiaIsForLearners.virginia.gov
Leah.Walker@doe.virginia.gov

Follow Me on Twitter: @LeDWalk
Follow VDOE on Twitter: @VDOE_News

#VAis4Learners  #EdEquityVA