

State of the Commonwealth's Schools

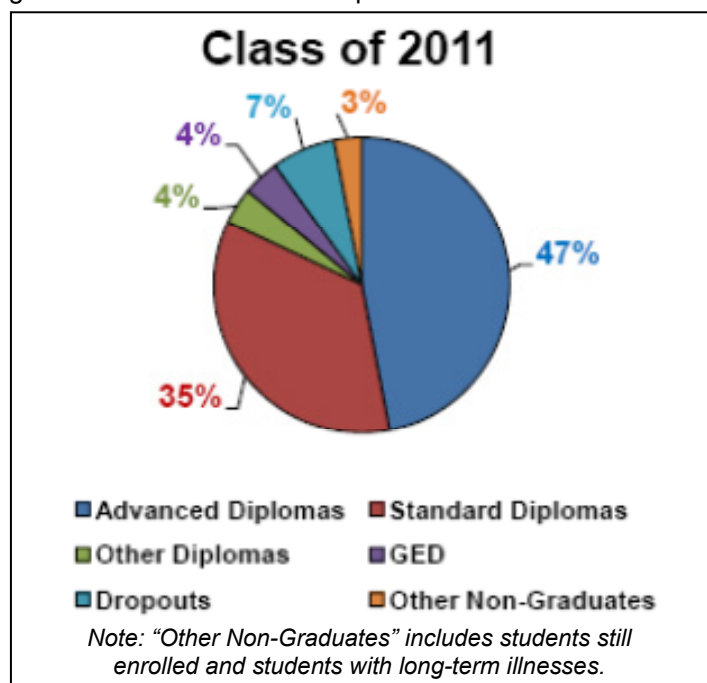
A Progress Report from Superintendent of Public Instruction Patricia I. Wright

January 2012

The following performance indicators illustrate the progress Virginia's public schools are making under the Standards of Learning (SOL) program toward the goal of college-and-career readiness for all graduates.

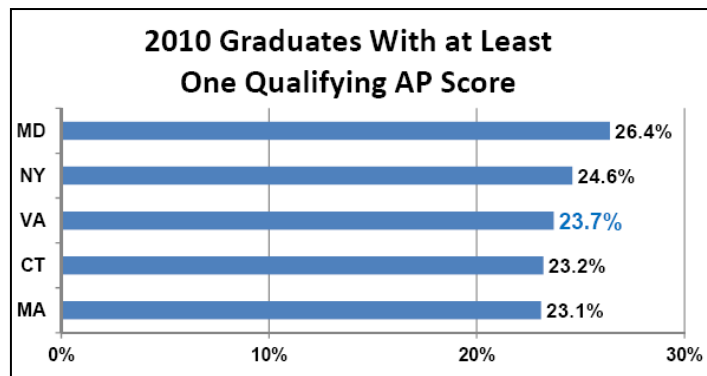
Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate

Virginia's on-time high school graduation rate rose one point, to 86.6 percent in 2011, and the statewide dropout rate fell one point, to 7.2 percent. Since 2008, the four-year graduation rate has risen 4.5 points.



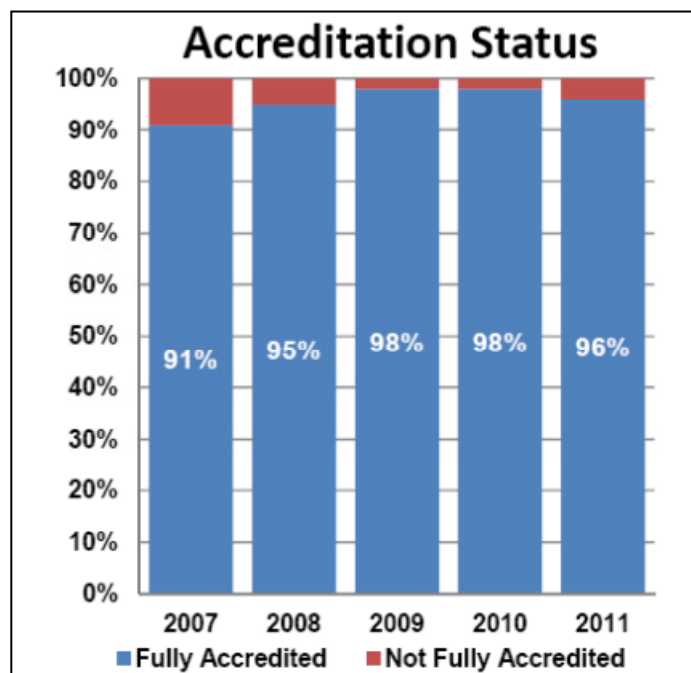
Advanced Placement

Virginia has the nation's third-highest percentage of high school seniors demonstrating college-level achievement by earning a grade of three or better on Advanced Placement (AP) examinations.



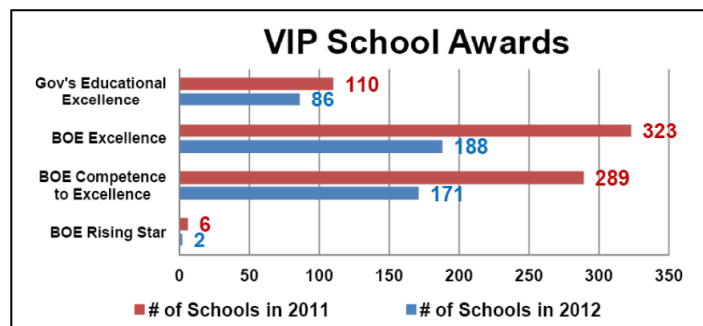
School Accreditation

The number and percentage of schools *not* rated as Fully Accredited increased slightly in 2011-2012 due to the introduction of a benchmark for graduation and completion. The introduction of more challenging mathematics, English and science standards and assessments may adversely impact school accreditation in 2012 and 2013.



Virginia Index of Performance

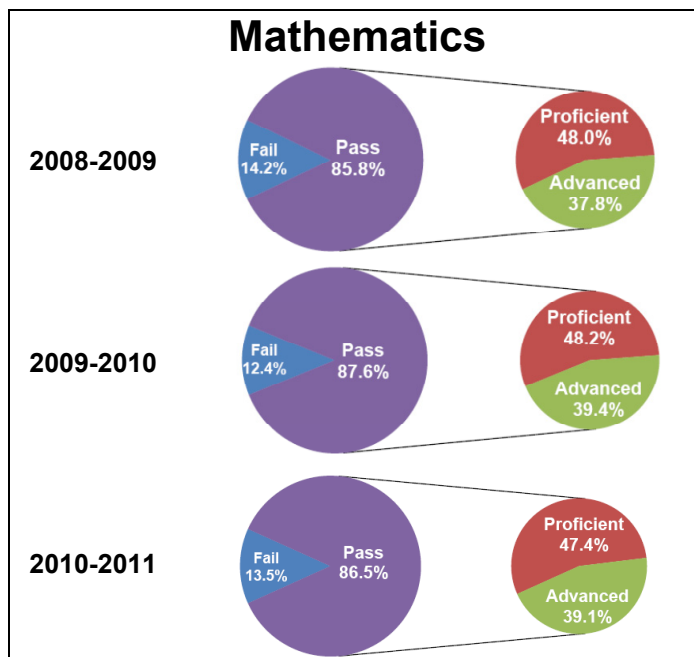
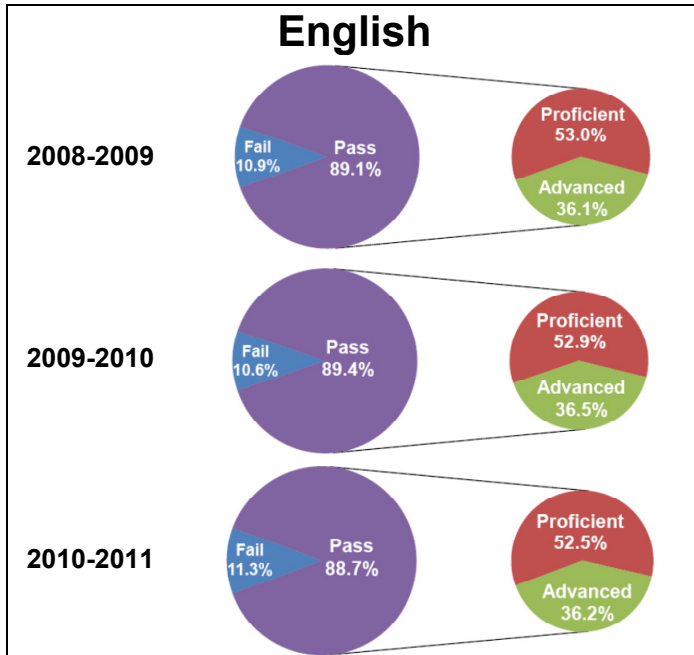
Schools earning Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) awards consistently exceed state and federal accountability standards while expanding access to advanced learning opportunities.



Increasingly unrealistic expectations of No Child Left Behind have reduced the number of schools eligible for VIP awards.

Advanced Achievement

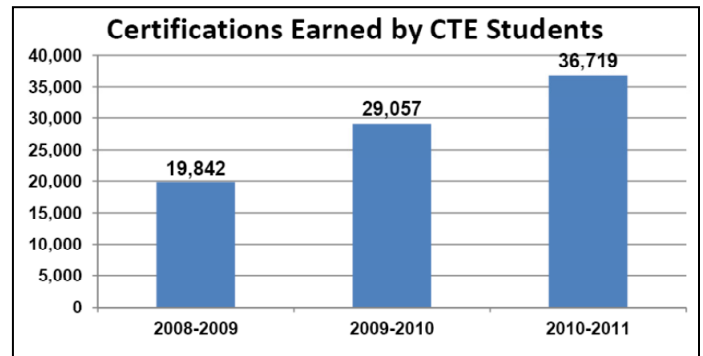
Raising the percentage of students achieving advanced proficiency on SOL assessments in English and mathematics is a Board of Education objective related to college-and-career readiness.



Career & Technical Education

The number of industry certifications earned by Virginia students through career and technical education (CTE) programs has increased by 56 percent since 2008.

In addition 47 percent of students completing a CTE program during 2011, graduated with an Advanced Studies Diploma.



Virginia and the Nation's Report Card

Virginia public school students rank among the nation's highest achievers on the National Assessment of Educational Progress — also known as the Nation's Report Card — but wide achievement gaps remain.

