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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Richmond's SOL scores rise; more than 90 percent of city schools earn full accreditation**

For the fourth straight year, every Richmond City high school is fully accredited, according to the latest results on the state's Standards of Learning (SOL) tests. In fact, the number of schools earning full accreditation has climbed above 90 percent as 44 of the district's 47 schools (93.6 percent) met the SOL benchmark scores in English, mathematics, history and science.

"Obviously, we are pleased that a record number of Richmond City schools achieved full accreditation based on this year's SOL tests," said School Superintendent Dr. Yvonne Brandon. "The results clearly indicate that our instructional design and focus are on target. Our progress is truly a testament to the outstanding quality of our teachers and administrators and the hard work of our students and parents. It is especially gratifying that all of our high schools are fully accredited for a fourth consecutive year. Still, our minimum expectation is for every Richmond City school to be fully accredited, a goal that we are confident we will achieve."

Results at all grade levels showed improvement, including several positive district-wide trends in achievement, according to Dr. Brandon. These include:

- 27 of the city's 28 elementary schools, or 96 percent, earned full accreditation;

- six of the city's eight middle schools, or 75 percent, scored 80 or above in English;
- seven of the city's eight middle schools, or 87.5 percent, scored 80 or above in science;
- 100 percent of the city's high schools scored 80 or above in English;
- seven of the city's eight high schools, or 87.5 percent, scored 80 or above in math;
- seven of the city's eight high schools, or 87.5 percent, scored 80 or above in history;
- Franklin Military, Open and Richmond Community scored 100 in English;
- Richmond Community also scored 100 in history and science; and
- Open also scored 100 in history, mathematics and science.

Superintendent Brandon noted that additional instructional and academic enrichment programs will be provided for those schools that did not earn full accreditation.

"We are totally committed to 100 percent of our schools earning the fully accredited benchmark scores," said Dr. Brandon. "We cannot and will not be satisfied with anything less. There is still work to be done; there are goals to be met, including meeting every state and federal requirement."

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