



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
July 23, 2009
NR#6
2009-2010

Richmond Public Schools to launch Governor's Career and Technical Academy *Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program to be housed at RTC*

Richmond Public Schools will launch the Governor's Career and Technical Education Academy for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) this school year at the Richmond Technical Center, the district's career and vocational training center.

The program was approved by the Virginia Department of Education at its July 23 meeting. Richmond City School Superintendent Dr. Yvonne Brandon and other school officials presented an overview of the academy at the VDOE meeting.

"An important component of the district's overall plan to make Richmond one of the nation's leading urban school systems is our 21st Century Workforce Preparedness Initiative," said Dr. Brandon. "Simply put, we want the graduates of Richmond Public Schools to be equipped with the knowledge and skills required for postsecondary education or successful entry into the workforce. Locating the Governor's Career and Technical Academy at the Richmond Technical Center will greatly assist us in achieving this goal."

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The academy's curriculum will focus on two career pathways: engineering and technology and therapeutic services, including sports medicine. A partnership with Virginia Commonwealth University will allow students to shadow VCU athletic trainers and also participate in VCU School of Engineering activities.

Approximately 45 ninth-graders will take part in the program's first year. School officials expect to add an additional 45 students each year for a maximum enrollment of 180 by year four.

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