



A Call to Community:

**Healthy
Integrated
Public Schools**

“If every child were my child”™

**Over 50 years after *Brown v. Board of Education*,
the promise of quality education in integrated schools remains unfulfilled.**

	Chesterfield	Hanover	Henrico	Richmond	Total
Students					
Total number (1)	56,242	18,530	46,711	25,054	146,537
White/student of color ratio (1)	65/35	86/14	53/47	7/93	54/46
Percent of students on free or reduced price lunch programs (2)	22%	12%	28%	69%	36%
SAT average (3) vs. VA @ 1,018 National @ 1,026	1,008	1,029	1,020	835	998
Schools					
Total number (3)	58	21	64	51	194
Percent integrated with white/student of color ratio between 40-60 (3)	19%	0%	19%	0%	12%
Percent integrated with disadvantaged student ratio between 20-40 (2)	33%	18%	27%	14%	24%
Percent with over 50% Disadvantaged (2)	18%	0%	18%	84%	36%
Percent underperforming State SOL average (4)	55%	30%	49%	78%	57%

1. VA Dept. of Education, Student Membership (9/30/04).
2. VA Dept. of Education, 2004-2005 Free and Reduced Price Lunch Report (10/31/04).
3. www.schoolmatters.com. SAT total is weighted based on Districts' participation rates.
4. VA Dept. of Education, Virginia School Report Cards. "Underperform" means that a school failed to meet the State average on any one of the four SOL subject matter tests for 2004-2005.

However, other regions have demonstrated that Healthy Integrated Public Schools lead to superior academic performance. They strive to have no school with over 50% of students on free/reduced lunch. See R. Kahlenberg, All Together Now: Creating Middle-Class Schools Through Public School Choice (Brookings, 2001).

Region/District Strategies

- Expand the number of integrated magnet schools
- Use inclusive school assignment policies
- Create mixed-income housing in all school zones
- Train principals to create healthy inclusive school communities among students & parents
- Implement inclusive policies on tracking, special education and discipline
- Publish a “balanced scorecard” on each school

School Strategies

- Train teachers to create inclusive classrooms
- Use instructional strategies that encourage diverse students to work together
- Teach students “inclusive leadership” skills
- Teach parents to create “inclusive PTAs”
- Engage PTAs and community volunteers in annual planning processes

Personal Strategies

- From whom am I separated—by race, class, faith or other differences?
- How can I build new relationships across these differences—at home, in school, around town?
- How can I be a positive role model—upholding “every child as my child”, every person as my neighbor?