



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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September 22, 2006

The Honorable Timothy Kaine, Governor
Members of the Virginia General Assembly
Commonwealth of Virginia
Capitol Square
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Kaine and Members of the Virginia General Assembly:

I am pleased to transmit the *2006 Report on the Impact of Aging on Services Provided by the Public Education System in Virginia* submitted pursuant to §2.2-5510 of the Code of Virginia. The report describes the progress in educational programs and services provided by the public schools in Virginia. To the extent that age-related data are available, enrollment data are presented.

While the primary mission of the Virginia Department of Education and the public schools is to provide high quality programs to school-age children, all citizens deserve the highest quality of life possible, and seniors are no exception. Educational programs can certainly help Virginia's aging population be as active and engaged as possible. As the contents of this report show, a variety of educational programs are available to all citizens who are beyond the compulsory school age, and staff members of the Department of Education are available to assist local schools and community agencies in any way possible to ensure that our aging population has full knowledge of and access to the programs of interest.

I look forward to continuing to work together for the benefit of all of Virginia's citizens. Please contact me if I may assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Billy K. Cannaday, Jr.", written over a large, stylized flourish.

Billy K. Cannaday, Jr.

BK CJr/mnr
Enclosure



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

2006
***Report on the Impact of
Aging on Services Provided by the
Public Education System in Virginia***

Presented to the Governor and
General Assembly

September 22, 2006
Virginia Department of Education

Preface

Statutory Authority

HB 110 (2006 Session) amended Va. Code § 2.2-5510 to require that: *“(b)ased on guidance from the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, each agency shall report by October 1 of each year to the Governor and to the General Assembly its progress for addressing the impact of the aging of the population in at least five specific actions.”*

Each agency, in addition to amending its strategic plan as may be necessary, shall submit by October 1 of each year to the Governor and to the General Assembly, a report that includes, at a minimum, the following information:

1. To the extent such data is available, the number of persons who received services from the agency in the past fiscal year who fell into each of the following age ranges: 65-74; 75-84; and 85 and older. If the agency can provide data that compares such numbers to numbers of senior citizens served in the past, please do so. If the agency lacks specific information about the numbers of senior citizens it serves, but has other evidence indicating that it is serving more or fewer senior citizens than it has in the past, please describe the basis for that estimation.
2. Identify the agency services that are utilized by senior citizens 65 and older in significant numbers. Indicate whether the agency has the capacity at present to serve all interested seniors or whether the demand for certain services exceeds the agency’s capacity. If so, does the agency maintain waiting lists for services?
3. Identify current agency programs, specifically designed to serve seniors 65 and older, that fall into any of the following six categories: Health Care/Wellness; Education; Public Safety; Recreation; Financial Security (including Housing); and Transportation.
4. Identify the extent to which your agency provides “consumer-oriented” publications and websites online that are designed to be “senior-friendly.” If the information you currently provide is not readily accessible to seniors, identify any steps your agency is taking to improve accessibility.
5. Describe any other services or programs that the agency has implemented or plans to implement in the future to address the impact of the aging of Virginia’s population.

Executive Summary

This report describes the impact that older Virginians have upon services provided by the Department of Education and the public school system in Virginia. The report includes a description of programs available in local school divisions that are provided to citizens who are older than compulsory school age. The age-specific data collected by the Department of Education on these programs is limited to the category of “age 60 and above.” The programs are available to persons age 65 and older; however the exact number of participants over the age of 65 cannot be determined.

Included in the report is information and enrollment data on the following programs that are available to Virginia’s citizens age 60 and older:

- Adult Basic Education (ABE)
- Adult Secondary Education (ASE)
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Adult High School Diploma Program
- External Diploma Program (EDP)
- General Achievement Diploma (GAD)
- Community Based Literacy Organizations (CBLO)
- Race to GED Program
- Veteran Honorary High School Diploma Program

Although the Code of Virginia places the responsibility for adult education with Virginia’s 134 local school divisions, services are delivered through a partnership of public and community-based providers that includes local school boards; community colleges; not-for-profit and faith-based literacy groups; employers; state, local and regional correctional facilities; and state institutions.

State-level Coordination of Services

The Office of Adult Education and Literacy, located in the Virginia Department of Education, Division of Instruction, provides leadership and oversight to adult education programs and services in Virginia. This office manages federal and state funds allocated for these programs. The programs include Adult Basic Education (ABE), Adult Secondary Education (ASE), English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and General Educational Development Programs (GED).

Although the Code of Virginia places the responsibility for adult education with Virginia's 134 local school divisions, services are delivered through a partnership of public and community-based providers that includes local school boards; community colleges; not-for-profit and faith-based literacy groups; employers; state, local and regional correctional facilities; and state institutions.

Education and Literacy Programs Offered to Adults

Adult Basic Education (ABE) Programs consist of instruction that provides basic skills for adults who are performing below the ninth grade level in reading, writing, mathematics, and other basic skills. All interested qualified persons are served, regardless of age.

English as a Second Language (ESOL) Programs consist of instruction designed to increase the English proficiency of limited English-speaking (LEP) adults in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Many programs also include civics related instructional activities such as health, family, and financial literacy. All interested qualified persons are served, regardless of age.

Community Based Literacy Organizations (CBLO) provide support for the work of private, not-for-profit literacy organizations that offer tutoring and other one-on-one or small group instructional approaches delivered primarily by volunteers. Priorities include low-level literacy instruction, ESL instruction (ESL), workforce development, and family literacy. All interested qualified persons are served, regardless of age.

Adult Secondary Education (ASE) Programs provide adults with the opportunity to earn a high school credential. All interested qualified persons are served, regardless of age. Three programs are offered in Virginia to serve this need, including:

- **Adult High School Diploma**
The Adult High School Diploma program enables an adult no longer enrolled in public education to complete the required courses/activities to earn an Adult High School diploma, with the local high school scheduling classes and determining course requirements in accordance with standards established by the state.

- **External Diploma Program**
The External Diploma Program (EDP) is a program developed for adults, 21 and above, who have not had recent schooling or test taking experience but now have acquired high school level academic skills in other than curriculum-based programs. It is an adult applied-performance, competency-based assessment program that awards an adult high school diploma to skilled adults who have acquired many of their high school level abilities in a series of simulations that parallel job and life situations. They are evaluated according to established performance criteria. It is an assessment program and not an instructional program. In addition, students are awarded an Adult High School diploma rather than an equivalency certificate.
- **General Achievement Diploma**
The General Achievement Diploma (GAD) is intended to provide a diploma option for high school dropouts and individuals who exit high school without a diploma. This diploma is intended for individuals who are at least 18 years of age and not enrolled in public school or not otherwise meeting the compulsory school attendance requirements set forth in the Code of Virginia.

The requirements for the GAD include prescribed standard units of credit and a passing score on the General Educational Development (GED) examination. Standard credits required for the GAD may be earned in a variety of educational settings, including a public school; a community college or other institution of higher education; an adult high school program; or correspondence, distance learning, and online courses.

The GAD is not meant to be a "first option" for high school students. Diploma candidates may be individuals who are of age to enroll in a public school whether they choose to enroll or not; or individuals who because of their age are not eligible to enroll in a public school.

General Educational Development Programs (GED) enable persons who have not graduated from high school to demonstrate the attainment of abilities normally associated with completion of a high school program of study. The Virginia GED program provides an opportunity to recognize the educational development of individuals as a result of their life and/or employment experiences.

Virginia's initiative is the **Race to GED**, a workforce initiative of the Office of Adult Education and Literacy of the Department of Education. The goal of the Race to GED is to meet or exceed 20,000 Virginians passing the General Educational Development (GED) Tests annually. GED graduates are a vital component of a globally competitive workforce that strengthens existing business and supports economic growth and development in Virginia.

The initiative targets working age adults, 18 to 64 years of age who are employed or employable and can demonstrate academic readiness to prepare for and pass the English version of the GED Tests. GED graduates are competent in the workplace, qualified for advancement to higher-level skills, and capable of achieving in postsecondary education or technical-skills certification.

Race to GED is an innovative approach to adult education based on two instructional programs: GED Fast Track and GED Prep. These two programs assess what a person already knows and prescribes instruction to prepare adults for success on GED Tests. The time it takes to earn a GED is dramatically shortened, from one year required in traditional adult education, to three months or less with GED Fast Track and only 180 days with GED Prep.

Thirty-five thousand Virginians have earned a General Educational Development (GED) certificate since the implementation of the Race to GED program in 2003. Last year, the number of GED graduates increased by 1,400 over 2003, and this year is expected to see 2,600 additional graduates over 2004.

Enrollment Data for Persons Age 60 and Older

Age-specific enrollment data are available for the Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education, English for Speakers of Other Languages, and GED programs. Enrollment data for the programs for participants age 60 and above are shown on the following pages. Enrollment data for the other adult education and literacy programs described above are not reported by age; therefore the agency is unable to report for the other programs.

**Enrollment in ABE, ASE, and ESOL Programs Statewide
(Persons Age 60 and Older)
FY 2003-04 through FY 2005-06**

DATA FACTOR	FY 2003-2004	FY 2004-2005	FY 2005-2006*
TOTAL STATE ENROLLMENT-ALL AGES	28,236	29,222	31,510
TOTAL ENROLLED-AGE 60 AND OLDER	984	867	1,041
ENROLLMENT BY ETHNICITY			
American Indian or Alaskan Native	**	**	**
Asian	147	139	153
Black or African American	359	295	349
Hispanic or Latino	139	149	198
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	**	**	**
White	334	280	337
ENROLLMENT BY GENDER			
Female	639	565	661
Male	345	302	380
ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM TYPE			
Adult Basic Education (ABE)	553	442	495
Adult Secondary Education (ASE)	53	50	61
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)	378	375	485

* The results for 2005-2006 are preliminary but are likely to be very similar to the final values reported to USED in December.

** Counts are not given if there are ten (10) or fewer participants in the category.

**Statewide Enrollment in Adult Education GED Testing Programs
(Persons Age 60 and Older)*
FY 2003-04 through FY 2005-06**

DATA FACTOR	FY 2003-2004	FY 2004-2005	FY 2005-2006*
TOTAL TESTED (STATEWIDE) ALL AGES	17,275	19,127	21,350
TOTAL TESTED- AGE 60 AND OLDER	57	110	152
Passed	22	43	59
Non-passed	34	62	70
Incomplete	**	**	23
TOTAL ENROLLED IN ADULT ED CLASS	36	75	95
TOTAL COMPLETED OFFICIAL GED PRACTICE TEST (OPT)	46	81	119
TESTED BY ETHNICITY			
American Indian or Alaskan Native	**	**	**
Asian	**	**	**
Black or African American	18	40	53
Hispanic or Latino	**	**	**
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	**	**	**
Other	**	**	**
South American	**	**	**
White	35	65	92
Unknown	**	**	**
TESTED BY GENDER			
Female	36	73	97
Male	20	35	53
Unknown	**	**	**

* Statistics provided by the GED Scoring service.

** Counts are not given if there are ten (10) or fewer participants in the category.

Additional Program Serving Older Citizens

Veteran Honorary High School Diploma Program

The Veterans' Honorary High School Diploma Program recognizes the life experiences of veterans who were unable to complete their high school education because of service in the armed forces during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The first honorary diplomas were issued in 2001. To obtain an honorary diploma, a veteran may submit a statement to the Virginia Department of Education describing his or her service, the location of the last school attended, and affirming that he or she was unable to complete high school upon return to civilian life. The guidelines also allow for the submission of information by family members and veterans' organizations.

The Department of Education does not maintain data related to the age of the recipients of the Honorary High School Diploma; however, it may be assumed that all World War II veterans are age 65 and older; Korean War veterans may be projected to be age 65 or older.

To date, 1,207 honorary diplomas have been awarded to World War II veterans, and 246 honorary diplomas have been awarded to Korean War veterans.