For Immediate Release

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NNPS Approach Helps Students Earn Diplomas

Newport News Public Schools is using a multifaceted, student-centered approach to help students graduate on time.

Recognizing that a high school credential and post-secondary education are required for success in today’s global, technology driven society, the school district is creating individualized opportunities for students to help them stay on track towards graduation:

• All high schools provide opportunities for credit recovery through online and evening coursework. NNPS has increased access to online courses through NOVANet, allowing students at every high school, Point Option and Enterprise Academy to earn needed course credits.

• NNPS established the “Freshman Experience” program to successfully transition ninth-graders to high school and provide a continuum of support throughout their first year and beyond. And all students have an individualized learning plan to help them successfully complete high school on-time with a diploma.

• NNPS moved over-age rising eighth graders into a ninth-grade program that provides weekly counseling support to help them stay in school and graduate on time. A majority of the students have been successful and are earning credit toward graduation.

• To date, NNPS has identified more than 550 students and adults who had dropped out, and enrolled them in high school, an alternative school, or a GED program.

• Administrators and teachers use dropout indicators to identify high school students falling behind and/or middle school students at risk of dropping out; intervention plans are created to help them stay on track toward graduation.

• NNPS established the Youth Development initiative to help students feel connected and part of their school through involvement in leadership opportunities, club activities and other

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extracurricular programs

- NNPS implemented Career Pathways to make education engaging and relevant.

A report released by the Virginia Department of Education indicates that 79% of Newport News public school students entering ninth-grade in 2004 earned a diploma, a GED or a certificate in 2008. An additional five percent, or 141 students, are still enrolled in school working towards graduation.

**District Highlights**

- Seventy-three percent of all students in the 2008 cohort, or 1797 students, earned an advanced diploma, IB diploma, standard, modified standard or special diploma.

- Ninety-two percent of students with disabilities earned a diploma.

- Seventy-five percent of limited English proficient students earned a diploma.

Newport News is building a comprehensive approach to help all students earn a high school credential and prepare for post-secondary study and careers.

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