In Newport News Public Schools, every student is expected to graduate college, career, and citizen-ready. To accomplish this, we provide our students with daily experiences in smart, safe schools to prepare them for their roles as learners, employees, and contributing citizens in the 21st century.

Newport News Public Schools has made strides in enhancing academic performance, significantly raising achievement levels, increasing enrollment in rigorous coursework, moving students into higher-level math, expanding preschool access, and narrowing achievement gaps.

We also recognize that young people need more than academic achievement to become well-rounded, contributing adults. That’s why the Agenda for Public Education, our strategic plan, includes youth development as one of three goals for all students.

In addition to achievement and advancement, our youth development initiative is assisting students in growing their skills in leadership, citizenship, and teamwork.

Youth development is critically important in Newport News Public Schools. Our work engages students in clubs, organizations, and activities to increase the range of their experiences and their connection to school, and recognizes and supports youth leadership and mentoring.

Everywhere you look in Newport News Public Schools, you can find youth development in action. Included in this Report to the Community are illustrations of how our students are learning to make a big difference in their lives, in their schools, and in their community.

Ashby C. Kilgore
Superintendent
Newport News Public Schools are excelling and moving forward.

- All Newport News schools are fully accredited by the Virginia Department of Education. The accreditation standards require schools to meet objectives for achievement in English, mathematics, history/social studies and science.

- For the fifth year in a row, Newsweek magazine's list of the top public high schools in America includes all five Newport News high schools. Newsweek ranks high schools by enrollment in, and access to, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses.

- Newport News Public Schools is one of three school districts in the country cited by the National School Boards Association for integrating technology into academics and district operations. In the spring, school district representatives from around the country will visit NNPS to see firsthand how technology integration has transformed the learning and business processes.

- Nine schools are recognized by the governor and the state Board of Education for exceeding state standards.

- Online courses are offered at all high schools to provide additional class options. Students also have the option of receiving college credit through dual enrollment at Thomas Nelson Community College. Each year, more than 750 students take advantage of these options.

- The school district continued its third year of a new Dropout Prevention and Recovery program. Over 950 students who had dropped out have returned and are on track to earn a high school diploma or GED. Starting in middle school, intervention plans are implemented for youth who are at risk of dropping out, and the transition process for rising ninth graders was expanded.

- 209 students are named 2010 Advanced Placement Scholars, Scholars with Honor, or Scholars with Distinction, qualifying them for potential college credit. To receive this distinction, a student must receive grades of three or higher (out of five) on at least three Advanced Placement exams. Nine students are named National AP Scholars. National AP Scholars receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams and scores of 4 or higher add on at least eight AP exams.

- Over ninety-nine percent (99%) of NNPS teachers are designated as highly qualified by federal No Child Left Behind standards.

Local professionals help students connect classroom knowledge with the real world.

Woodside High School students have a reading buddies program with Greenwood Elementary School.

READINESS SKILLS

College, career, and citizen-ready skills outline the actions and behaviors that all students are expected to demonstrate:

- Information literacy
- Communication
- Critical thinking
- Problem-solving
- Creativity and innovation
- Social responsibility
- Collaboration
- Initiative and self-direction
Thriving communities need citizens who can and will contribute their time and talents and lend their service. That’s why youth development became part of the Agenda for Public Education three years ago with measures of youth engagement built into the school district’s goals for student success. The NNPS model has four areas: youth leadership, youth engagement, youth supports and youth developers.

**Youth Leadership**
Leadership opportunities abound in Newport News. Students have opportunities to serve as leaders in student government associations, clubs, organizations, principal advisory groups, superintendent advisory groups, or through the Youth Leadership Alliance or Project Inclusion, an anti-bullying and tolerance group at each high school. Students learn and then practice leadership skills within their organizations.

**Youth Engagement**
All students are encouraged to get actively involved in clubs, organizations, student activities, sports, or intramurals to strengthen their connection to school. Last year, the school district initiated middle school sports; over 1,100 students are involved each year. Participation in extra-curricular activities gives students the opportunity to develop social skills and discover talents, abilities and interests. Many studies indicate that student engagement in extra-curricular activities can boost academic performance.

**Youth Supports**
Newport News Public Schools ensures that students receive the academic assistance and support they need to be successful. Through extended day programs, tutorial sessions, student assistance programs, counseling, mentors, and coaches, our students receive the assistance they need to improve their work-study habits and build positive self-esteem.

**Youth Developers**
To develop into healthy adults, young people need supportive adult relationships. Professional development for teachers and support staff is an important component of the NNPS youth development model. School-based staffers receive the theory, knowledge and training to work more effectively with youth to help them build skills, abilities, and positive values. In addition, each secondary school has developed a team to manage the youth development initiative at their school.
The School Board guides Newport News Public Schools through its leadership, vision and commitment. The School Board welcomes community involvement in our schools, believing that a quality education is a responsibility all must share.

Career Pathways: Education with a purpose

Career Pathways are an integral part of the learning experience for all Newport News Public Schools students. Students are exposed to grade-appropriate career development experiences. At the elementary level, students focus on career awareness; at the middle school level the focus is on career exploration; and in high school and beyond, Career Pathways work to create opportunities through activities, job shadowing, and hands-on training with local businesses and industries.

At all grade levels, Career Pathways help students enhance their career readiness skills and strengthen positive character traits.

The Newport News School Board
Debbie “Dee” Johnston, Chairman; Carlton S. Ashby, Vice Chairman; and members Pricillia E. Burnett; Dr. William J. Collins, III; Betty B. Dixon, Everette “Teddy” Hicks, Jr.; Jeff Stodghill; and Lakisha Busby, student representative.

CAREER PATHWAYS
- Architecture & Construction
- Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
- Business, Management & Administration
- Education & Training
- Government & Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology, Modeling/Simulation, Gaming
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security Manufacturing
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

High schools students receive valuable work experience through a summer internship program with the school district’s technology department.