

Compass to 2015

A Strategic Plan for Student Success

Dr. James G. Merrill
Virginia Beach City Public Schools
November 2010



One School District's Story





Breaking it Down



Accountability: Putting the Infrastructure in Place



- More than 69,000 Students



- Approximately 15,320 Employees
- 86 Schools/Centers

The Virginia Beach Region



Large Military
Population





My SEAL Team





Strategic Planning Implementation Steering Committee



Superintendent
(Executive Assistant as Staff)

Strategic
Objective
1
Co-Chairs

Strategic
Objective
2
Co-Chairs

Strategic
Objective
3
Co-Chairs

Strategic
Objective
4
Co-Chairs

Strategic
Objective
5
Co-Chairs



Strategic Planning Implementation Steering Committee



Strategic Objective Co-Chairs

Action Teams

Teachers

Guidance
Counselors

Principals

Assistant
Principals

Curriculum
Staff

Community
Members



Strategic Objective Three

Each school will improve achievement for all students while closing achievement gaps for identified student groups, with particular focus on African American males.

Breaking Down the Work



Strategic Objective 3 Action Team

Plan for
Continuous
Improvement
Subcommittee

Response to
Student Need
Subcommittee

Literacy Plan
Subcommittee

Communication: Making the Plan Real



COMPASS TO 2015: A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Strategic Goal

Recognizing that the long range goal of the VBCPS is the successful preparation and graduation of every student, the near term goal is that by 2015, 95 percent or more of VBCPS students will graduate having mastered the skills that they need to succeed as 21st century learners, workers and citizens.

VBCPS Outcomes for Student Success

Our primary focus is on teaching and assessing those skills our students need to thrive as 21st century learners, workers and citizens. All VBCPS students will be:

- Academically proficient;
- Effective communicators and collaborators;
- Globally aware, independent, responsible learners and citizens; and
- Critical and creative thinkers, innovators and problem solvers.

Strategic Objectives

- 1) All teachers will engage every student in meaningful, authentic and rigorous work through the use of innovative instructional practices and supportive technologies that will motivate students to be self-directed and inquisitive learners.

Key Strategies	Key Measures
Identify the 21st century skills for VBCPS.	Student success in meeting 21 st century skills by using performance-based assessments
Integrate 21 st century skills into K-12 curriculum and instruction.	Augmented curricula addressing 21 st century skills
Define, develop, and promote effective teaching practices that maximize rigor and meaningful engagement for all students.	Instructional practices ensuring that daily instruction is rigorous and relevant for all learners
Integrate supportive technologies into the instructional program delivery.	Follow-up data from employers and colleges to assess graduates' college and work readiness of VBCPS graduates
	Success on state standards for attendance and promotion and a reduced drop-out rate
	Positive trends in discipline referrals and suspension rates
	Increased number of advanced diplomas

VBCPS MISSION

The Virginia Beach City Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, will empower every student to become a life-long learner who is a responsible, productive and engaged citizen within the global community.

VBCPS VISION

Every student is achieving at his or her maximum potential in an engaging, inspiring and challenging learning environment.

- 2) VBCPS will develop and implement a balanced assessment system that accurately reflects student demonstration and mastery of VBCPS outcomes for student success.

Key Strategies	Key Measures
Develop and/or adopt varied assessments, including performance-based assessments, to create a balanced assessment system that measures VBCPS outcomes for student success.	New authentic assessments
Provide training for teachers and administrators on developing, using, scoring, and interpreting varied types of assessments to create a balanced assessment system.	Evaluation, collection and dissemination of student work products
Monitor and evaluate VBCPS assessments to ensure quality and fidelity.	Student performance data
Develop a process to monitor and report student performance on VBCPS assessments.	Staff and student feedback and surveys
	Reliable teacher scoring methods and results



"By 2015, 95 percent or more of VBCPS students will graduate having mastered the skills that they need to succeed as 21st century learners, workers and citizens."

Employee Communication



HOME

Action research realized

Have you updated your AlertNow Emergency Information

Virginia Beach Adult Learning Center: Where Learning Never Ends!

FAMIS

Exemplary Publications

Nationally known presenters Daniel Pink and Tony Wagner slated to speak

In the Spotlight

New Faces, Familiar Places

Compass to 2015: A Strategic Plan for Student Success

As you know, a new six-year strategic plan is in the final stages of development and was presented on September 9. Not only the plan but also the features and significant features, which is the overwhelming and relevant information emphasized in the proposal.

An Open Mic session for stakeholders and interactive plan for those who plan. Final adjournment scheduled.

HOME

Professional Learning Communities

Nominees for the V&G Outstanding Teacher of the Gifted Award

The museum at the Renaissance Academy

Department of Human Resources third annual Meet and Great event

Are you thinking about buying a home?

Bayside High School English teacher earns national recognition

National Speaker Series event in March

Virginia Beach Education Foundation's annual golf tournament

Virginia Beach Education Foundation's 2010 Commemorative Poster

VBEF Toolbar

DRAFT COMPAS

Recognizing that the term goal is that by

VBCPS MISSION

The Virginia Beach City Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, will empower every student to become a lifelong learner who is a responsible producer and engaged citizen within the global community.

Q&A - Dr. Merrill

Professional learning communities (PLCs) are the "hot topics" of conversation in schools these days. As staff members in January the last month,

Q: I am interested in PLCs. How do I get started?

A: The recollection you share is that although many of the descriptions of PLCs are to observe the teaching module. The big idea was to observe the teaching module. The big idea was to observe the teaching module. The big idea was to observe the teaching module.

Mandatory training in 21st century skills slated for the summer

The division is requiring that all eligible instructional personnel complete four hours of mandatory training - focusing on 21st century skills - during the summer months prior to the start of the 2010-2011 school year. Specifically, secondary teachers will attend one four-hour session on 21st century skills while elementary teachers will attend one two-hour session on 21st century skills. The other two hours of training will be focused on how teachers can best implement these 21st century skills in the new science program that has been adopted. In addition, elementary teachers will be required to attend further training throughout the school year on the implementation of the new elementary science program.

Fortunately, the Department of Curriculum and Instruction is once again sponsoring its annual summer conference in June. As you may recall, sessions often "fill up" quickly because they offer teachers top notch training and the conference is a great opportunity for teachers to get a head start on completing their required 15 hours of divisionwide professional development for the year. In fact, some teachers actually complete all of their divisionwide hours of professional development at this time.

Department of Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Superintendent Dr. Christine Caskey explains the mandatory approach this way: "The purpose of the training is to build a consistent understanding of the 21st century skills among all staff. In addition, teachers will explore where in the curriculum 21st century skills are emphasized through the use of SchoolNet and be given the opportunity to design learning plans and assessments that foster these skills."

Superintendent Dr. James Merrill agrees. "By participating in this training, instructional staff will gain a common understanding of the 21st century skills outlined in our strategic plan. In fact, I have heard from school administrators and teachers across the district that this knowledge is essential if we are to move forward successfully with year two of the implementation of Compass to 2015."

Director of the Office of

Parent Communication



Check Out the New Compass to 2015

COMPASS to 2015

A Strategic Plan for Student Success

Student success on the Virginia Standards of Learning, while important, is not what drives the work outlined in Virginia Beach City Public Schools' **Compass to 2015** strategic plan. **Compass to 2015** is a blueprint focused on ensuring that students graduate with the skills they need to thrive in the 21st century. We are dedicated to transparency in this process and, beyond that, partnership with our stakeholders. One way to communicate news and involvement opportunities is the new **Compass to 2015** Web page. Take a look at it because we have made every effort to provide answers to the questions we most commonly asked about the VBCPS strategic plan:

VBCPS Seeking Input for New Logo

You've heard it countless times: you've seen it on your schools' letter every school district publication. We're talking about our logo and **Virginia Beach City Public Schools: Ahead of the Curve**. Well, it's time for a change your help.

First, a little history though. **Ahead of the Curve** originally debuted in development of the then six-year strategic planning process. Following process, a Virginia Beach advertising agency took on the task pro bono and a slogan that was reflective of the school district's mission and goal now, flash forward to 2009. We have a new strategic plan, **Compass to 2015** outcomes that are entirely student-centered. We want to ensure that it support they need to become:

- Academically proficient;
- Effective communicators and collaborators;
- Globally aware, independent, responsible learners and citizens; and
- Critical and creative thinkers, innovators and problem solvers.

The desire is to have a "brand," so to speak, that conveys the message of striving to encourage higher learning and citizenship. So we are asking with ideas. We've set up a place on our newly designed Web site **Compass to 2015** logo on the home page of vbschools.com. It will take your input on what messages the new brand should convey. Those who hand at developing a logo and/or slogan can e-mail their submissions to Miller, the school division's graphic designer, at gliguidm@vbschools.com. Miller, the school division's graphic designer, at gliguidm@vbschools.com reserves the right to adapt any submissions, but will recognize any contributor whose design/logo elements are incorporated into the product. New designs will be shared with our community prior to adoption.

COMPASS TO 2015: HOW YOU CAN HELP THE DISTRICT RESHAPE ITS STRATEGIC PLAN

A **Compass to 2015** Town Hall Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the Convention Center. At this meeting participants will participate in roundtable discussions on elements of a successful strategic plan.

Once all public input opportunities are concluded, staff will prepare a summary report. From this data, school system leadership will establish priorities and develop recommendations for the strategic plan to the School Board in August. This draft then will be shared with the School Board for further refinement. Adoption of a final plan is planned for November.

For more information on the school district's strategic planning process, or any of the other activities, contact Toni Patterson, director of the Office of Organizational Development, at 263-1368.

Renowned Futurist To Address Trends That Will Reshape Education As We Know It Today

National media has recognized him as a renowned futurist. He is the author of insightful books that identify and examine trends that are changing the world. He is the president of a forecasting firm that provides industry and government with the insights of an international group of experts in areas ranging from technology assessment to fighting terrorism. His name is Dr. Marvin Cetron and on Wednesday, April 2, at 7 p.m. he will share market and societal trends that will change the face of public education.

we develop is for the says. U.S. News and World Report is one of the leading corporate, industry, and government planning and forecasting firms in the world.

Parents and citizens are invited to attend this Futures Forum, which will be hosted by Virginia Beach City Public Schools. The event will take place beginning at 7 p.m. at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. "The workforce today is far different than what many of us entered years ago. In turn, the work force our younger children will enter is going to be vastly different than what this year's graduates will encounter. We know good schools are essential to support a strong and vibrant economy in our region. This community and its school system need to work together to ensure that Virginia Beach City Public Schools is future-oriented, that we are poised to deliver education services that are powerful, relevant and timely," notes Toni Patterson, director of organizational development for the Virginia Beach City Public Schools and organizer of the event.



Crossfire and L'Oréal's potential raised the possibilities for the new aircraft as well. For further information on Organizational Development also be found.

"The school system has embarked upon the development of a new strategic plan and we believe that this is exactly the kind of dialogue that will help ensure that the plan

Apple-A-Day

For our Family of Interested Citizens

Compass to 2015: How You Can Help the District Reshape Its Strategic Plan

Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) has embarked upon a strategic planning process designed to engage the community in reshaping the school district's six-year strategic plan. Called **Compass to 2015 - A Strategic Plan for Student Success**, this campaign offers several meaningful opportunities for students, parents, staff and community members to weigh in on important questions that face us all today - questions like: What do you think education for Virginia Beach children should look like in the future? What should our priorities be as we plan to prepare children for jobs that might not even exist yet?

To ensure broad-based input the district is hosting 11 focus groups consisting of students, VBCPS graduates, GED candidates, parents, business leaders, community members, principals, teachers and other employees. In addition, VBCPS has scheduled two special strategic planning opportunities for citizens. They are:

- A Futures Forum that will be held Wednesday, April 2 at 7 p.m. at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. Renowned futurist Marvin Cetron will be the guest speaker at this event (see related story on page 2). Dr. Cetron was identified as one of the nation's foremost futurists by U.S. News & World Report in its 50th anniversary issue, "The Next 50 Years." He will address the future trends that will impact public education in this community and the country at large. *continued on page 2*

Virginia Beach Schools Offers Free Online SAT Prep

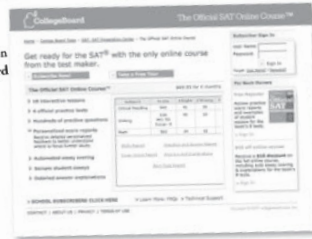
Did you know that Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) is offering two online opportunities to high school students to assist them in preparing for the SAT? It's a fact. As a special service, the school division has secured the rights to provide FREE access to the official College Board SAT Online. Students can obtain access to this first opportunity simply by going to the guidance department of their respective high schools to request a password or code. This code allows them access to the SAT online program from any computer that is Internet linked, whether at home, at school, or even at the library or an Internet cafe.

Another exciting opportunity created for VBCPS high school students is a new SAT preparatory course. It is available as a half-credit course and is offered each semester in all high schools. Students interested in taking the course should see their guidance counselors for more information on requirements and registration.

We are very pleased to be able to offer these services to students. Taking an online SAT prep course or signing up for the SAT half-credit course offers students the opportunity to practice SAT test-taking skills prior to sitting for the actual exam.

Of Interest

- Renowned Futurist To Address Trends That Will Reshape Education As We Know It Today..... 2
- Kindergarten Registration..... 3
- Interested In The Benefits Associated With Year-Round Education?..... back page



Dynamic Web Presence



A commitment to provide all students with the necessary skills to thrive as 21st century learners, workers, and citizens.

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THRIVING as 21st Century learners, workers and citizens

Effective communicators and collaborators

MYSCHOOL MAIL LOCKER ROOM

HEADLINE NEWS

Schools closed for students and staff on Thursday, Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day.

10/25/10 [More](#)

Schools closed for *students only* on Tuesday, Nov. 2 & Friday, Nov. 12 due to teacher staff days.

10/25/10 [More](#)

Renaissance Academy Open House Saturday, November 6, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Learn about the academic programs available to students and the building's unique environmental features.

SCROLL DOWN TO VIEW MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Podcasts and Videos Scholarship Central Press Room SCHOOL FORMS

NEW TO VIRGINIA BEACH	PARENTS	STUDENTS	STAFF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just Moved to Virginia Beach? Overview of Virginia Beach City Public Schools How to Register Your Child for School What School Will My Child Attend? Immunization Requirements Military Family Info More 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apple-A-Day Parent Newsletter Course Information (K-12) Parent/Student Handbooks Parent Connection OPRAA Parent Resource Parent Support & Information Center Secondary School Curriculum Student Guide Textbook Display Schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletic/Academic Schedules Class of 2011 Code of Student Conduct Elementary Student Course Guides Scholarship Central School Websites Secondary School Curriculum Student Guide Student Portal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email Professional Development Program (PDP) Subfinder Holiday Calendar vbcps.com (Intranet) Annual Mandatory Employee Training School/Net (Staff Login) More

YOUR FAVORITES

BUS SCHEDULES SCHOOL LOCATOR LUNCH MENUS CALENDARS

COMPASS to 2015

Find out how we are preparing students to succeed as 21st century learners, workers, and citizens.

VBCPS Parent Portal

VBCPS Parent Portal is a powerful online tool for parents and guardians of all students to monitor their child's progress in school.

Register today or login!

CHECK THESE OUT

- Adult Learning Center
- Long Range Facility Master Plan
- Green Schools
- School Construction and Modernization
- Diversity Awareness

TextTalk Live Online Discussion

BLOGS

On the Mark

- Autism: A Journey for a Mother and Her Son
- How Do We Measure Student Learning?

vbschools.com

My Digital Portfolio



A commitment to provide all students with the necessary skills to thrive as 21st century learners, workers, and citizens.

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SEARCH Search VBCPS Website

Closings/Cancellations/Emergencies/School Safety

VBCPS Parent Portal

Presentations of Interest

State of the Schools Address
October 2010

2010-2011 Budget Presentation to
City Council April 2010

Compass to 2015 Year-End Report to
School Board June 2010

Videos

Superintendent's Monthly Reports to
the School Board

School Board

Superintendent's Monthly Reports to
the School Board

School Board Recognitions

Dr. Merrill in the News

July 2008

March 2010

News Articles - Budget 2009-2010

Compass to 2015 Strategic Plan

Vision Statement

Every student is achieving at his or
her maximum potential in an engaging,
inspiring and challenging learning
environment.

Mission Statement

The Virginia Beach City Public
Schools, in partnership with the
entire community, will empower
every student to become a life-long

Superintendent James G. Merrill's Digital Portfolio



THRIVING as
21st Century

Learners
Workers
&
Citizens

This is Dr. Merrill's digital portfolio. It is also his way of being as transparent as possible to the Virginia Beach community. He has taken the time to share presentations to key audiences; his monthly superintendent's report to the School Board; photos of his travels in the schools; and of course, his biography.

A major initiative he has led has been the development and implementation of *Compass to 2015: A Strategic Plan for Student Success*. A strategy in the strategic plan is the intent to engage students in the task of building digital portfolios. Research shows that this technological, reflective instructional practice is beneficial to students who often appreciate the creativity and innovation required to accomplish the task. Since Dr. Merrill is asking teachers to be trained in supervising the production of these portfolios and students are being asked to produce them, he decided he would try his hand at it too.

If there is something you would like to see added to this page, please email us with your suggestion at askthesuperintendent@vbschools.com. Check back often as this page will be updated on a regular basis.



Superintendent's Report



Online **Green** Student Film Festival





Strategic Objective One

*All teachers will **engage every student in meaningful, authentic and rigorous work** through the use of innovative instructional practices and supportive technologies that will **motivate students to be self-directed and inquisitive learners.***



Researching 21st Century Skills



Focus Groups

Identifying the 21st Century Skills



Critical and Creative Thinkers, Innovators, and Problem Solvers

Critical Thinking: Analyze and evaluate information and ideas to determine appropriate actions or develop a point of view.

Creative/Innovative Thinking: Generate original ideas, unique solutions or new associations of existing ideas for an aesthetic or practical purpose.

Problem Solving: Anticipate and identify problems and challenges to develop solutions that effectively address them.

Effective Communicators and Collaborators

Information Literacy: Use digital technology (networks, databases, and print materials) in an ethical manner, to identify relevant sources, evaluate validity, synthesize, analyze, and interpret information.

Listening: Construct meaning and demonstrate understanding from verbal and nonverbal cues.

Collaboration: Interact with diverse groups to achieve an objective while displaying flexibility and willingness to understand alternate points of view.

Communication: Articulate ideas and information clearly and appropriately for the given context, medium, and audience.

Globally Aware, Independent, Responsible Learners and Citizens

Social Responsibility: Understand the importance of acting with integrity, empathy, and compassion and commit to making a meaningful contribution to the local, national and/or global community by offering time, talents, advocacy, and/or resources to a worthy cause.

Sustainability: Foster responsible development and protection of the world's natural environment and resources through individual and collective action.

Interdependence: Recognize and understand the social, economic, and political issues and concerns that connect us on all levels - locally, nationally and/or globally - and commit, when necessary, to using this knowledge to inform decisions and actions.

Health Literacy: Make informed decisions based on appropriate sources for a healthy lifestyle.

Developing a Continuum



21ST CENTURY SKILLS FOR VBCPS

Our Continuum to 2015 Strategic Plan for Virginia Beach City Public Schools has been designed to equip students with the skills they need to succeed as 21st century learners, workers, and citizens. So just what are those 21st century skills? Based on our research and our own experience, we believe the following to be the most important skills that our instruction will be designed to foster the development of those attributes.

Critical Thinking

Analyze and evaluate information and ideas to determine appropriate actions or develop a point of view.

NOVICE

Respond to information and ideas through prior knowledge, personal experience, or emotional reaction.

EMERGING

Analyze information and ideas within a source, problem, or situation to develop a knowledge base.

PROFICIENT

Analyze and evaluate information and ideas across a range of sources, problems, situations, and/or contexts to determine appropriate actions and develop a point of view.

ADVANCED

21st Century Skills

Novice → Emerging → Proficient → Advanced

PROFICIENT

Use prior knowledge to identify a range of possible problems, root causes, or solutions, evaluate its reasonableness given the parameters, and compare strategies.

ADVANCED

Examine the nature of the problem to determine relevant and irrelevant information, create and implement an appropriate procedure, monitor its effectiveness, and make necessary adjustments to arrive at a viable solution or to deepen knowledge of the problem.

Mandatory Teacher Training



Department of Curriculum and Instruction

**Professional Development
Summer Conference**

June 22, 23, 24, 2010

Landstown High School
and other satellite locations

Earn your PDP hours at the Summer
Conference
Offering a variety of courses from all
instructional areas scheduled
throughout three days of professional
development



2010

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

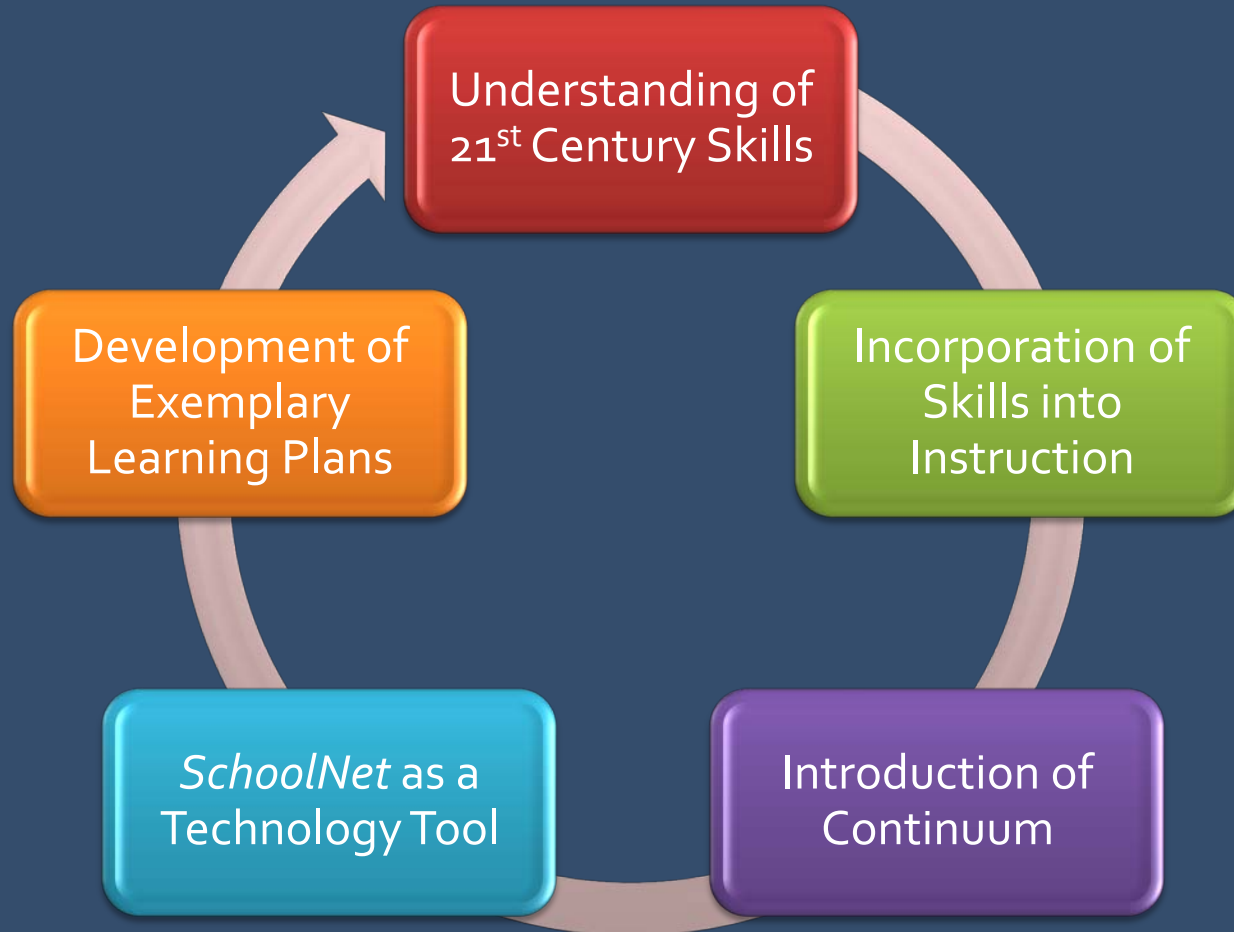


 **VIRGINIA BEACH
CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
AHEAD OF THE CURVE

21st Century Learner



Purpose of Training



Engaging Administrators



Grab Your Compass. We're Navigating a New Future!

Your 21st century compass is now a GPS, but you still get the message. Our new strategic plan is about expanding our reach, moving into new directions and better preparing students for a "brave new world." At the 2009 Administrator's Conference, we'll be delving into **Compass to 2015**; examining professional learning communities as the vehicle to organize and support our objectives; and asking school and administrative teams to discuss how their Plans for Continuous Improvement can be adapted for implementation.

Want to get the most you can out of the Administrator's Conference?

Then consider doing some advance homework:

- Visit the **Compass to 2015** strategic plan web page: <http://www.vbschools.com/compass/index.asp>. Read the plan, the list of 21st century skills and our Glossary of Terms; check out the helpful resources and learning walks pages; and watch the videos that have been posted.
- You may also want to do some independent Web research and/or book reviews. A good place to start would be **Getting Started: Reculturing Schools to Become Professional Learning Communities** by Robert Eaker, Richard DuFour and Rebecca DuFour. In the near future you will be receiving some PDF copies of articles on professional learning communities to read as well.

Remember to mark your calendars for August 20, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. for the 2009 Administrators' Conference at Landstown High School! Registration will be from 7:45-8:15 a.m. See you there!

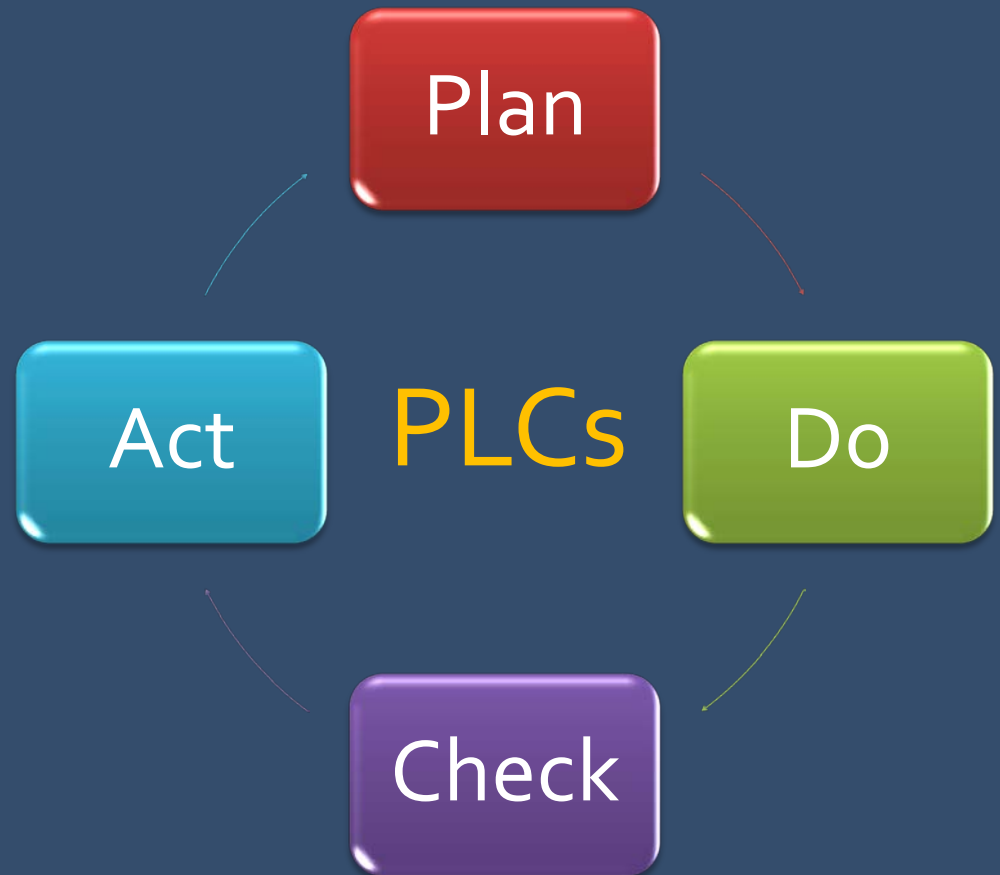




Thou Shall Have PLCs

Immediate deployment
of Professional
Learning Communities

What were we thinking?



Developing Collaborative Learning Cultures



Learning by Doing

A...
Le...

Richard DuFour
Rebecca DuFour
Robert Eaker
Thomas Many

CD
inside

HOME

- [Professional Learning Communities](#)
- [A Celebration of Service](#)
- [Exemplary Publication Honorees](#)
- [New Faces, Familiar Places](#)
- [Virtual Virginia Beach e-Learning](#)
- [Training Information and Registration System](#)

The Professional Learning Framework for Student Success

Educators today are very familiar with Professional Learning Communities or PLCs. In fact, many VBCPS - are employing the concept of improvement. But let's face it. Just the word "professional learning communities" can be a bit intimidating. Let's take a closer look at what a PLC is.

What is a PLC?
Depending on whom you ask, there are many explanations such as "a group of teachers working together to improve student learning" or "a small group of teachers who meet regularly to discuss learning and teaching. The purpose is to improve student learning." Perhaps author/practitioner Richard DuFour's response to the question "How do you define a PLC?" he says: "To create a culture of learning rather than teaching, and to be accountable for results." [\[video\]](#)

What is the purpose of a PLC?
For DuFour, and many other leading educators, the purpose of a PLC is to provide educators a venue to improve learning. Instead of focusing on whether or not the unit or lesson has been properly planned, the focus must be on whether or not the students are learning. As we know, teachers can be total professionals, developing outstanding lessons. However, if students aren't learning, the lessons may have been good, but not effective. A PLC is not "Was it taught?" but rather "Did it work?"

What is the hallmark of a PLC?
The hallmark of a PLC is long-term results. Within a PLC framework, the focus is on assessing student work and, if necessary, providing additional help. In a PLC, the focus is on the student, so that students can learn at the same time, teachers collaboratively plan, teach, and assess. DuFour asserts that in a PLC, "responsibility" to make sure they are improving their classroom practice. Rather, they analyze through the results in terms of student learning, in teams, engaging in an ongoing cycle of learning. This process, in turn, leads to achievement." [\[video\]](#)

vbcps.com Collaborative Learning Culture Framework

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Home - Collaborative Learning Culture Framework - VBCPS Dynamic Video Library of Best Practices

VBCPS Dynamic Video Library of Best Practices

Virginia Beach City Public Schools, in support of the division's Strategic Goal, has created a dynamic video library of best practices to provide opportunities for teachers and school leaders to observe successful practices. These videos invite you into the classroom of Virginia Beach teachers working with our own students. The videos can be used by whole group faculties, by collaborative teams, or by individual teachers in conjunction with school, team, or individual goals. Facilitator's guides have been developed to accompany the videos.

Student Engagement Videos

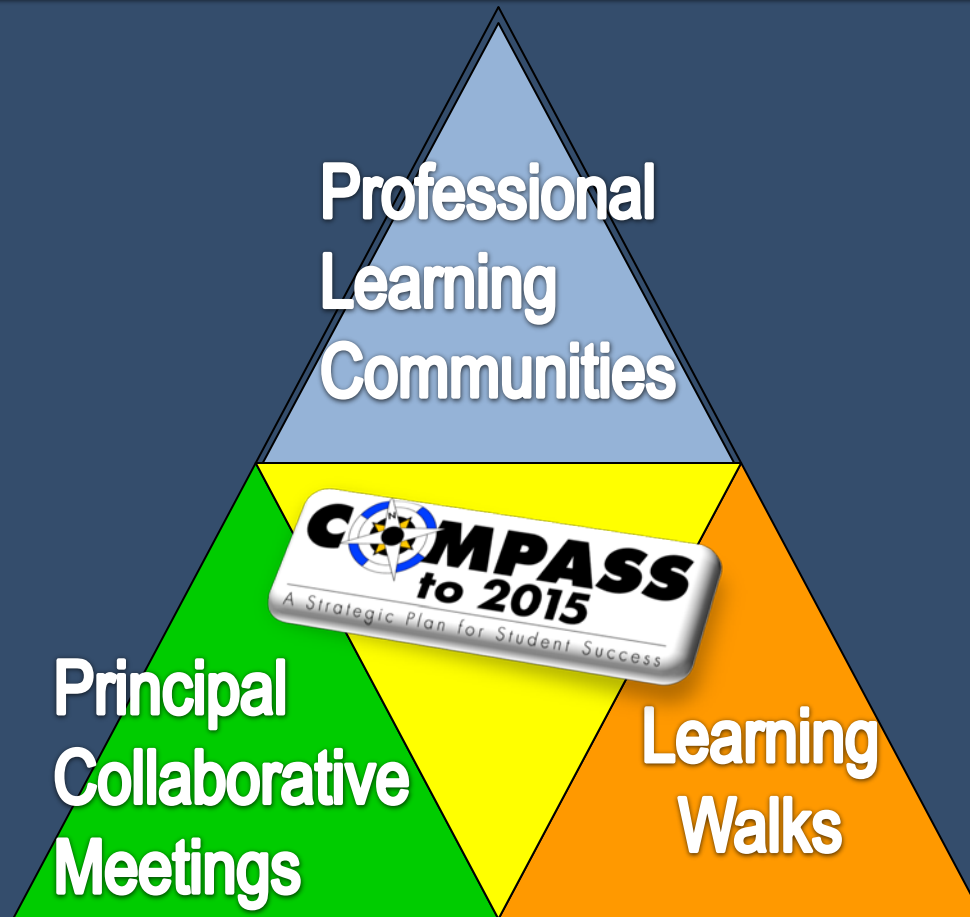
Meaningful Learning Chart

- Dr. Christine Caskey
VBCPS Dynamic Video Library of Best Practices Introduction
- Melissa Roland
Newtown Elementary School
Elementary Student Engagement Facilitator's Guide
- Chavez Pruitt
Independence Middle School
- Luisa Zirkle
Bayside High School
Health and Science Academy
- Sara D'Amato
Renaissance Academy

[View All Site Content](#)



Pyramid of Support





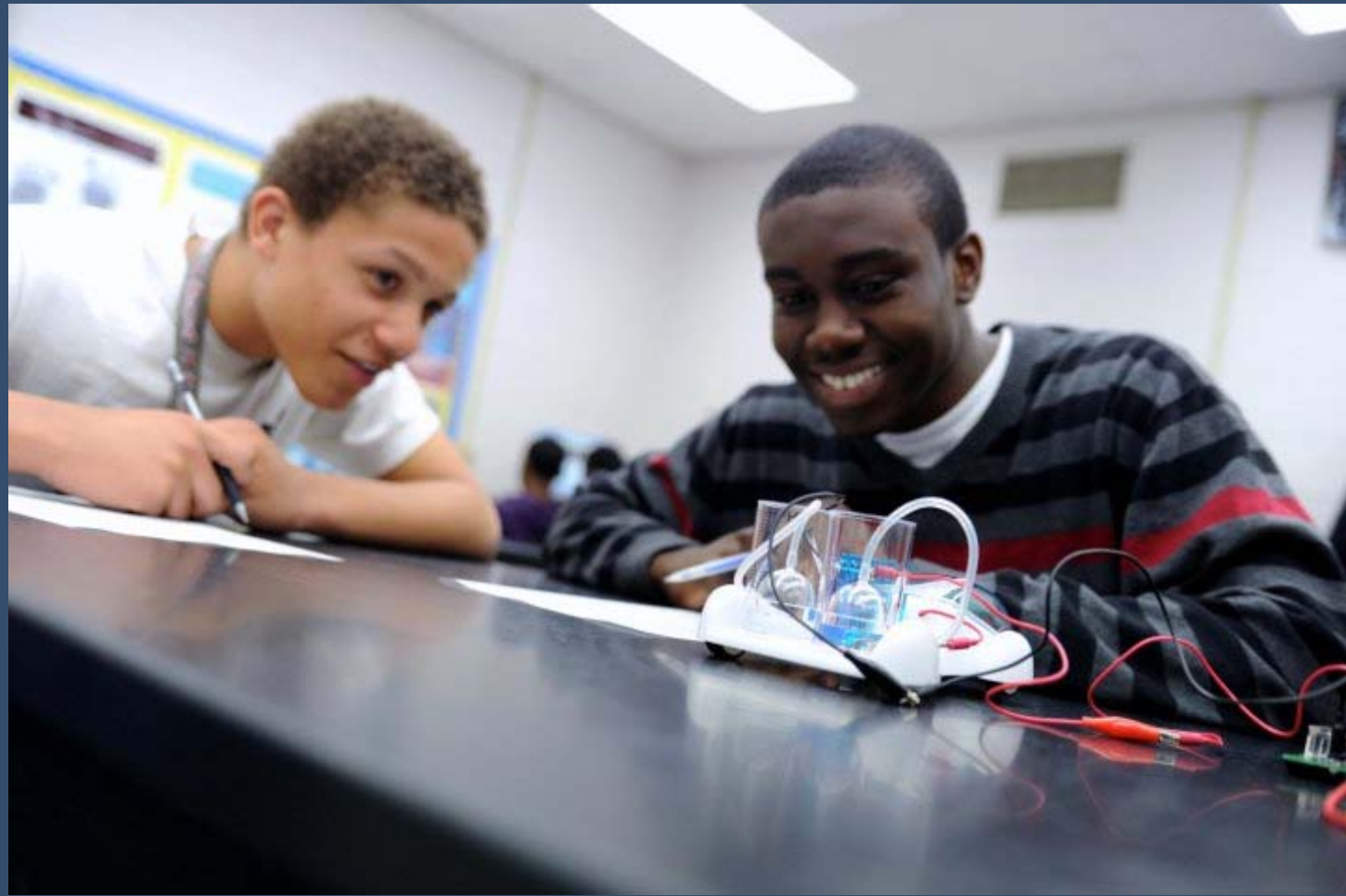
Learning Walks



[Click here to play video](#)



Learning Walks





An Important Conclusion:

All schools are



not the same !

Vanguard Schools



Focus Areas

Focus Area	Description
Instructional Technology Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on instructional technology integration• Access to additional technology resources• Additional technology training provided
Balanced Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on balanced assessment• Implementation of cross-curricular digital portfolios• Additional training in assessment literacy and the use of common assessments
Responsiveness to Student Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on responsiveness to individual students• Focus on equity and strategies to promote equity in schools• Access to training and resources to implement and document strategies to address individual student needs



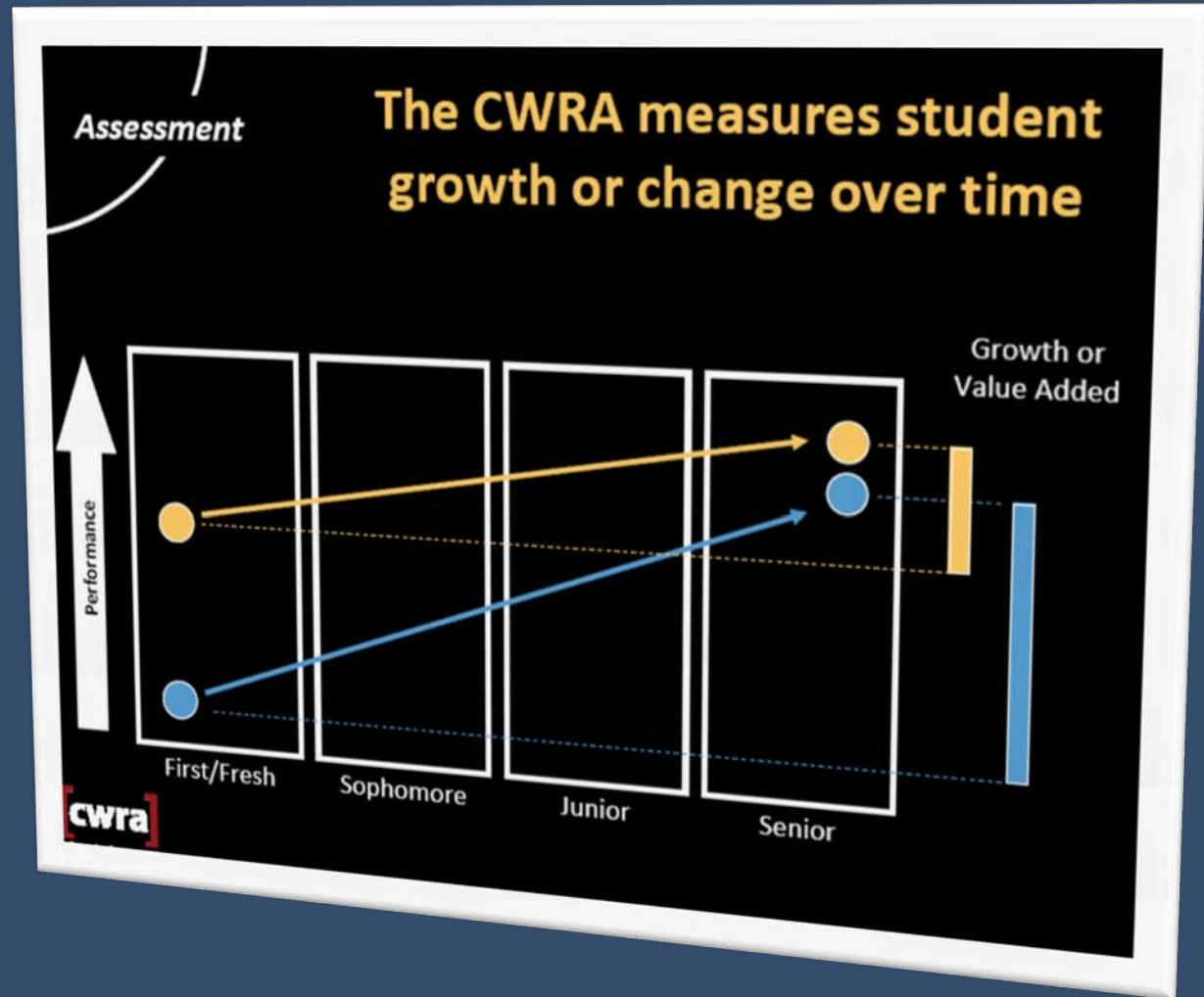
Balanced Assessment



“We know teachers will teach to the test. We want to create a test that’s worth teaching to.”

-Dr. Jared Cotton
Assistant Superintendent
Department of Research, Evaluation,
and Assessment

Balanced Assessment



[college&workreadinessassessment]

Balanced Assessment



The Virginian-Pilot
PilotOnline.com

hampton roads

OFF-CAMPUS LIVING SAVES MONEY; THAT IS WHY WE CHOOSE TO BELIEVE, ANYWAY

a moo way to shop
Owner takes his dairy store to the streets.

Charley

Shelley Loving-Ryder, Virginia's assistant superintendent for student assessment and school improvement, said adding long-form tasks to tests is "not where we're going." The state instead is working on online click-and-drag math problems and short-answer questions that could be graded by computer.

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Strategic Objective Four

VBCPS will create opportunities for parents, community and business leaders to fulfill their essential roles as actively engaged partners in supporting student achievement and outcomes for student success.

Engaging the Community



A commitment to provide all students with the necessary skills to thrive as 21st century learners, workers, and citizens.

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Parent Connection

Guest Columnist - October
Grier Crosby, Reading Specialist and Mom

The Million Dollar Question! How Do I Get My Kids to Love Reading?

GRIER CROSBY

This is truly one of those *Million Dollar Questions!* "How do I get my kids to love reading?" If I only had a nickel for every time a parent, friend, or family member has asked me this, I just might be a millionaire. Yes, I am a Reading Specialist and, yes, I do have two teenagers plus a toddler and, of course, I love to read. However, one of my sons reads anything and everything he can and the other one reads only when it's required. So far, the toddler loves books and reading in any form. I watch her becoming more and more literate every day. If you have younger children, you might be in that "read it again!" stage. I remember hearing it often from my boys and am actually taking time to enjoy it this time around. We read *Old MacDonald* and *Tickle Monster* every night. Some nights, she has a big brother reading to her!

I'm still not sure when or how it happened as I fed my boys the same foods and read them the same books. I did everything (most of the time) that the books and experts tell you to do to "raise readers". They both CAN read; it's just that only one truly loves it. Bottom line—they are people, not robots. I'm slowly coming to the realization that my children aren't going to love something just because I do. I wish there were some magical answer to ensure that all kids LOVE reading, but there isn't. The most important part that we, parents and teachers, often forget is that there is a difference in being a proficient reader and having a passion for it. On the flip side, we all know that when you have a passion for something, you are usually very good at it! That's why I haven't given up with my "not loving it" son. Through my professional experiences as well as my trial-and-error parenting experiences, I have found some things that may be helpful to those of you who find yourselves searching for an answer to *The Million Dollar Question*.

Make Reading Fun, Not Work

When I asked my sons what they thought would be the most helpful information to share with parents, they immediately said, "Don't make reading stuff at home like school stuff!" After thinking about it, I realized that the times when the teacher in me came out were the times I lost them. I recall being scolded many times during Book Night (family read aloud) when I started asking "teacher questions". They just wanted to listen and enjoy the story, so I found myself biting my tongue many nights. I also realized that sometimes my professional knowledge and desires for my children to be successful readers got in the way of me being their mom first and foremost. Here are some of the things we've done in our house to make reading fun!

- Institute *Book Night*: I don't know anyone who doesn't like to listen to someone read a good book aloud — I think my husband enjoys it the most. In school, it's one of the highlights of the day for students and teachers. It can be the same in your home. We started many years ago and take turns picking the book. In our busy lives, it's not always possible to do it every night. Start with a few nights and make it a priority. As kids are able, let them read parts aloud if they choose. Afterwards or the next day, begin an "I wonder..." conversation about the book you're reading together. I like to wonder the craziest things. It really gets them excited to read more.
- Write notes to your children daily. Be sure to write on their level and of a positive nature. Stuff handwritten riddles in their lunch boxes or backpacks. I'm famous for putting sticky notes on the bathroom mirror and pillow. Once kids have cell phones, you'll become a pro at texting notes. You write it, they'll read it. They just might not tell you they did.
- Turn on the Closed Caption option on the television. This is great for any age!
- Have kids write or help write chore lists, grocery lists, and daily routines.
- Stash magazines and books in your car seat pockets. They'll find them.
- Following a recipe to make dinner or a dessert reinforces reading and math skills. Plus it's a bonus having kids who can cook!



Engaging the Community



[Click here to play video](#)

Engaging the Community



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“Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead
Anthropologist



COMPASS TO 2015: A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Strategic Goal

Recognizing that the long range goal of the VBCPS is the successful preparation and graduation of every student, the near term goal is that by 2015, 95 percent or more of VBCPS students will graduate having mastered the skills that they need to succeed as 21st century learners, workers and citizens.



VBCPS Outcomes for Student Success

Our primary focus is on teaching and assessing those skills our students need to thrive as 21st century learners, workers and citizens. All VBCPS students will be:

- Academically proficient;
- Effective communicators and collaborators;
- Globally aware, independent, responsible learners and citizens; and
- Critical and creative thinkers, innovators and problem solvers.



Strategic Objectives

- 1) All teachers will engage every student in meaningful, authentic and rigorous work through the use of innovative instructional practices and supportive technologies that will motivate students to be self-directed and inquisitive learners.

Key Strategies	Key Measures
Identify the 21st century skills for VBCPS.	Student success in meeting 21 st century skills by using performance-based assessments
Integrate 21 st century skills into K-12 curriculum and instruction.	Augmented curricula addressing 21 st century skills
Define, develop, and promote effective teaching practices that maximize rigor and meaningful engagement for all students.	Instructional practices ensuring that daily instruction is rigorous and relevant for all learners
Integrate supportive technologies into the instructional program delivery.	Follow-up data from employers and colleges to assess graduates' college and work readiness of VBCPS graduates
	Success on state standards for attendance and promotion and a reduced drop-out rate
	Positive trends in discipline referrals and suspension rates
	Increased number of advanced diplomas



VBCPS MISSION

The Virginia Beach City Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, will empower every student to become a life-long learner who is a responsible, productive and engaged citizen within the global community.

VBCPS VISION

Every student is achieving at his or her maximum potential in an engaging, inspiring and challenging learning environment.

- 2) VBCPS will develop and implement a balanced assessment system that accurately reflects student demonstration and mastery of VBCPS outcomes for student success.

Key Strategies	Key Measures
Develop and/or adopt varied assessments, including performance-based assessments, to create a balanced assessment system that measures VBCPS outcomes for student success.	New authentic assessments
Provide training for teachers and administrators on developing, using, scoring, and interpreting varied types of assessments to create a balanced assessment system.	Evaluation, collection and dissemination of student work products
Monitor and evaluate VBCPS assessments to ensure quality and fidelity.	Student performance data
Develop a process to monitor and report student performance on VBCPS assessments.	Staff and student feedback and surveys
	Reliable teacher scoring methods and results

"By 2015, 95 percent or more of VBCPS students will graduate having mastered the skills that they need to succeed as 21st century learners, workers and citizens."



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Additional Resources



Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS)

www.vbschools.com

Compass to 2015

<http://www.vbschools.com/compass/index.asp>

Available Documents:

Compass to 2015: A Strategic Plan for Student Success (.pdf)

Continuum of Key Skills and FAQ (.pdf)

List of 21st Century Skills

Year End Progress Report to School Board

Contact: Jim Merrill, Superintendent

James.merrill@vbschools.com

Phone: (757) 263.1000