

# **Report on Visits to Schools with Notable Gains in Student Achievement**

**Virginia Board of Education:  
Committee on School and Division  
Accountability  
March 16, 2016**

# School Selection Criteria

**The schools visited were selected due to their exceptional increase in student achievement during the 2014-2015 school year, as indicated by student performance on the Standards of Learning assessments.**

# Summary of School Visits

- **5 Schools**
  - 1 High School
  - 1 Middle School
  - 3 Elementary Schools
- **47 Staff Interviews**
  - 5 Principals
  - 4 Assistant Principals
    - 1 School Test Coordinator
  - 39 Teachers
    - 1 School Test Coordinator

# School Leadership

- **High Expectations**
- **Clear Vision**
  - Paradigm shift in the culture of the school
- **Willingness to make difficult decisions**
- **Full Implementation of Professional Learning Communities**
- **Focused effort to connect with parents and the community**

# Teacher Development

- **Lesson Plans**
  - Focus on teaching the content
  - Planning for remediation
- **Instruction and assessment developed at the appropriate cognitive level and level of rigor**
- **Frequent observations with specific descriptive feedback to improve instruction**
- **Professional Learning Communities**
- **Targeted Professional Development**

# Purposeful Use of Data

- **Focused on targeting student needs**
  - Constant monitoring of student performance
  - Timely review of student performance data
  - Remediation plans informed by recent and relevant data

# Master Schedule Development

- **Specific schedule to target the needs of the overall student body**
  - Remediation built into the school day
- **Departmentalization at the elementary school level**
  - Teacher placement based on data

# Curriculum and Instruction

- **Flexibility to adjust and change**
- **Additional instructional supports – lead turn-around partner, content coaches, specialists, etc.**
- **Implementation of specific technology (software/hardware) that provided meaningful data to support instruction and evaluation of student performance**



# Next Steps