

# ISLE OF WIGHT SCHOOLS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **IWCS On-Time Graduation Rates**

Isle of Wight County Schools earned an on-time graduation rate of nearly 84 percent (83.61%) for the Class of 2009, according to data released by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) today. Across the state, the on-time graduation rate is 83.2 percent.

The Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate is a cohort graduation rate that indicates the percentage of students who earn a Virginia Board of Education-approved diploma within four years of entering ninth grade for the first time. It is calculated using a formula endorsed in a 2005 compact signed by the nation's governors and subsequently adopted by the Virginia General Assembly and Board of Education.

This is the second year the VDOE has reported the graduation rate using this calculation. In 2008, the On-Time Graduation Rate for Isle of Wight County Schools was 80.43 percent.

"We are pleased by the progress our students and teachers are making," said Dr. Michael McPherson, Superintendent of Schools. "The gains in our graduation rates reflect the hard work demonstrated each and every day by our dedicated staff."

Students who are still in school, earned a GED, or a certificate of completion are not included in the on-time graduation rate calculation.

"Some students may need additional time to earn their diploma," Dr. McPherson stated. "Our goal is to work with every child, every day, to give them the opportunities to succeed."

Isle of Wight County Schools' 2009 cohort included 476 students at Smithfield High School and Windsor High School.

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