

# West Point schools recognized for academic achievement

By **Kassie Simmons**

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**W**est Point's elementary, middle and high schools are among the 349 schools receiving **2018 Virginia Index of Performance awards** for advanced learning and achievement, as announced by Gov. Ralph Northam.

“The teachers, principals and support staff in these schools share a commitment to academic excellence and meeting the needs of every learner,” said Northam. “I congratulate our educators, school administrators and the students of these great schools for achieving the commonwealth’s highest award for schoolwide excellence.”

West Point High School was awarded the Board of Education Excellence Award.

Principal Mark Dorsey took to Twitter to congratulate his school on the achievement and recognition.

“We congratulate the students, faculty and staff, and parents of West Point High School for again receiving the Virginia Board of Education Excellence Award,” Dorsey said. “We are especially proud that we have been awarded the Board of Education or the Governor's Award every year since 2009.”

West Point's elementary and middle schools received the Board of Education Distinguished Achievement Award.

West Point Public Schools was one of 15 divisions out of the 132 school divisions in the state recognized for the Distinguished Achievement award.

“West Point Public Schools is focused on providing a well rounded educational experience for all of our students,” said Superintendent Laura Abel. “In West Point Public Schools, a commitment to excellence is truly more than just a slogan.”

Over 100 other schools received the Excellence Award, the second-highest honor in the VIP program. Recipients met all state and federal accountability benchmarks and made significant progress toward goals for increased student achievement and expanded educational opportunities set by the board.

“The criteria for these awards provide short-term and long-term goals for principals, superintendents and

communities as they develop the improvement plans all schools must have under the Board of Education's new accreditation standards," said Superintendent of Public Instruction James F. Lane.

The Distinguished Achievement Award was earned by 202 schools that met all state and federal benchmarks and made progress toward the goals of the Governor and the Board of Education.

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