



**For Immediate Release
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ALL SIX SALEM SCHOOLS EARN PRESTIGIOUS STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

*ANDREW LEWIS GARNER'S HIGHEST
POSSIBLE HONOR FROM GOV. Kaine*

Every school in the Salem School Division received congratulations today as Gov. Tim Kaine and the Virginia Board of Education honored the “best of the best” amongst Virginia’s public schools.

Andrew Lewis Middle School, Salem’s sole middle school with 955 students in grades 6 through 8, is one of just 153 Virginia public schools to earn the Governor’s Award for Educational Excellence. This prestigious award is the highest honor given in the Board of Education’s incentive program for schools and school divisions known as the VIP – Virginia Index for Performance.

To qualify for this honor the state says a school must - “Meet all state and federal achievement benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and meet Governor Kaine’s goals for achievement in elementary reading; enrollment in Algebra I by grade 8; enrollment in college-level courses; attainment of advanced diplomas and career and industry certifications...”

Salem’s four elementary schools - East Salem Elementary, G.W. Carver Elementary, South Salem Elementary and West Salem Elementary - earned the Board of Education’s Excellence award. Only 15 School divisions and 288 schools across the Commonwealth reached this second-tier level of achievement.

“These are definitely well-deserved recognitions for our students, our teachers and the members of our community who support our ‘*Children First – Every Child, Every Day*’ way of doing of business in Salem,” says School Superintendent, Dr. Alan Seibert.

The Salem School Division, as a whole, also earned the state’s VIP Excellence Award for the third straight year and Salem High School was awarded the 2010 Board of Education Competence to Excellence Award.

“I can’t begin to express how proud I am of the teachers and staff members in Salem, who continue to perform at a high level despite the constant cuts from the state,” says Seibert. “Hopefully, the General Assembly will take note of these outstanding achievements in the coming weeks as legislators continue to consider ways to balance the budget and further reduce funding for education.”

Additional Information can be found on the Governor’s website at www.governor.virginia.gov or on the Virginia Department of Education site at www.doe.virginia.gov

SALEM SCHOOL DIVISION VIP AWARDS:

2010 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence:

Andrew Lewis Middle School

2010 Board of Education Excellence Award:

Salem City School Division

East Salem Elementary, G.W. Carver Elementary, South Salem Elementary, West Salem Elementary

2010 Board of Education Competence to Excellence Award:

Salem High School

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