



FAX ALERT

For Immediate Release

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HURRAH FOR ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS! WHO SAYS STANDARDS DON'T WORK?

June 25, 1999 In 1995 the state of Virginia was the first in the US to adopt rigorous standards for grades across the board in their public schools. In the Spring of 1998, the first testing for the Standards of Learning (SOL) were given to 3rd, 5th, 8th and high school students. Preliminary results were discouraging.

The Alexandria school district is the first to announce the results of the SOL testing this year. With one year under their belts, students in 3rd, 5th and 8th grades showed increased ranging from 3 % to 18% in math, English, history, science, and computer technology. Virginia will release statewide results in late July.

Their scores show that the adoption of rigorous standards, with consequences, (schools will lose their accreditation if their scores don't reach established percentages by 2007), is an important ingredient to improve education.

Educational experts view the Virginia's SOL as the model program for improvement of US schools. Even though the Alexandria school district did not yet achieve the benchmarks set for 2007, they are well on their way. Congratulations, students, teachers, parents, principles and all those who worked hard to bring this improvement about.

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