



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Michael Campbell  
Coordinator of Communications and Public Relations  
Phone: 804-733-2700  
Email: mcampbell@pgs.k12.va.us

**L.L. Beazley Elementary, South Elementary Honored By  
Board of Education for Exceptional Student Achievement**

*Second Consecutive Year Prince George County Public Schools Recognized  
During VDOE's Exemplar Performance School Awards*

PRINCE GEORGE, Va. - Prince George County Public Schools is happy to announce L.L. Beazley Elementary and South Elementary have received the 2020 Board of Education Highest Achievement Award in recognition of each schools' high level of student success during the 2019-2020 school year.

Beazley Elementary and South Elementary were among 71 schools across nearly 40 communities in Virginia to be recognized with a Board of Education Highest Achievement Award, part of the Virginia Department of Education's Exemplar Performance School Awards.

"Faculty, staff, and students in all of our schools strive to ensure that every student has opportunities for personalized learning and continuous improvement of academic growth," **Prince George County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Lisa Pennycuff said.** "We are proud to recognize L.L. Beazley Elementary and South Elementary on this great accomplishment of earning the Board of Education's Highest Achievement Award as part of the Virginia Department of Education's Exemplar Performance School Awards."

To qualify for the award, schools had to be "Accredited" during the 2019-2020 school year (based on performance data from 2018-2019) and demonstrate high levels of success across all of school quality indicators, including success in narrowing achievement gaps.

In addition, schools had to meet the Level One accreditation benchmark in the areas of reading, mathematics, and science based on the student pass rate, not including growth or progress on assessments taken by English language learners. Schools must also have had no more than a five percent achievement

gap, for schools with two student groups, or a 10 percent gap, for schools with three or more student groups, between the lowest-performing group and all other students in the school.

Finally, schools must have achieved Level One accreditation on all other applicable school quality indicators.

“The criteria for the exemplar performance awards are designed to incentivize schools to make the changes in instruction, policy, support services and practice required to make progress toward meeting the Board of Education’s objective of achieving equity in opportunities and outcomes for all students,” **Board of Education President Daniel A. Gecker said**. “The increase in the number of awards earned this year is evidence of the progress our schools were making toward this objective before the pandemic forced the closure of schools in March.”

“I congratulate the principals, teachers, support professionals and students of all of these schools and divisions for the achievement, innovations and hard work recognized by these awards,” **Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane said**. “I believe the success of these schools and school divisions will inspire learning communities across the commonwealth as they plan for the reopening of school and prepare to meet the instructional and social-emotional needs of students — especially students most impacted by the closure this spring.”

In total, the Virginia Department of Education recognized 447 schools as part of the 2020 Exemplar Performance School Awards. In 2019, the first year of the exemplar performance program, 235 schools earned awards.

This is the second year PGPCS has been honored as part of the VDOE’s Exemplar Performance School Awards. William A. Walton Elementary received the Board of Education Continuous Improvement Award in 2019.

**[LINK: Board of Education Announces 2020 Exemplar Performance School Awards](#)**