

**Virginia State Conference NAACP**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **VIRGINIA NAACP OPPOSED TO MOVING VIRGINIA EDUCATION BACKWARDS**

The Virginia State Conference of the NAACP is opposed to the VA Department of Education's recent announcement of standards that set low expectations for the state's Latino and African-American children.

The Department of Education's proposal to lower annual learning goals for students of color, to 52% proficiency for Latinos and 48% proficient among African American students, not only lowers the students' expectation, but places them on a destructive direct path towards failure.

"Lowering expectations is a detriment to any child's educational progress and will have a negative impact on the lives of these children," said Rovenia Vaughan, acting state education chairperson for Virginia. "Not since Brown vs. the Board of Education have such blatant attempts been made to deny children the fundamental right to education."

Any stated plan to deliver a separate and inferior education to a group of children based on their race, language, social economic status or disability, is nothing less than a violation of civil rights. We believe these efforts to be cruel and find the use of such discriminatory practices unacceptable.

We are opposed to changes designed to help any school system meet state goals by leaving large groups of children behind. We are deeply concerned when performance standards are not equal across the board. As taxpayers, we cannot feel confident that the state is investing our dollars well in our children when it only anticipates half of them will meet minimum benchmarks.

Instead of planning for more than half of some groups to fail, the state and school districts must identify those schools needing assistance and provide resources in order to guarantee a fair and equitable educational opportunity for all its children.

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