

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<u>Achieving the Dream</u>	Yes	Five states (Florida, New Mexico, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia) with large minority and low-income populations have been selected for this Lumina-funded project. The state has a planning grant. The program that emerges will be data-based and may include pathway options.	Yes	Grants are provided to states with high populations of the following student groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income students • Racial and ethnic minority students 	Yes	State plan is being developed with grant funding.
<u>Advanced Placement (AP)</u>	Yes	Beginning in the Fall of 2004, the VA Virtual AP School offers AP courses via satellite and Internet to every public school student. Satellite courses delivered through the <u>Virginia Satellite Educational Network (VSEN)</u> .	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income students • Rural students 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VA Department of Education reimburses school divisions for tuition and fees for seniors who sign <u>Early College Scholars Agreements</u>, providing students take the exams associated with the AP courses offered by the Virtual AP School. • All courses offered via satellite are tuition-free for all public school students. • HB 2553 (1999) require districts to provide information to families regarding availability, requirements, and financial aid. • A USDE grant is used for expanded access. Policy regulating graduation requirements references AP. Every high school must offer college-level classes.
<u>Bridge Partnership</u>	Yes	This partnership is working with high schools and colleges to develop locally appropriate pathways. It is funded by the Lumina Foundation.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income students • Racial and ethnic minority students 	No	
Bridge Programs	No		No		No	

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<u>College Level Exam Program (CLEP)</u>	Yes	May substitute for the high school exit exam requirement	No		No	
<u>Commonwealth College Course Collaborative</u>	Yes	High school students may earn at least 12 college credits through AP, IB or dual enrollment. All schools (with two exceptions) offer college level classes in at least four areas. All public and private colleges have agreed to accept the credit.	No		Yes	All schools must provide college level learning opportunities. There is also a state template for Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways. Funding is provided for tuition.
<u>Distance Learning/ Virtual School</u>	Yes	Courses and staff development programs offered via satellite, Internet, and recorded media. Satellite courses delivered through the <u>Virginia Satellite Educational Network (VSEN)</u> since 1983. Statewide <u>Net.Work.Virginia</u> offers educational and informational resources for K-12 and higher education institutions. Supports customizable teaching and learning activities.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income students • Rural students 	Yes	Policy and funding are the same as for dual enrollment. Fees are paid for Early College Scholars enrolling in the Virtual AP School.
<u>Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment</u>	Yes	Senior Year Plus initiative allows high school seniors to complete high school requirements while concurrently earning at least 15 hours of transferable college credit. Students must meet eligibility requirements and sign agreement to participate. Students would be noted in college applications as Early College Scholars.	Yes	For rural students, depending on the priorities of local colleges	Yes	The strategic plan titled “Dateline 2009” calls for tripling the number of students in dual credit courses. Both FTE and ADA funding are provided; every high school must offer college level classes. The state has a Dual Enrollment plan in force. (<u>Supts. Memo #73, dated April 1, 2005</u>).
<u>Early or Middle College High Schools</u>	Yes	Five <u>Middle Colleges</u> recently opened oriented to career preparation.	Yes	18-24 year old high school drop-outs	Yes	State funding

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<p>Education for a Lifetime- includes <u>Pathways to Industry Certification</u> and the <u>Senior Year Plus</u> initiative</p>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathways to Industry certification targets high school juniors who are not college bound. It helps them earn an industry certification within one year after high school graduation. • “Senior Year Plus” uses dual enrollment, AP and IB to accelerate education. Students sign up to graduate with 15 college credits completed by the end of high school. • Goal is for 10-20% of high school seniors to participate. 	No		Yes	State policy and funding
<p><u>GED in College Settings</u></p>	Yes	<p>Germanna Community College and New River Community College have two GED testing centers. Southside Community College and Eastern Shore Community College offer GED instructional programs.</p>	Yes		Yes	<p>“Race to the GED” is meant to double the number of Virginians passing the GED test by December 31, 2005.</p>
<p>International Baccalaureate (IB)</p>	Yes	<p>35 high schools and three independent schools offer IB, predominantly located in the Northern Virginia area.</p>	Yes	Low-income students	Yes	<p>Policy on graduation requirements references IB. HB 2553 (1999) require districts to provide information to families regarding availability, requirements, and financial aid.</p>
<p><u>Tech Prep</u></p>	Yes	<p>Virginia’s secondary school divisions and community colleges have come together to form 23 consortia whose mission is to plan, develop, and implement Tech Prep programs of study. Many consortia have local businesses, industries, and community organizations represented in their membership.</p>	No		Yes	Federal Perkins funding



Summary of academic pathways:

Virginia has many of the pathways that are prevalent in the US as well as several that are unique to the state. The state is particularly concerned with providing students with multiple options. The intent is to provide more access to college for Virginia students and more opportunities for degree completion. Dual credit is specifically addressed in the state strategic plan for its community college system. The Governor strongly supports Fasttrack to College and the Pathways to Industry Certification.

Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:

- Achieving the Dream
• Bridge Partnerships
• Commonwealth College Course Collaborative (CCCC)
• Education for a Lifetime, including Pathways to Industry Certification and Senior Year Plus

Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:

Special efforts to reach underserved students are led by state and national level initiatives aimed at improving educational opportunities for racial and ethnic minorities and low-income students.

Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

Recent legislation requires that all schools provide college level learning opportunities. There is also a state template for Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways. Funding is provided for tuition of high school students in college courses. A number of initiatives are supported by the Governor's office, and the Governor is actively supporting improved educational opportunities.

Lessons learned by state officials:

- Opportunities for involvement depend on local arrangements between schools and local postsecondary institutions.
• Pathways may reinforce one another. There is a close link between the Early College Scholars, Virtual AP, CCCC, and boosting dual enrollment and AP.
• Statewide agreements provide standardization on articulation agreements, which applies to 2- and 4-year postsecondary articulation.

Programs recommended by state officials:

Table with 5 columns: Pathways, Educational Institution, Contact person, E-mail, Phone. Rows include High school-college articulation, Dual credit/enrollment at Tidewater and Southside Virginia Community Colleges, and Dual credit/enrollment at Rappahanock Community College.



VIRGINIA

State Profile

State official's contact information:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
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(Prepared by Elisabeth Barnett and Eunyoung Kim/ Updated January, 2006/ *State officials reviewed this state profile.)