



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

October 23, 2001

Dear Principals:

Over the last ten days, members of my administration traveled throughout the Commonwealth congratulating many of you, along with your teachers and students, for your outstanding performance on the recent Standards of Learning tests. With 731 schools achieving full accreditation and another 558 being near full accreditation, I regret that it is not possible for me to personally congratulate the staff and students of these schools. Those schools that did not receive personal visits will soon be receiving certificates of recognition in the mail.

One of the most striking observations that has been brought to my attention as a result of these recent school visits is the enthusiastic response in our Virginia schools to the request of President George W. Bush regarding the needs of the children of Afghanistan. I agree with the President that, as we bring to justice those responsible for the ongoing terrorist attacks, we must also offer aid to the families and children of those who live under the repressive Taliban regime. The humanitarian crisis they face is of unparalleled proportion. Ten million innocent children are being impacted – but the efforts of school children throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia will help to ease their suffering.

I support President Bush in this effort and I ask that you take time out of the school day to express my thanks to the students who contributed as well as the teachers who helped to organize this effort to protect and care for the innocent.

Thank you for your support.

Very truly yours,
James S. Gilmore, III
Governor of Virginia

JSG III/cec