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## **No-Interest Bonds Jump Start School Construction Projects** *Projects Include Replacement of Collapsed Blacksburg High School*

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) announced today the allocation of \$229,551,000 in Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) to fully or partially fund 41 new construction, renovation and expansion projects in 33 school divisions.

The allocations include \$15 million for construction of a new Blacksburg High School in Montgomery County to replace the school that has been closed since February 13, 2010, due to a roof collapse attributed to structural deficiencies and heavy snow.

“These bonds will be put to good use in school divisions across the state to finance much-needed new construction — and renovations and repairs to existing public schools and facilities,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Patricia I. Wright. “These allocations will allow urgent and long-delayed projects to move forward and improve the learning and working environments for thousands of students, educators and other school division employees.”

The application process gave priority to consolidation projects, projects eliminating overcrowding, projects in economically stressed localities, projects replacing facilities more than 35 years old, projects creating school-wide, high-speed networks, and projects in divisions not receiving prior QSCB allocations. Priority was also given to projects related to health and safety and projects on the July 2010 first-priority waiting list for literary fund loans.

Awards were capped at \$15 million per division. Projects receiving QSCB allocations, by division, are:

- Albemarle County — addition to Mary Carr Greer Elementary, \$2 million
- Appomattox County — expansion and renovation of Appomattox Primary, \$10 million
- Augusta County — expansion and renovation of Wilson Elementary, \$7.5 million
- Bland County — construction of new Bland High and renovations at Bland Elementary, Rocky Gap Elementary and Rocky Gap High, \$11.6 million
- Bristol — construction of an ADA-compliant education/central office facility, \$3 million
- Buckingham County — expansion and renovation of Dillwyn Elementary and renovation of Dillwyn Lower Elementary, \$10 million
- Buena Vista — renovation of Parry McCluer Middle, \$510,000
- Caroline County — expansion and renovation of Bowling Green Primary, \$6 million
- Carroll County — expansion and renovation of Carroll County Intermediate and Carroll County High, \$15 million
- Charlotte County — renovation of Randolph Henry High, \$1.5 million
- Chesapeake — expansion and renovation of Indian River High, \$5 million
- Dickenson County — construction of new consolidated middle/high school, \$10 million
- Essex County — expansion and renovation of Essex High, \$10 million
- Falls Church — expansion and renovation of Thomas Jefferson Elementary, \$3 million
- Fauquier County — expansion and renovation of Fauquier High, \$10 million

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- Frederick County — new pupil transportation facility, \$7 million
- Gloucester County — purchase land for new middle school site, \$500,000
- Henry County — HVAC upgrade at Magna Vista High; roof replacement at John Redd Smith Elementary and Sanville Elementary, \$3.4 million
- Hopewell — expansion and renovation of Hopewell High, \$5 million
- Isle of Wight County — construction of new Windsor Middle, \$7.5 million
- King George County — renovation of Potomac Elementary, \$5 million
- Loudoun County — construction of new Leesburg-area elementary school, \$5 million
- Lunenburg County — expansion and renovation of Central High, \$5 million
- Martinsville — expansion of Martinsville High, \$10.5 million
- Montgomery County — construction of new Blacksburg High, \$15 million
- Norfolk — construction of new Crossroads Elementary, \$7.5 million
- Richmond — expansion and renovation of Martin Luther King Jr. Middle, \$7.5 million
- Richmond County — conversion and renovation of existing high school building as new Richmond County Intermediate, \$5 million
- Rockbridge County — expansion and renovation of Maury River Middle, \$7.5 million
- Smyth County — construction of new elementary school and renovation of Smyth-Marion Primary, \$9.5 million
- Suffolk — construction of new elementary school, \$7.5 million
- Williamsburg-James City County — expansion of Jamestown High, \$1 million
- Wise County — construction of new consolidated high school, \$15 million

In addition to the \$229,551,000 in project allocations listed above, Norfolk and Richmond City are provided dedicated allocations of \$15.1 million and \$15 million, respectively, based on a federal provision that provides targeted allocations to school districts with the largest numbers of school-age children in poverty.

QSCBs are issued by the Virginia Public School Authority on behalf of school divisions and localities. Divisions and localities are responsible for repayment of the principal but receive direct federal subsidies to offset interest payments on the bonds. The QSCB program does not affect the commonwealth's debt capacity. The allocations announced today are preliminary until the eligibility of each recipient is formally certified.

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