



Virginia Association of School Superintendents

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STEVEN R. STAPLES NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

Charlottesville, Virginia (April 20, 2012) – Dr. Steven R. Staples has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS). In announcing his appointment by the VASS Board of Directors, VASS President Pam Moran said that, “Dr. Staples is a visionary leader, who has been influential in his advocacy for public education in Virginia as a former President of VASS, the 1997 Virginia Superintendent of the Year, and as a faculty member of The College of William and Mary School of Education.” She continued, “Steve’s influence will be magnified in his new role as Executive Director of VASS where he will be able to work with the state’s key educational leaders and policymakers to improve education for the Commonwealth’s students.”

Dr. Staples has a long history of public education service in Virginia on every level. He began his career as a teacher in 1976 where he worked in Prince George County Schools until 1985 as an elementary, middle and high school teacher and as a high school assistant principal. From 1985 to 1988 he was the principal of Hopewell High School after which he was appointed assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in Montgomery County, where he worked for three years.

His major term of public education service occurred in York County. As superintendent of York County Public Schools from 1991 to 2008, Dr. Staples led his 13,000 student member school district in its growth and improvement of student achievement. During his seventeen years as superintendent he received Virginia’s highest award for the superintendency. When he was recognized for the Annual Superintendent of the Year Award, VASS President Arthur Gosling said that he represented a new generation of school superintendents who were strongly focused on student academic achievement, staff development, and communication between schools and their communities.

As VASS Legislative Co-Chair and President, Dr. Staples continued to provide public education leadership at the state level until 2008 when he was appointed as a faculty member at the College of William and Mary School of Education. During the last four years at William and Mary, he has contributed to public education by fostering the development of a new generation of education leaders.

Dr. Staples will begin his new role as Executive Director of VASS on July 1, 2012.

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