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## NEWS

October 23, 2012 – Lee High School Increases Graduation Rate

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### LEE HIGH SCHOOL INCREASES GRADUATION RATE

R. E. Lee High School has seen a steady increase in the percentage of graduates over the past four years, as measured by Virginia's on-time graduation rate. This rate is used to calculate the percentage of students graduating from high school with a Virginia-recognized diploma, including Advanced Studies diplomas, Standard diplomas, Modified-Standard diplomas, and Special diplomas. Students are expected to graduate from high school within four years, but the on-time graduation rate provides allowances for special education and limited proficient students who need additional time to graduate. The calculation of the on-time graduation rate is different from other graduation calculations, including the federal graduation indicator (which only considers advanced studies or standard diplomas) and the state graduation completion index (which assigns different point values for graduates and program completers).

In 2012, 85% of students who entered Lee High in the ninth grade and transferred into Lee High during high school graduated with a diploma. This percentage is an 8% increase from the previous four-year graduation rate. Of all of the diplomas that were issued for 2012 Lee High School graduates, 56% of them were advanced studies diplomas.

R. E. Lee High School had a dropout rate of 8% for the 2012 student cohort, a significant decrease from the previous year's rate of 14%. A dropout is considered a student who does not return for education and does not receive any alternate form of completion, such as a GED.

"An increased number of graduates is something that we all can celebrate - as both a school system and a community. The success of Lee High school graduates begins early as we ensure that students have the academic skills and the confidence necessary to achieve their goals," remarks Dr. Linda Reviea, Superintendent of Staunton City Schools.

Stephanie Haskins, Director of Assessment and School Improvement adds, "Graduation is a real milestone in the lives of students, as it leads them to their career and college pathways. Through working closely with students and families, presenting challenging and rigorous curriculum, and developing academic and career plans, we will continue to increase our graduation rate."