



P. O. Box 900 • 116 W. Beverley Street
Staunton, Virginia 24402-0900
Phone 540-332-3920 • Fax 540-332-3924
www.staunton.k12.va.us

NEWS

October 7, 2013 – Lee High School Increases Graduation Rate

Contact: Mrs. Stephanie Haskins
332-3920 Fax: 332-3924
shaskins@staunton.k12.va.us

LEE HIGH SCHOOL INCREASES GRADUATION RATE

R. E. Lee High School has seen a steady increase in the percentage of graduates over the past five 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).

A cohort consists of students who enter high school in the ninth grade or transfer into high school during grades 9-12. Lee High's 2013 graduating cohort had a total of 87% of students graduating with a diploma. This on-time graduation rate is a 10 percentage points increase over the past five years. The graduating percentage is similar across both gender and race:

- Female: 88%
- Male: 87%
- Black: 88%
- White: 89%

R. E. Lee High School had a dropout rate of 6% for the 2013 graduating cohort, a significant decrease from the previous five year 2009 rate of 13%. A dropout is defined as a student who does not return for education and does not receive any alternate form of completion, such as a GED.

"High school graduates have a better employment rate and a significantly higher level of income than non-graduates, impacting both the individual and the community. We are proud of the increased number of graduates and will continue our focus on establishing strong early foundations and providing an ongoing challenging education that allows students to achieve their goals," states Dr. Linda Reviea, Superintendent of Staunton City Schools.

Dr. Mark Rowicki, Principal of R. E. Lee High School comments, "Everyone is working hard to provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills both for graduation and life beyond graduation, including multiple college and career pathways. The improved graduation rate reflects our commitment to help every student succeed."