

INSTRUCTION

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Purpose of the Governor's Schools

Governor's Schools give gifted students academic and visual and performing arts opportunities beyond those normally available in the students' home schools. Students are able to focus on a specific area of intellectual or artistic strength and interest and to study in a way that best suits the gifted learner's needs. Each program stresses non-traditional teaching and learning techniques. For example, small-group instruction, hands-on-experiences, research, field studies, or realistic or artistic productions are major elements in the instructional design at all schools. Students become scientists, writers, artists, and performers as they work with professional mentors and instructors. Every effort is made to tailor learning to needs of the community of learners that compose the program.

The Virginia Governor's School Program has been designed to assist divisions as they meet the needs of a small population of students whose learning levels are remarkably different from their age-level peers. The foundation of the Virginia Governor's School Program centers on best practices in the field of gifted education and the presentation of advanced content to able learners.

History of the Governor's School

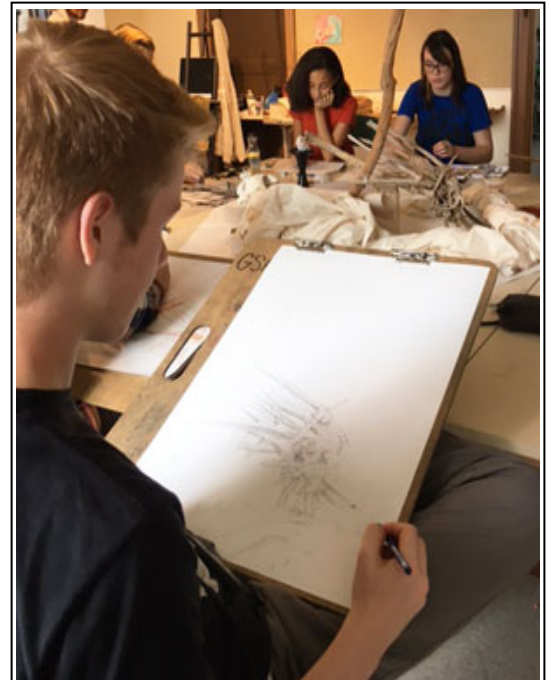
The Virginia Governor's School Program began in 1973 when Governor Linwood Holton established the first summer residential programs for 400 gifted students from across the commonwealth. From its beginnings, with three summer schools in 1973, the program has expanded to more than 40 sites throughout the commonwealth.

Virginia Governor's Schools provide some of the state's most able students academically and artistically challenging programs beyond those offered in their home schools. With the support of the Virginia Board of Education and the General Assembly, the Governor's Schools presently include summer residential, summer regional, and academic-year programs serving more than 7,500 gifted students from all parts of the commonwealth.

The years since 1973 have brought refinement and change to the programs, yet one aspect, the student, has remained constant. Each year, hundreds of outstanding young people come to one of the different Governor's Schools in search of knowledge and eager to accept the challenge of acquiring advanced skills. Each group makes the Governor's School

Governor's School Showcase

GSA DRAWING CLASS



The visual arts department at The Governor's School for the Arts emphasizes

the importance of drawing from observation... also called drawing from life. These students are gathered around a still life set up by the instructor during their three-hour Friday drawing studio class. Their drawings must be rendered with good composition, a range of value, contrast, and attention to detail using mark-making techniques to add texture.

See more from the [Governor's School Showcase](#)

programs a special experience by creating a community of learners who demonstrate their remarkable talents in diverse and meaningful ways.

Three types of Governor's Schools provide appropriate learning endeavors for gifted students throughout the commonwealth: Academic-Year Governor's Schools (AYGS), Summer Residential Governor's Schools (SRsGS) and the Summer Regional Governor's Schools (SRgGS).

- [Academic-Year Governor's Schools](#)
- [Summer Residential Governor's Schools](#)
- [Summer Regional Governor's Schools](#)

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[Virginia School Directories](#)



About VDOE

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Related Websites

- [U.S. Department of Education: Student Loans](#)
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- [Virginia's Community Colleges](#)
- [State Council of Higher Education for Virginia](#)

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