

K-12 Private Education: Southside Hampton Roads



K-12 PRIVATE EDUCATION: SOUTHSIDE HAMPTON ROADS

This chapter is the second in a two-part look at K-12 private education in Hampton Roads. In the 2011 State of the Region report, we presented brief portraits of 35 independent schools on the Hampton Roads Peninsula. This year we turn our attention to the region's Southside and the 86 independent institutions that educate K-12 students in Chesapeake, Franklin, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and Isle of Wight County. We begin by taking a closer look at the state policies that guide and regulate our region's independent schools.

The Commonwealth of Virginia's relationship to the independent schools within its boundaries was one of several topics of vigorous debate at this year's General Assembly. A proposal to award tax credits to individuals or businesses that fund private school scholarships for low- and middle-income students ultimately passed in both the House of Delegates and the Senate on largely party-line votes. Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell applauded the legislation as a "common-sense measure that will spur private support in educating the leaders of tomorrow,"¹ while Democratic legislators questioned the law's constitutionality and warned that it will decrease the overall pool of state funds available for public education.

Let's look at how this new measure, which is slated to take effect in 2014, fits into the existing legal framework for K-12 private education in Virginia.

State Regulation Of Private Schools

The legal foundation for U.S. private schools today is a 1925 Supreme Court decision, *Pierce v. Society of Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary*. This landmark decision struck down an Oregon law that required all children between the ages of 8-16 to attend a public school. The court ruled that all parents have the right to direct the education of their children, and that "the fundamental theory of liberty upon which all governments in this Union repose

¹ <http://www.governor.virginia.gov/News/viewRelease.cfm?id=1138>

excludes any general power of the state to standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public teachers only."

Pierce v. Society of Sisters affirmed private schools' right to educate students, but simultaneously upheld states' responsibility to oversee this education. States have the authority to regulate both private and public schools, but this authority has limits – most notably, with respect to the individual freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment. States may not interfere with the free exercise of religion and they may not discriminate against a unique cultural or religious heritage. The use of public funds to subsidize religious or other private schools is likewise proscribed.

Thus (as nicely summarized in a recent report from the U.S. Department of Education), the challenge for state policymakers is "to draft legislation that: 1) respects the fundamental right of parents to direct the education of their children; 2) protects the state's interest in an informed citizenry, but avoids interference with religious beliefs unless compelling interests are at issue; and, 3) avoids comprehensive regulation of private education that would deprive parents of any choice in education."²

This is a delicate balance to achieve. The years since 1925 have produced a steady stream of new laws and court rulings that have sought to clarify the appropriate relationship of private schools to public authority. In Virginia, the tax credit proposal is the latest manifestation of this ongoing discussion.

Proponents of "school choice" tend to seek greater freedoms for private schools and usually advocate lesser state

² U.S. Department of Education, "State Regulation of Private Schools" (2009), p. 336, at: <http://www2.ed.gov/admins/comm/choice/regprivschl/index.html>

interference. Nevertheless, others argue that a greater degree of state oversight is necessary to uphold basic academic, health and safety standards.

School-choice advocates do, however, generally support policies that allow private school students to access state-subsidized services like transportation – or (as seen this year in Virginia) state programs that provide financial assistance to students attending private school. Those who disagree believe that such policies wrongly weaken the distinctions between church and state, as well as between public and private education.

Each of the 50 states has come to terms with this tangle of competing interests in its own unique way. **Private school regulations vary widely from state to state.** Two recent publications – “State Regulation of Private Schools”

(U.S. Department of Education, 2009) and “Fifty Educational Markets: A Playbook of State Laws and Regulations Governing Private Schools” (Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, 2008) – summarize and present these regulations side by side. Table 1 relies on these data to demonstrate how Virginia’s policies concerning independent K-12 education compare with those of neighboring states.

The Friedman Foundation, named in honor of Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman, is an influential advocate for school choice and is not a disinterested observer of state policy. Christopher Hammons, the author of the foundation’s report, assigns each state a letter grade to illustrate the degree to which each embraces “a free-market conception of education” and protects

State	Accreditation	Registration	Licensing	Approval	Teacher Certification	Curriculum Requirements	Reporting Requirements	Friedman Foundation Score	Friedman Foundation Grade
Virginia			X (*)	X (**)	X (*)		X	-1	B
Delaware		X				X	X	+1	A
Kentucky						X	X	-1	B
Maryland		X (*)	X (*)	X (*)	X (*)	X	X	-6	F
North Carolina	X (**)	X					X	-4	D
South Carolina	X (**)			X (**)			X	-5.5	F
Tennessee	X (**)			X (**)	X (*)	X (*)	X	-6	F
West Virginia		X (**)		X (**)		X	X	-3	C-

X – indicates that state law mandates all private schools meet the requirement
X (*) – indicates that state law mandates specified private schools must meet the requirement
X (**) – indicates that state law allows this practice as one option to comply with a state mandate or requirement

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, State Regulation of Private Schools (July 2009), at: <http://www2.ed.gov/adms/comm/choice/regprivschl/index.html>
The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, “Fifty Educational Markets: A Playbook of State Laws and Regulations Governing Private Schools” (April, 2008), www.edchoice.org/CMSModules/EdChoice/FileLibrary/295/private_schools_laws®s.pdf

private schools from “excessive government intrusion.”³ Whether or not one shares the report’s normative assumptions, the grading scale is a useful tool to compare the varying degrees of private school regulation throughout the 50 states. The Commonwealth of Virginia earned a “B” grade, placing it among the states with the fewest restrictions on private schools (see Table 1). **Virginia is comparatively laissez-faire in its regulation of independent schools, which are free to admit students, hire staff and develop curricula without significant state intervention.**

Most states have some legal mechanism for recognizing private schools within their boundaries. These procedures of recognition may be optional or mandatory, and they may apply only to certain private schools (for example, religious schools are sometimes exempt). **The U.S. Department of Education identifies four basic types of state recognition: accreditation, registration, licensing and approval.** Registration is the least stringent of the four options, generally requiring only that private schools notify the state of their existence; this is, for example, the practice in Delaware. Accreditation (if mandatory) is the most involved procedure, usually involving established criteria for a school’s staff, curriculum and facilities. Among Virginia’s neighbors, Tennessee and South Carolina uphold comparatively demanding accreditation requirements. Licensing and approval fall somewhere in between the two extremes, although both procedures give states authority to assess the performance of private schools.

With respect to school recognition, Virginia is something of a hybrid. Licensing and approval procedures concern only those schools serving students with disabilities. Other private schools may, however, seek “state-approved” accreditation through one of the 14 independent organizations that are members of the Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE).⁴

Table 2 summarizes the numerous accrediting agencies that deal with Southside Hampton Roads independent K-12 schools. The accreditation process is voluntary, and schools are free to decide which organization, if any, they

³ The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, “Fifty Educational Markets: A Playbook of State Laws and Regulations Governing Private Schools” (2008), Executive Summary, <http://www.edchoice.org/Research/Reports/Fifty-Educational-Markets-A-Playbook-of-State-Laws-and-Regulations-Governing-Private-Schools.aspx>

⁴ For more about private school accreditation in Virginia, see the 2011 State of the Region report, <http://bpa.odu.edu/forecasting/sor/sor2011.1.shtml>.

affiliate with. **Forty-one of the 86 private schools in Southside Hampton Roads possess state-approved accreditation. AdvancED, the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS) and Virginia Catholic Education Association (VCEA) are the region’s most represented associations, accrediting 35 of 41 schools.**

Beyond accreditation, states enforce an array of other laws and regulations that affect these institutions’ operations. Some laws are broadly phrased; others are quite specific. For example, Virginia Code §22.1-275 states that “the governing board of a private school must furnish protective eye devices, free or at cost, for students, teachers, and visitors participating in specified vocational or industrial arts shop or laboratories.”⁵ **Many regulations fall into one of the three broad categories that are identified on the accompanying table: teacher certification, curriculum requirements and reporting requirements. With respect to all three types of regulation, Virginia adopts a minimalist stance. Non-accredited private schools in Virginia are free to determine their teachers’ credentials; private school teachers need not possess a college degree or state certification. Recordkeeping requirements are limited to student attendance and immunization. Attendance records are not reported to the state, but must be available for inspection in case of a suspected violation of compulsory school attendance laws.**

Virginia’s laissez-faire approach toward its private schools’ curricula differs from the policies of its neighboring states, most of which stipulate certain curricular standards for some or all private schools. Some of these standards concern specific issues, like the use of English as the primary language of instruction (mandated in Kentucky and West Virginia); others emphasize instruction in key subject areas like history and civics. **Only North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia in the South are identified by the U.S. Department of Education as having no mandatory curriculum requirements.** North Carolina, however, requires private schools to demonstrate a minimum level of student

⁵ “State Regulation of Private Schools,” p. 290

TABLE 2

ACCREDITING ASSOCIATIONS RECOGNIZED BY THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL FOR PRIVATE EDUCATION (VCPE)

<p>AdvancED/Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (AdvancED/SACS) http://www.advanc-ed.org (formerly identified as Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – Council on Accreditation and School Improvement, or SACS-CASI)</p>	<p>State-approved accrediting associations adhere to a core set of standards that is delineated by the VCPE and available upon request. The VCPE’s standards ensure that its member associations are nonprofit entities in financial good standing, that they are non-discriminatory in membership, and that their processes of accreditation are themselves informed by clear standards and criteria. State-approved accrediting associations must engage in thorough on-site school visits approximately once every five years, and their member schools must in turn submit self-study reports and plans for improvement. State-approved accrediting associations are required to have had a presence in Virginia for a minimum of five years, and an accrediting process in use for a minimum of three years. As explained to us last year by VCPE President George McVey, state-approved accreditation ensures that there is an informed, impartial observer “looking over a school’s shoulder,” monitoring its adherence to quality standards and its commitment to continuous improvement. The VCPE does not specify any minimum academic standards for independent schools; these are monitored independently by each accrediting association.</p> <p>The 14 associations recognized by the VCPE are quite diverse – in size, in educational philosophy and in the information that they publicly disclose about their accrediting procedures. AdvancED (according to its website) is “the world’s largest education community,” serving more than 30,000 public and private schools and districts in the United States alone. The smallest member association appears to be the Virginia Independent Schools Association (VISA), which accredits eight institutions throughout the Commonwealth; its website is located within that of one of its member schools, the Isle of Wight Academy.</p>
<p>American Montessori Society (AMS) http://www.amshq.org</p>	
<p>Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) http://www.acsi.org</p>	
<p>Association of Christian Teachers and Schools (ACTS) http://www.actsschools.org</p>	
<p>Association of Classical & Christian Schools (ACCS) http://www.accsedu.org</p>	
<p>International Christian Accrediting Association (ICAA) http://icaa.us</p>	
<p>North American Christian School Accrediting Agency (NACSAA) http://www.nacsaa.org</p>	
<p>Seventh Day Adventist Schools of the Potomac Conference (SDASPC) http://www.pcsda.org/Education/education-welcome.html</p>	
<p>Southeastern District, Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (SED-LCMS) http://se.lcms.org/school-ministry/accreditation.php (newly added in 2011)</p>	
<p>Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) http://www.sais.org</p>	
<p>Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS) http://www.vais.org</p>	
<p>Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities (VAISEF) http://www.vaisef.org</p>	
<p>Virginia Catholic Education Association (VCEA) http://www2.richmonddiocese.org/ocs/about_schools/schoolaccred.html</p>	
<p>Virginia Independent Schools Association (VISA) http://www.iwacademy.com/visa.html</p>	

achievement through regular standardized testing. South Carolina maintains a specific set of curricular standards for private schools that opt for accreditation from the South Carolina Independent School Association. Among its neighbors, Virginia appears to be unique in its arrangement with 14 different accrediting bodies – a significant indicator of Virginia’s embrace of the principle of school choice.

The introduction of tax credits for individuals or businesses that contribute to private school scholarships moves Virginia further in this direction. With this new legislation, the Commonwealth joins a group of 14 U.S. states (as of 2008) that provide some financial assistance to K-12 students attending private school (see Table 3). Seven states offer tax credits similar to those proposed in Virginia; others offer tax credits or deductions to parents for education expenses.

Still others provide scholarships or “scholarship-like tuition assistance” directly to private school students. The overwhelming majority of these programs were introduced in the last 15 years, although not without some controversy. Beyond concerns that such programs may violate the separation of church and state, or that they unfairly circumvent the prohibition of public funding for private schools, in Virginia such proposals have faced additional opposition from those who recall the private school tuition grants once given to white Virginians as a means of circumventing the integration of public schools.⁶ Moreover, other observers have questioned the appropriateness of subsidizing private school tuition at a time when public school districts throughout Virginia have faced painful budget cuts. Only through Republican Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling’s tie-breaking vote in the Senate did the tax credit legislation pass in 2012.

Residents of Hampton Roads enjoy access to a diverse marketplace of independent schools that operate with considerable autonomy. School-choice advocates like the Friedman Foundation argue that this is the proper state of things, and that the quality of all schools will improve when K-12 education operates as a free market. **It is also true, however, that free markets function best when there is an open flow of information that allows consumers to make educated choices. This is not always evident with private education in Virginia.** Independent schools are not compelled to report information about academic performance or the makeup of their student bodies, and the amount and kinds of information that they choose to disclose about themselves varies widely. The same is true of the associations that accredit them. Many parents are unaware of the state regulations, or lack thereof, that govern Virginia’s private schools.

All this notwithstanding, the size and number of private schools in our region suggest that families are mostly satisfied with the service they provide. The burden of finding out more about these schools and how they operate, however, rests squarely on the consumer.



⁶ See the 2011 State of the Region report, <http://bpa.odu.edu/forecasting/sor/sor2011.shtml>, and Frederick Kunkle, “Va. African Americans split in battle for school choice,” *The Washington Post* (Feb. 26, 2011), at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/24/AR2011022403688.html>.

TABLE 3

STATE PROGRAMS PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, JANUARY 2009

State	Program Type	Type of Program	Year Signed Into Law
Arizona	Tax Credits	Tax credits for individuals for contributions to scholarship organizations	1997
Arizona	Tax Credits	Tax credits for corporations for contributions to scholarship organizations	2006
Arizona	Scholarships	Scholarships for students with disabilities	2006
Arizona	Scholarships	Scholarships for foster care children	2006
Florida	Scholarships	Scholarships for students in failing schools (a)	1999
Florida	Scholarships	Scholarships for students with disabilities	1999
Florida	Tax Credits	Tax credits for corporations for contributions to scholarship organizations	2001
Georgia	Scholarships	Scholarships for students with disabilities	2007
Georgia	Tax Credits	Tax credits for individuals and corporations for contributions to scholarship organizations	2008
Illinois	Tax Credits	Tax credits for parents for education expenses	1999
Iowa	Tax Credits	Tax credits for parents for education expenses	1987
Iowa	Tax Credits	Tax credits for individuals for contributions to school tuition organizations	2006
Louisiana	Scholarships	Scholarships for students from low-income families in New Orleans	2008
Louisiana	Tax Deduction	Tax deduction to individuals for tuition and qualified educational expenses	2008
Maine	Tuition Assistance	Scholarship-like tuition assistance for students in small towns and rural areas	1873
Minnesota	Tax Credits and Tax Deductions	Tax credits and tax deductions for parents for education expenses	1955/1997
Ohio	Vouchers	Vouchers for students in Cleveland	1995
Ohio	Scholarships	Scholarships for students in Cleveland	1995
Ohio	Scholarships	Scholarships for students with autism	2003
Ohio	Scholarships	Scholarships for students in underperforming schools	2006
Pennsylvania	Tax Credits	Tax credits for corporations for contributions to scholarship organizations	2001
Rhode Island	Tax Credits	Tax credits for corporations for contributions to scholarship organizations	2006
Utah	Scholarships	Scholarships for students with disabilities	2005
Utah	Scholarships	Scholarships for all students (b)	2007
Vermont	Tuition Assistance	Scholarship-like tuition assistance for students in small towns and rural areas	1869

TABLE 3

STATE PROGRAMS PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, JANUARY 2009

State	Program Type	Type of Program	Year Signed Into Law
Wisconsin	Scholarships	Scholarships for students from low-income families in Milwaukee	1990
District of Columbia	Scholarships	Scholarships for students from low-income families (c)	2004
a This program was terminated at the end of the 2005-06 school year.			
b This program was not implemented because it was voted down in a statewide referendum in November 2007.			
c This program is federally funded.			
Source: U.S. Department of Education, Education Options in the States (February 2009), www2.ed.gov/parents/schools/choice/educationoptions/educationoptions.pdf			



Private Schools In Southside Hampton Roads

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Using data from the VCPE and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), we identified 86 independent schools in Southside Hampton Roads (see Table 4). This is more than double the 35 independent schools we found on the Peninsula in 2011. This reflects a school-age population in Southside Hampton Roads (231,749 in 2010) that is likewise more than double that on the Peninsula (106,558 in 2008). Although we do not have enrollment figures for all of our region's private schools, it is apparent that Southside Hampton Roads is home to a substantially larger proportion of schools with 500-plus students. Atlantic Shores Christian School (Chesapeake), Cape Henry Collegiate School (Virginia Beach), Greenbrier Christian Academy (Chesapeake), Isle of Wight Academy, Nansemond-Suffolk Academy, Norfolk Academy, Norfolk Christian Schools, Norfolk Collegiate School, Portsmouth Christian Schools and St. Gregory the Great School (Virginia Beach) all meet this definition. Table 5 reports the largest 10 and the smallest 10 independent K-12 schools in Southside Hampton Roads in fall 2012.

Of the 86 independent schools in Southside Hampton Roads, 35 responded earlier this year to our request for supporting information through a mailed survey. When asked to update their schools' enrollment figures found in the 2009-10 Private School Universe Survey, nearly all respondents adjusted their enrollments downward, or they indicated there had been no change. The same was true in our 2011 survey of Peninsula independent schools, which asked schools to update their 2007-08 enrollment figures. Independent K-12 school enrollment declined 13.4 percent from 2007-08 to 2009-10 (see Table 6). **Thus, it appears that private schools throughout Hampton Roads are facing the same recent downward trends in enrollment that have affected private schools all around the country. This is a likely consequence of the economic downturn that began in 2008.**



TABLE 4

PRIVATE SCHOOL STATISTICS IN THE U.S. AND HAMPTON ROADS

Selected Characteristic	United States (2007-08)				United States (2009-10)				Hampton Roads Schools (2009-10)	
	Schools		Students		Schools		Students		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Total	33,740	100.0	5,072,451	100.0	33,366	100.0	4,700,119	100.0	86	100.0%
Catholic	7,507	22.2	2,156,173	42.5	7,115	21.3	2,009,640	42.8	10	11.6%
Other religious	15,403	45.7	1,930,707	38.1	15,616	46.8	1,752,011	37.3	54	62.8%
Conservative Christian	5,106	15.1	772,951	15.2	4,614	13.8	637,416	13.6	28	32.6%
Other affiliated	2,741	8.1	452,787	8.9	2,882	8.6	445,536	9.5	11	12.8%
Unaffiliated	7,555	22.4	704,969	13.9	8,120	24.3	669,060	14.2	15	17.4%
Nonsectarian	10,830	32.1	985,571	19.4	10,635	31.9	938,467	20.0	22	25.6%
Regular	5,603	16.6	670,057	13.2	5,231	15.7	629,983	13.4	11	12.8%
Special emphasis	3,691	10.9	209,094	4.1	3,821	11.5	207,483	4.4	7	8.1%
Special education	1,536	4.6	106,420	2.1	1,582	4.7	101,002	2.1	4	4.7%
School level										
Elementary	21,870	64.8	2,513,099	49.5	21,425	64.2	2,269,301	48.3	49	57.0%
Secondary	2,932	8.7	826,905	16.3	2,776	8.3	785,500	16.7	5	5.8%
Combined	8,938	26.5	1,732,447	34.2	9,165	27.5	1,645,318	35.0	28	32.6%

Sources: Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results from the 2007-08 Private School Universe Survey (March 2009), <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid2009313>.
 Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results from the 2009-10 Private School Universe Survey (May 2011), <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid2011339>.
 2007-08 and 2009-10 Private School Universe Survey, at: <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch/>
 Triennial School Census (2008), at: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/enrollment/triennial_school_census/2008.pdf
 School-Age Population Estimate (2010), at: http://www.coopercenter.org/sites/default/files/shared/SCAPE_Divisions_July_1_2010Estimates_UVACooperCtr.xls
 Virginia Council for Private Education, at: <http://www.vcpe.org/>
 Private schools of Hampton Roads

In May 2012, Norfolk Academy announced it was the recipient of a \$2 million grant from the Malone Family Foundation to support scholarships to the Academy for middle school and high school students. About 20 percent of the Academy’s 1,220 students receive financial aid and the funds will enable it to maintain and increase the diversity of its student body.

TABLE 5

**LARGEST AND SMALLEST INDEPENDENT K-12 SCHOOLS IN
SOUTHSIDE HAMPTON ROADS
(FALL 2011 SELF-REPORTED ENROLLMENTS)**

Ten Largest		Ten Smallest	
1) Norfolk Academy, N	1,249	1) Mclea School, N	3
2) Cape Henry Collegiate, VB	819	2) Pleasant Grove Christian School of Excellence, VB	5
3) Nansemond-Suffolk Academy, S	765	3) Open Door Christian School, VB	10
4) Portsmouth Christian School, P	713	4) Back Bay Christian Academy, VB	20
5) Norfolk Christian School, N	711	5) McDonald Montessori Academy, N	22
6) Atlantic Shores Christian School, C	672	5) Cathedral of Faith School, C	22
7) Norfolk Collegiate School, N	659	7) Montessori Academy of Virginia, VB	25
8) St. Gregory the Great School, VB	623	7) Yeshivas Aish Kodesh Talmudical Academy, N	25
9) Isle of Wight Academy, IW	562	9) Tidewater Classical Academy, VB	26
10) Greenbrier Christian Academy, C	541	10) Ocean View Christian Academy, N	32

Although schools typically offer some degree of financial assistance to low-income families, the cost of a K-12 private education remains beyond the reach of many families in our region. This is particularly true in the current economic climate. Annual tuition and fee charges at the independent schools in Southside Hampton Roads range between \$3,000 and \$23,000 per year. The annual cost of an elementary education most often falls within the \$4,000 to \$8,000 range, with the middle and high school years being more expensive. **The most expensive independent schools in our region are Norfolk**

TABLE 6

**CHANGES IN K-12 STUDENT ENROLLMENTS IN VIRGINIA,
2007-08 TO 2009-10**

	2007-08		2009-10	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Public School	1,202,350	89.7%	1,214,176	90.6%
Private School	116,934	8.7%	103,076	7.7%
Homeschool	20,694	1.5%	23,290	1.7%
Totals	1,339,978	100.0%	1,340,542	100.0%

Sources: Virginia Department of Education, at: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/enrollment/index.shtml
 Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results from the 2009-10 Private School Universe Survey (May 2011), at: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2011339>
 Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results from the 2007-08 Private School Universe Survey (March 2009), at: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009313>

Academy (\$21,000 per year for grades 7-12) and Chesapeake Bay Academy (\$22,900 for grades 9-12). Founded in 1728, Norfolk Academy is our region's oldest independent school, boasting an attractive 64-acre campus, the region's largest independent school student body, an academically rigorous curriculum and outstanding extracurricular opportunities. Chesapeake Bay Academy in Virginia Beach touts a low student/teacher ratio and individualized instruction for high-achieving, special-needs students.

Last year's State of the Region report explored the issues of racial diversity and the history of racial segregation in Virginia's independent schools. We noted that all accredited schools in Virginia must possess racially nondiscriminatory admission policies, and that many independent schools advertise these policies prominently. Nonetheless, the available statistics indicate that nearly all of our region's independent schools are somewhat segregated, both on the Southside and Peninsula (see Table 7). According to data from the Private School Universe Survey and from our communications with the schools themselves, **the majority of independent schools have student bodies that either are overwhelmingly white, or overwhelmingly black. The predominantly black institutions tend to be small**

elementary schools affiliated with a particular church. The broad cross-section of independent schools – including nearly all high schools – have student bodies that are predominantly white.

As with last year’s report, a few words of caution are merited in interpreting the numbers reported in Table 7. **Independent schools are not required to report the racial or ethnic backgrounds of their students to the NCES.** Indeed, 11 of 86 Southside schools did not supply this information on the most recent Private School Universe Survey. The 2009-10 survey provided a choice of seven racial/ethnic categories for identifying students – American Indian/Alaskan, Asian, Black, Hispanic, White, Hawaiian/Pacific

Islander, and Two or More Races. (The latter two categories were added in 2009-10.) Norfolk Academy and Norfolk Collegiate School responded to our request for updated enrollment information with the additional categories of Middle Eastern and Foreign National (represented in Table 7 as “Two or More Races.”) Other Southside independent schools also may have students who could be represented in this way, although this was not reflected in the Private School Universe Survey.



TABLE 7

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN SOUTHSIDE HAMPTON ROADS: ENROLLMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY

	School	City	ZIP Code	American Indian/Alaskan	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Hawaii/Pacific Island	Two or More Races	Total Students
1	Christ the King Catholic School	N	23509	0	7	32	7	185	0	11	242
2	St. Patrick Catholic School	N	23508	0	15	11	5	311	0	17	359
3	St. Pius X School	N	23518	1	59	10	32	168	0	9	279
4	Barry Robinson Center	N	23502	0	0	23	1	30	0	0	54
5	Portsmouth Catholic Regional School	P	23701	2	7	11	1	119	0	0	140
6	Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School	VB	23462	0	57	14	20	353	0	8	452
7	Saint Gregory the Great School	VB	23462	2	48	24	45	412	58	44	633
8	Saint John the Apostle Catholic School	VB	23456	0	0	4	10	187	7	6	214
9	Saint Matthew's School	VB	23464	2	69	20	18	372	0	6	487
10	Star of the Sea School	VB	23451	1	8	0	9	203	2	5	228
11	Atlantic Shores Christian School	C	23320	5	35	114	11	498	0	9	672
12	Cathedral of Faith Christian School	C	23324	0	0	21	0	0	0	1	22
13	Cedar Road Christian Academy	C	23322	1	1	19	4	61	0	0	86
14	Cornerstone Christian School	C	23325	0	6	12	1	71	0	3	93
15	Faith Diamond Christian Academy	C	23323	0	0	63	0	1	0	0	64
16	Great Hope Baptist School	C	23328	0	1	5	3	86	1	0	96
17	Greenbrier Christian Academy	C	23320	0	0	40	0	494	0	7	541
18	Indian Creek Welcome Baptist Church School	C	23320	0	4	4	3	41	2	0	54
19	Mount Lebanon Christian Academy	C	23322	0	0	37	1	2	0	0	40
20	Mount Pleasant Christian School	C	23322	0	3	1	1	88	0	0	93
21	StoneBridge School	C	23321	0	4	28	2	242	0	0	276
22	Rock Church School	F	23851	0	0	0	1	35	0	0	36
23	Calvary Christian Elementary School	N	23518	0	0	53	0	4	0	1	58
24	Faith Academy School of Excellence	N	23504	0	0	60	1	0	0	3	64
25	Greenhill Farms Christian Academy	N	23513	0	0	46	0	0	0	0	46

TABLE 7

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN SOUTHSIDE HAMPTON ROADS: ENROLLMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY

	School	City	ZIP Code	American Indian/Alaskan	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Hawaii/Pacific Island	Two or More Races	Total Students
26	Ocean View Christian Academy	N	23503	0	1	5	10	15	1	0	32
27	READY Academy Christian School	N	23510	0	0	69	0	0	0	2	71
28	Alliance Christian Academy	P	23701	0	3	28	5	188	0	3	227
29	Central Christian Academy	P	23701	0	3	21	2	29	2	3	65
30	Portsmouth Christian School	P	23702	0	7	127	12	565	2	0	713
31	Saint Mark Christian Academy	P	23704	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
32	Sweethaven Christian Academy	P	23703	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
33	First Baptist Christian School	S	23434	0	1	9	0	200	0	1	211
34	Coastal Christian Academy	VB	23464	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
35	King's Grant Day School	VB	23452	0	0	19	0	28	0	9	56
36	New Light Baptist School of Excellence	VB	23464	0	0	66	0	0	0	0	66
37	Open Door Christian Academy	VB	23452	0	0	2	0	8	0	0	10
38	Tabernacle Baptist Academy	VB	23464	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
39	Tidewater Adventist Academy	C	23320	0	6	28	8	5	0	9	56
40	Veritas Christian Academy	C	23320	0	6	2	3	131	0	0	142
41	BINA High School	N	23517	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
42	Norfolk Christian Schools	N	23505	4	16	60	16	615	0	0	711
43	Trinity Lutheran Church School	N	23505	0	2	1	1	73	0	1	78
44	Yeshivas Aish Kodesh Talmudical Academy	N	23507	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	25
45	Toras Chaim	P	23703	0	0	0	0	64	0	0	64
46	Hebrew Academy of Tidewater	VB	23462	1	0	2	0	86	0	15	104
47	Oaktree Academy	VB	23464	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
48	Tidewater Classical Academy	VB	23453	0	0	9	2	15	0	0	26
49	Virginia Beach Friends School	VB	23451	0	6	13	5	127	0	4	155
50	Greenbrier Enrichment Center & School	C	23320	0	5	10	1	40	0	7	63

TABLE 7

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN SOUTHSIDE HAMPTON ROADS: ENROLLMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY

	School	City	ZIP Code	American Indian/Alaskan	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Hawaii/Pacific Island	Two or More Races	Total Students
51	Providence Christian School	C	23325	0	1	37	3	33	0	0	74
52	Alpha Beta Cappa Christian Academy	N	23513	0	0	45	10	20	0	5	80
53	Azalea Garden Christian School	N	23513	0	0	27	19	48	0	3	97
54	Tabernacle of Prayer Christian School	N	23508	0	75	0	0	0	0	0	75
55	Court Street Academy	P	23704	0	0	21	0	77	0	0	98
56	Joyous Sound Education & Enrichment Center	P	23701	0	0	20	0	1	0	0	21
57	Anchor Christian School	VB	23455	0	0	15	0	7	0	0	22
58	Back Bay Christian Academy	VB	23457	0	0	0	1	18	1	0	20
59	Beach Montessori Christian Academy	VB	23454	0	2	3	4	30	0	0	39
60	Gateway Christian School	VB	23462	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
61	Ivy League Academy	VB	23462	0	3	21	3	17	1	3	48
62	Pleasant Grove Christian Academy of Excellence	VB	23464	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
63	Victory Innovative Christian Academy	VB	23452	0	0	14	2	4	0	3	23
64	Galilee Montessori School	VB	23451	0	0	3	0	29	0	0	32
65	McLea School	N	23518	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
66	Norfolk Academy	N	23502	1	73	98	11	937	0	99	1,219
67	Norfolk Collegiate School	N	23505	3	39	81	25	491	0	20	659
68	Ryan Academy of Norfolk	N	23518	0	0	6	4	68	0	3	81
69	The Williams School	N	23507	157	7	10	2	1	1	2	180
70	Town & Country Day School	N	23502	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
71	Christopher Academy	P	23703	0	4	0	0	94	0	10	108
72	Nansemond-Suffolk Academy	S	23434	4	39	28	10	664	0	20	765
73	Baylake Pines School	VB	23455	0	14	16	3	204	0	0	237
74	Cape Henry Collegiate School	VB	23454	1	25	46	6	724	2	15	819

TABLE 7

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN SOUTHSIDE HAMPTON ROADS: ENROLLMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY

	School	City	ZIP Code	American Indian/Alaskan	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Hawaii/Pacific Island	Two or More Races	Total Students
75	Isle of Wight Academy	IW	23397	3	8	4	6	534	0	7	562
76	Chesapeake Montessori School	C	23322	0	3	5	2	42	2	10	64
77	Greenbrier Montessori School	C	23320	0	0	2	1	28	0	2	33
78	Montessori Academy of Virginia (Chesapeake)	C	23320	0	4	3	2	26	1	0	36
79	Ghent Montessori School	N	23507	0	21	22	5	120	0	0	168
80	McDonald Montessori	N	23504	0	0	1	1	20	0	0	22
81	Courthouse Montessori School	VB	23453	0	1	10	4	16	0	1	32
82	Montessori Academy of Virginia (Virginia Beach)	VB	23462	1	2	5	2	15	0	0	25
83	Kempsville Center for Behavioral Health	N	23502	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
84	Brighton Behavioral Health Center	P	23704	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
85	Harbor Point Behavioral Health Center	P	23704	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
86	Chesapeake Bay Academy	VB	23462	2	0	15	4	112	1	1	135

Sources: 2009-10 Private School Universe Survey, <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch/>
Private schools of southern Hampton Roads

TYPES OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

The NCES identifies three main categories of independent schools: Catholic, Other Religious and Non-Sectarian. All three types are present in Southside Hampton Roads. The 2011 State of the Region report provided background information about the kinds of schools and accrediting associations found in each category. This year, we'll present the categories more briefly, instead highlighting some of the differences and similarities between the independent schools in Southside Hampton Roads and those on the Peninsula.

Category One: Roman Catholic Schools

Southside Hampton Roads is home to 10 Roman Catholic institutions of elementary and secondary education, representing nearly 12 percent of the region's independent schools. This resembles the proportion of Catholic schools on the Peninsula. Seven of the 10 Southside schools were founded between 1950 and 1970 in the cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach. Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School, formerly Norfolk Catholic High School, relocated to the Kempsville area of Virginia Beach in 1993. In the last decade, two new schools were established (St. Patrick in Norfolk and St. John the Apostle in the Sandbridge area of Virginia Beach), while the region's oldest Catholic school, Holy Trinity in Norfolk, closed its doors in 2010 due to declining enrollment. The Barry Robinson Center, founded as an orphanage and school in 1933, now serves as a day and residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed youth.

With the exception of the Barry Robinson Center (which is accredited by VAISEF), all of the Southside Catholic schools are accredited by AdvancED, and as well either by the Virginia Catholic Education Association (VCEA) or the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS). These schools tout an academically rigorous, disciplined learning environment that is grounded upon church tradition. Eight of the schools enroll students from pre-kindergarten through grade 8. With the exception of St. Patrick, all are administered by the Diocese of Richmond or by a local parish; these schools offer significant tuition discounts for practicing Catholics and for families with more than one child attending school. St. Patrick is an independent

Catholic school with a distinct educational philosophy grounded upon the nurturing and development of five "domains": The Life of Mind, The Life of Spirit, The Life of Relationship, The Life of Vocation and The Physical Life.

Category Two: Other Religious Schools

The second NCES category is "other" religious schools – a diverse group that encompasses nearly 63 percent of Southside independent schools. Hampton Roads is home to a higher percentage of schools in this category than elsewhere in the United States, chiefly because of our region's many conservative Christian schools.

The NCES identifies conservative Christian schools through their membership in at least one of four associations: Accelerated Christian Education (ACE), American Association of Christian Schools (AACS), Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) or Oral Roberts University Education Fellowship (ORUEF). Together, these associations represent 28 institutions in Southside Hampton Roads, comprising just over half of the region's "other" religious schools. ACSI has the strongest presence, with 17 member schools, including seven institutions that possess ACSI accreditation. Eleven schools in this subgroup also participate in the Hampton Roads Association of Christian Schools (HRACS), which promotes regional cooperation through shared teacher training and other events. Baptist, Mennonite, Pentecostal and nondenominational Christian traditions are among those included in this subgroup. **Of particular note is the geographical concentration of the Southside conservative Christian schools: 11 of 28 institutions are located in Chesapeake.**

The NCES distinguishes the remaining 26 religious schools in this category as affiliated or nonaffiliated, depending upon their membership in organizations such as the General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church (GCSDAC) or the Friends Council on Education (FCE). Some additional observations about the schools in this subgroup:

Four Southside independent schools represent the Jewish faith, a significant contrast to the religious school community of the Peninsula, which is entirely Christian. Hebrew Academy of Tidewater

(Virginia Beach) educates students from Pre-K through grade 8 and is a founding member of RAVSAK, a pluralistic association of Jewish Day Schools. The region's other three Jewish schools represent Orthodox tradition and are affiliated with Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools. Toras Chaim (Portsmouth) educates students from Pre-K through grade 8. BINA High School and Yeshivas Aish Kodesh Talmudical Academy are single-sex high schools in Norfolk that serve day and boarding students.

Three independent schools in Southside Hampton Roads promote classical Christian education, emphasizing the study of Latin and classical literature, as well as the Bible: StoneBridge School and Veritas Christian Academy (both in Chesapeake) and Tidewater Classical Academy (Virginia Beach). StoneBridge School is affiliated with ACSI; the other two institutions belong to the Association of Classical & Christian Schools (ACCS).

Tidewater Classical Academy, a ministry of Green Run Baptist Church, is noteworthy for its half-day attendance model that is intended to supplement home education. The school day is 8:25 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.; afterward, parents are expected to review and expand upon the day's material with their children. Oaktree Academy, also in Virginia Beach, adopts a similar approach. As a "University Model School" that patterns some of its instructional programs after modern university academic programs, its students enroll in single-subject courses that do not meet every day. High school juniors and seniors at Oaktree Academy may take college courses online through Regent University's Early College Program. Both institutions emphasize that they allow families to combine "the best of both worlds" – the individualized attention of homeschooling with the discipline and professionalism of a traditional classroom setting. No comparable parallel to these two institutions currently exists on the Peninsula.

Norfolk Christian Schools, which serves elementary and secondary students at three locations in Norfolk and Virginia Beach, is one of the region's largest and oldest Christian independent schools. It is also an affiliate member of the recently established Council on Educational Standards & Accountability (CESA). According to the association's website, CESA "insists that academic rigor

and programmatic excellence in all areas are inherent to discipleship, not contradictory." CESA's mission is "to motivate, support, and hold accountable Christian schools that aspire to superlative academic standards, institutional best practices, and collaboration with like-minded schools."

Category Three: Nonsectarian Schools

Nonsectarian schools comprise the remaining 26 percent of Southside independent schools. The NCES divides this category into three subgroups: special emphasis, special education and regular nonsectarian independent schools. **Schools with a Montessori emphasis and regular nonsectarian schools are particularly well represented in Southside Hampton Roads, both relative to the Peninsula and to the nation as a whole.**

- Nine independent schools in Chesapeake, Norfolk and Virginia Beach promote the hands-on, student-directed teaching methods of Maria Montessori. (This includes two Christian institutions, Beach Montessori Christian Academy and Galilee Montessori School, both in Virginia Beach). All are elementary schools; Ghent Montessori School in Norfolk educates students through the eighth grade. None of the institutions possesses state-approved accreditation, although several are affiliated with either the American Montessori Society (AMS) or the International Montessori Council (IMC).
- Four institutions in Norfolk and Portsmouth possess VAISEF accreditation to provide residential treatment for emotionally troubled youth. (This includes the Catholic Barry Robinson Center.) Kempsville Center for Behavioral Health, Brighton Behavioral Health Center and Harbor Point Behavioral Health Center are owned by Universal Health Services Inc., a large operator of hospitals and psychiatric facilities throughout the United States.
- There are 11 "regular" nonsectarian schools in Southside Hampton Roads, half of which are located in Norfolk. A significant contingent of these institutions consists of large and well-established college preparatory schools; **these schools emphasize academic rigor, values such as honor and integrity, and a well-rounded curriculum. Norfolk Academy, Norfolk Collegiate School, Nansemond-Suffolk Academy,**

Cape Henry Collegiate School and Isle of Wight Academy are combined elementary and secondary schools that meet this definition. All are accredited by AdvancED and at least one other state-recognized association. **Cape Henry Collegiate School offers a distinctive Global Scholars Program for high-achieving Upper School students with an interest in international relations.**

Final Observations

First, the diversity in mission and educational philosophy of the 86 independent K-12 schools located in Southside Hampton Roads is significant. There is an independent K-12 school to satisfy nearly anyone's educational preferences.

Second, Virginia is a laissez-faire state with respect to the regulation of its independent K-12 schools. Inside the Commonwealth, independent schools are essentially free to admit students, hire staff and develop curricula without significant state intervention. Only 41 of the 86 independent schools in Southside Hampton Roads possess state-approved accreditation, which obviously is not necessary for operation in Virginia.

Third, proponents of independent K-12 schools frequently state that superior educational results are generated when parents have the ability to choose the schools that they feel are best for their children. Competition among schools is an important part of this philosophy and advocates usually contend that the existence of independent schools pushes public schools to higher levels of performance. The theory behind this assertion is clear, though empirical evidence relating to it is limited because it is very difficult to take account of the many different factors that influence educational performance.

Fourth, some Southside independent schools readily provide information concerning their curricula, the credentials of their faculty, the makeup of their student bodies and the educational performances of their students. Others provide none of these things. Thus, it is virtually impossible to say if some independent schools are succeeding with the students who attend. This means that one of the assumptions underpinning the theory of competitive markets –

relatively easy access by consumers to accurate information – holds only in some segments of the K-12 educational market.

Fifth, the small sizes and unusual facilities of some independent schools (usually conservative religious schools) often make it difficult to infer the quality of education offered at these schools. Few would be inclined to doubt the rigor of instruction and standards at a small, 25-student school such as Yeshivas Aish Kodesh Talmudical Academy. Other situations are less clear. Does the small size of a school provide abundant opportunities for one-on-one instruction and individual attention and hence yield superior results? Or, instead, is it indicative of faculty (whose credentials are unknown) finding it difficult to stretch their instructional talents over a potentially diverse K-8 student population while operating in facilities not actually designed for such purposes?

We don't know the answers to these questions, and neither the Commonwealth nor the cities and counties in Hampton Roads know. This is because virtually no rigorous credentialing, reporting or testing is required of independent schools in Virginia. This is ironic in light of the strong emphasis on credentialing, curriculum requirements and SOL (Standards of Learning) testing that is required in Virginia's public schools. It is as if these two educational approaches live in different universes.

Sixth, just as there are some strong public K-12 schools and some weak ones, our study of independent K-12 schools in Hampton Roads suggests that there are many strong independent schools, but even more cases where it is impossible to divine quality. The evidence often does not exist, though in Table 8 we summarize much of what is publicly known about the 86 independent K-12 schools in Hampton Roads. That said, those in the best possible position to judge (the parents of independent school students) give these schools a strong vote of confidence by sending their children to them and paying the tuition. This is a market test that should not be ignored by critics of independent school education.



FIGURE 1
PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN SOUTHSIDE HAMPTON ROADS

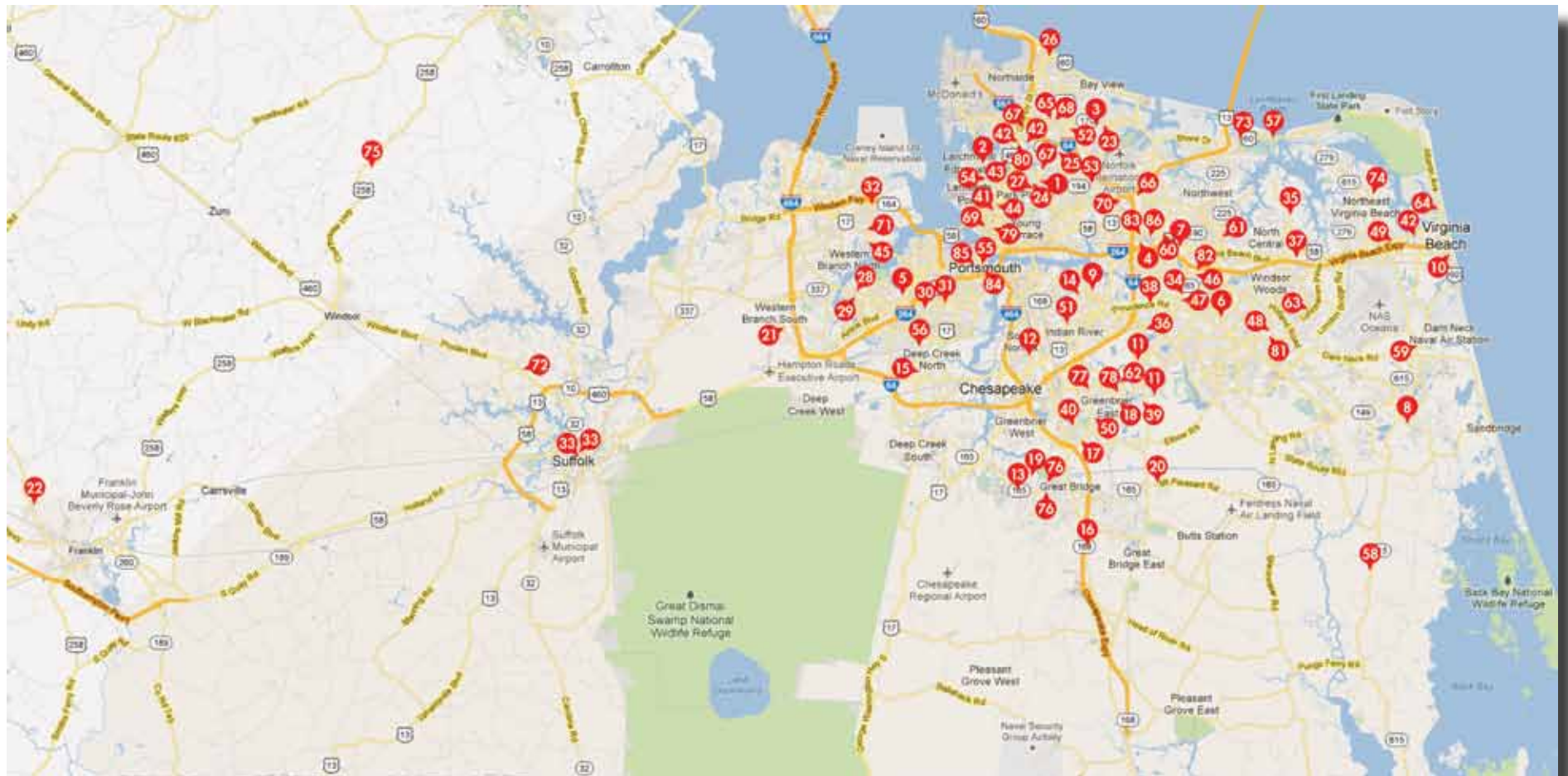


TABLE 8

INDEPENDENT K-12 SCHOOLS IN SOUTHSIDE HAMPTON ROADS

School	City	ZIP Code	Mailing Address and Website	Established	Grade Span	Typology	State-Approved Accreditation	Other Memberships	Student / Teacher Ratio	Total Students (non-pre K)	K Tuition + Fees	Grades 1-5 Tuition + Fees	Grades 6-8 Tuition + Fees	Grades 9-12 Tuition + Fees	
<p>Costs are approximations, based upon the available information from each school. The actual cost of tuition and fees can depend on variables such as church membership, financial need, the type of payment plan selected, or how many students from one family are in attendance. Services such as transportation and extended care are generally offered at additional expense.</p>															
1	Christ the King Catholic School	N	23509	3401 Tidewater Dr. www.ctkparish.org	1954	PK - 8 (Elementary)	Catholic	VCEA, AdvancED		9.4	242	\$5,725 - \$7,125	\$5,725 - \$7,125	\$5,725 - \$7,125	N/A
2	St. Patrick Catholic School	N	23508	1000 Bolling Ave. www.stpcs.org	2005	PK - 8 (Elementary)	Catholic	SAIS, AdvancED	VCEA, William Glasser Institute	8.5	359	\$7,735	\$7,735 - \$8,390	\$8,390	N/A
3	St. Pius X School	N	23518	7800 Halprin Dr. www.stpiusxschoolva.org	1956	PK - 8 (Elementary)	Catholic	VCEA, AdvancED		15.0	326	\$5,215 - \$6,955	\$5,240 - \$6,980	\$5,240 - \$6,980	N/A
4	Barry Robinson Center	N	23502	443 Kempsville Road www.barryrobinson.org	1933	1 - 12 (Combined)	Catholic (Special Education)	VAISEF		9.0	54				
5	Portsmouth Catholic Regional School	P	23701	2301 Oregon Ave. www.portsmouthcatholic.net	1970	PK - 8 (Elementary)	Catholic	VCEA, AdvancED		11.1	140	\$6,240 - \$7,310	\$6,240 - \$7,310	\$6,240 - \$7,310	N/A
6	Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School	VB	23462	4552 Princess Anne Road www.chsvb.org	1950	9 - 12 (Secondary)	Catholic	VCEA, AdvancED		14.3	452	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$11,230 - \$12,330
7	Saint Gregory the Great School	VB	23462	5343 Virginia Beach Blvd. www.stgregory.pvt.k12.va.us	1965	PK - 8 (Elementary)	Catholic	VCEA, AdvancED		15.6	633	\$5,105 - \$7,145	\$5,105 - \$7,145	\$5,105 - \$7,145	N/A

TABLE 8

INDEPENDENT K-12 SCHOOLS IN SOUTHSIDE HAMPTON ROADS

School	City	ZIP Code	Mailing Address and Website	Established	Grade Span	Typology	State-Approved Accreditation	Other Memberships	Student / Teacher Ratio	Total Students (non-pre K)	K Tuition + Fees	Grades 1-5 Tuition + Fees	Grades 6-8 Tuition + Fees	Grades 9-12 Tuition + Fees	
<p>Costs are approximations, based upon the available information from each school. The actual cost of tuition and fees can depend on variables such as church membership, financial need, the type of payment plan selected, or how many students from one family are in attendance. Services such as transportation and extended care are generally offered at additional expense.</p>															
8	Saint John the Apostle Catholic School	VB	23456	1968 Sandbridge Road www.stjohnsandbridge.com	2002	PK - 8 (Elementary)	Catholic	VCEA, AdvancED		14.0	214	\$5,920 - \$6,950	\$5,920 - \$6,950	\$5,920 - \$6,950	N/A
9	Saint Matthew's School	VB	23464	3316 Sandra Lane www.smsvb.net	1963	PK - 8 (Elementary)	Catholic	VCEA, AdvancED		17.0	487	\$5,050 - \$6,075	\$5,050 - \$6,075	\$5,050 - \$6,075	N/A
10	Star of the Sea School	VB	23451	309 15th St. www.sosschool.org	1958	PK - 8 (Elementary)	Catholic	VCEA, AdvancED		18.0	228	\$6,027 - \$7,349	\$6,027 - \$7,349	\$6,027 - \$7,349	N/A
11	Atlantic Shores Christian School	C	23320	2 campuses: 1217 N. Centerville Turnpike (Secondary); 1861 Kempsville Rd., Virginia Beach 23464 (Elementary) www.shoreschristian.org	1985	PK - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	ACSI, AdvancED	HRACS	8.0 / 10.0	672	\$4,375 - \$6,875	\$7,745	\$8,375	\$8,575
12	Cathedral of Faith Christian School	C	23324	2020 Portlock Road www.cathedraloffaithcs.org	1987	PK - 2 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	No	ACSI	5.5	22	\$5,123	\$5,270 - \$5,295	N/A	N/A
13	Cedar Road Christian Academy	C	23322	916 Cedar Road www.cedarroadchristianacademy.com	1980	PK - 5 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	No	ACSI, ACTS, HRACS	11.0	86	\$4,660	\$6,078 - \$6,125	N/A	N/A
14	Cornerstone Christian School	C	23325	1212 Willow Ave. www.cornerstonechristianschool.us	1972	PK - 6 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	No	ACSI, HRACS	8.8	93	\$4,625	\$4,625	\$4,625	N/A

TABLE 8

INDEPENDENT K-12 SCHOOLS IN SOUTHSIDE HAMPTON ROADS

School	City	ZIP Code	Mailing Address and Website	Established	Grade Span	Typology	State-Approved Accreditation	Other Memberships	Student / Teacher Ratio	Total Students (non-pre K)	K Tuition + Fees	Grades 1-5 Tuition + Fees	Grades 6-8 Tuition + Fees	Grades 9-12 Tuition + Fees
<p>Costs are approximations, based upon the available information from each school. The actual cost of tuition and fees can depend on variables such as church membership, financial need, the type of payment plan selected, or how many students from one family are in attendance. Services such as transportation and extended care are generally offered at additional expense.</p>														
15	Faith Diamond Christian Academy	C 23323	1023 Deep Creek Blvd. www.faithdiamond.org/newacademy.html		PK - 7 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	No	ACSI	6.2	64				
16	Great Hope Baptist School	C 23328	P.O. Box 15106 www.greathopebaptist.org/school	1969	PK - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	No	AACS, ODACS	8.3	96	\$3,675	\$4,275	\$4,275 - \$4,575	\$4,575
17	Greenbrier Christian Academy	C 23320	311 Kempsville Road www.gcagators.org		PK - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	ACSI, AdvancED	HRACS	10.6	541	\$4,400 - \$7,075	\$7,500	\$8,100	\$8,400
18	Indian Creek Welcome Baptist Church School	C 23320	1200 Kempsville Road	1980	K - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	No	AACS, ODACS	6.1	54	\$2,500	\$2,800 - \$3,000	\$3,000 - \$3,100	\$3,100
19	Mount Lebanon Christian Academy	C 23322	884 Bells Mill Road www.themountleads.org	1997	PK - 3 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	No	ACSI	10.0	40	\$4,171	\$4,318 - \$4,345	N/A	N/A
20	Mount Pleasant Christian School	C 23322	1613 Mt. Pleasant Road www.mtpleasantchristian.org	1941	K - 8 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	No	ACSI, HRACS	10.0	93	\$4,475	\$4,475 - \$4,525	\$4,525	N/A
21	StoneBridge School	C 23321	P.O. Box 9247 (1629-A Jolliff Road) www.stonebridgeschool.com	1980	PK - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	ACSI	HRACS	9.0	276	\$7,875	\$8,200	\$9,200	\$9,850

TABLE 8

INDEPENDENT K-12 SCHOOLS IN SOUTHSIDE HAMPTON ROADS

School	City	ZIP Code	Mailing Address and Website	Established	Grade Span	Typology	State-Approved Accreditation	Other Memberships	Student / Teacher Ratio	Total Students (non-pre K)	K Tuition + Fees	Grades 1-5 Tuition + Fees	Grades 6-8 Tuition + Fees	Grades 9-12 Tuition + Fees	
<p>Costs are approximations, based upon the available information from each school. The actual cost of tuition and fees can depend on variables such as church membership, financial need, the type of payment plan selected, or how many students from one family are in attendance. Services such as transportation and extended care are generally offered at additional expense.</p>															
22	Rock Church School	F	23851	130 Lakeview Road www.rockfranklin.com	1978	K - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	No	ACE	9.2	36				
23	Calvary Christian Elementary School	N	23518	2331 E. Little Creek Rd. www.ccesnorfolk.org	1993	PK - 6 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	ACSI, AdvancED	HRACS	8.2	58	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	N/A
24	Faith Academy School of Excellence	N	23504	1010 E. 26th St. www.faseeagles.org	1993	PK - 8 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	ACSI, AdvancED		7.4	64				
25	Greenhill Farms Christian Academy	N	23513	969 Philpotts Road	1982	PK - 5 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	ICAA	ORUEF	7.7	46				
26	Ocean View Christian Academy	N	23503	9504 Selby Place www.ovcacademy.com	1993	PK - 8 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	No	ACSI, SBACS	4.0	32	\$4,550	\$4,600	N/A	N/A
27	READY Academy Christian School	N	23510	418 E. Bute St. www.readyacademy.org	2004	PK - 3 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	No	ACSI	N/A	71				
28	Alliance Christian Academy	P	23701	5809 Portsmouth Blvd. www.alliancechristianacademy.net	1971	PK - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	ACSI	HRACS	14.0	227	\$5,265	\$5,265 - \$5,575	\$6,050	\$6,400

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29	Central Christian Academy	P 23701	1200 Hodges Ferry Road www.centralchristianacademy.com	1969	PK - 6 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	ACSI	HRACS	10.0	60	\$5,100	\$5,100	N/A	N/A
30	Portsmouth Christian Schools	P 23702	3214 Elliott Ave. www.portsmouthchristian.org	1965	PK - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	ACSI	HRACS	15.7	713				
31	Saint Mark Christian Academy	P 23704	2714 Frederick Blvd. www.stmarkva.org/smca		PK - 3 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	No	ACSI	N/A	N/A				
32	Sweethaven Christian Academy	P 23703	5100 W. Norfolk Road www.sweethavenchristian.org		PK - 12 (Combined)	Other religious (Conservative Christian)	No	AACS, ODACS	N/A	N/A	\$4,040	\$4,340	\$4,340 - \$4,540	\$4,340 - \$4,540
33	First Baptist Christian School	S 23434	2 campuses: 237 N. Main St. (Lower School), 3488 Godwin Blvd. (Middle and Upper Schools) www.firstbaptistchristian.org	1988	K - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	ACSI, AdvancED	HRACS	11.3	211	\$3,995 - \$5,550	\$5,550	\$6,050	\$6,300
34	Coastal Christian Academy	VB 23464	640 Kempsville Road www.rockchurchinternational.com	1974	K - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	No	ACSI	N/A	N/A				
35	King's Grant Day School	VB 23452	873 Little Neck Road www.kingsgrantdayschool.com		PK - 5 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Affiliated)	ICAA	ORUEF	9.3	56	\$150/wk	\$150/wk	N/A	N/A
36	New Light Baptist School of Excellence	VB 23464	5549 Indian River Road www.newlightfgbc.org	1989	PK - 5 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	No	ACSI	11.0	66				

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37	Open Door Christian Academy	VB	23452	3177 Virginia Beach Blvd. www.opendoorchapel.org		PK - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)	No	ACE	4.8	10				
38	Tabernacle Baptist Academy	VB	23464	717 Whitehurst Landing Road www.tabernacle-vb.org/index.html	1969	PK - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Conservative Christian)		AACS, ODACS	N/A	N/A	\$4,150	\$4,150	\$4,700	\$4,700
39	Tidewater Adventist Academy	C	23320	1136 Centerville Tpke. N. www.adventisteducation.com		PK - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Affiliated)	SDASPC	GCSDAC	10.2	56				
40	Veritas Christian Academy	C	23320	700 Oak Grove Road www.veritasca.com		K - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Affiliated)	No	ACCS	6.9	142	\$8,002	\$8,112	\$8,112	\$8,112
41	BINA High School	N	23517	425 Washington Park www.binahighschool.com	2007	9 - 12 (Secondary)	Other Religious (Affiliated)	AdvancED	Torah Umesorah	7.0		N/A	N/A	N/A	\$12,500 - \$12,600
42	Norfolk Christian Schools	N	23505	3 campuses: 255 Thole St. (Upper School), 7000 Granby St. (Lower School - Norfolk), 1265 Laskin Road (Lower School - Va Beach 23451) www.norfolkchristian.org	1952	PK - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Affiliated)	VAIS, AdvancED	CESA, HRACS	10.9	711	\$6,710	\$7,605	\$9,320 - \$10,575	\$10,430 - \$10,470
43	Trinity Lutheran School	N	23505	6001 Granby St. www.trinitylutheranschoolnorfolk.org	1946	PK - 5 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Affiliated)	AdvancED, SED-LCMS	NLSA	12.0	78	\$5,325	\$5,325	N/A	N/A

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44	Yeshivas Aish Kodosh Talmudical Academy of Norfolk	N	23507	612 Colonial Ave. www.yeshivasaishkodesh.com	2003	9 - 12 (Secondary)	Other Religious (Affiliated)	AdvancED	Torah Umesorah	4.5	25				
45	Toras Chaim	P	23703	3110 Sterling Point Drive www.toraschaim.net		PK - 8 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Affiliated)	AdvancED	Torah Umesorah	6.5	64				
46	Hebrew Academy of Tidewater	VB	23462	5000 Corporate Woods Dr., Suite 180 www.hebrewacademy.net	1955	PK - 5 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Affiliated)	VAIS	RAVSAK, PEJE	6.3	104	\$12,900	\$13,700 - \$15,200	N/A	N/A
47	Oaktree Academy	VB	23464	817 Kempsville Road www.oaktreeacademy.org	1994	K - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Affiliated)	AdvancED	HRACS, CSI, NAUMS	N/A	N/A	\$3,865	\$3,865 - \$4,145	\$4,145 - \$5,145	\$5,345
48	Tidewater Classical Academy	VB	23453	1201 Rosemont Road www.tidewaterclassical.com		K - 8 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Affiliated)		ACCS, HRACS	7.4	26	\$2,800	\$4,100	\$4,100	N/A
49	Virginia Beach Friends School	VB	23451	1537 Laskin Road www.friends-school.org	1955	PK - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Affiliated)	VAIS	FCE	6.1	155	\$6,772 - \$9,424	\$10,557 - \$11,615	\$11,615 - \$13,010	\$14,655
50	Greenbrier Enrichment Center & School	C	23320	825 Greenbrier Parkway www.gecschool.org	1994	PK - 5 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Unaffiliated)	No		10.0 / 16.0	63	\$110/wk	\$115-\$120/wk	N/A	N/A

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51	Providence Christian School	C 23325	501 Providence Road www.pcschesapeake.org	1981	PK - 6 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Unaffiliated)	No		4.3	74				
52	Alpha Beta Cappa Christian Academy	N 23513	7425 Chesapeake Blvd.	1901	PK - 4 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Unaffiliated)	No		10.0	80	\$140/wk	\$140/wk	N/A	N/A
53	Azalea Garden Christian School	N 23513	5160 Beamon Road www.azaleagardenchristian.com		K - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Unaffiliated)	No		12.8	97				
54	Tabernacle of Prayer Christian School	N 23508	3611 Colley Ave. 625-1875		PK - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Unaffiliated)	No	HRACS	8.5	75				
55	Court Street Academy	P 23704	447 Court Street www.courtstreetacademy.com	1965	PK - 8 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Unaffiliated)	No		7.5	98	\$3,150	\$3,490 - \$3,540	\$3,540	
56	Joyous Sound Education & Enrichment Center	P 23701	205 Gust Lane www.jseec.org	1995	PK - 3 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Unaffiliated)	No		5.8	21				
57	Anchor Christian School	VB 23455	3624 Dupont Circle		PK - 5 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Unaffiliated)	No		7.3	22				

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58	Back Bay Christian Academy	VB 23457	1212 Princess Anne Road www.backbaychristianacademy.org	2000	PK, 6 - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Unaffiliated)	No		7.7	20				
59	Beach Montessori Christian Academy	VB 23454	1101 Eaglewood Drive www.beachmontessoritech.com	2002	PK - 8 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Unaffiliated)	No		8.0	39				
60	Gateway Christian School	VB 23462	5473 Virginia Beach Blvd. www.gatewaycrusaders.com		PK - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Unaffiliated)	No		12.6	253	\$5,390	\$5,390	\$5,390	\$5,420
61	Ivy League Academy	VB 23462	520 Constitution Dr. www.ivyleagueacademy.net	1986	PK - 5 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Unaffiliated)	No		12.0	48				
62	Pleasant Grove Christian Academy of Excellence	VB 23464	2153 Kempsville Road www.pgcaoe.org		PK - 2 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Unaffiliated)	No		1.6	5				
63	Victory Innovative Christian Academy	VB 23452	902 S. Lynnhaven Road v-innovativechristianacademy.org	2004	1 - 12 (Combined)	Other Religious (Unaffiliated)	No	NAPS	7.2	23	N/A	\$5,700	\$5,700	\$5,700
64	Galilee Montessori School	VB 23451	3928 Pacific Ave. www.galileemontessorischool.net	1988	PK - 3 (Elementary)	Other Religious (Unaffiliated) (Special Emphasis)	No	IMC	15.0	32	\$6,205	\$8,085	N/A	N/A

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65	McLea School	N	23518	745 Bancker Road		PK - 5 (Elementary)	Nonsectarian (Regular)	No		1.5	3				
66	Norfolk Academy	N	23502	1585 Wesleyan Dr. www.norfolkacademy.org	1728	1 - 12 (Combined)	Nonsectarian (Regular)	VAIS, SAIS, AdvancED		12.0	1,228	N/A	\$17,750	\$17,750 - \$21,000	\$21,000
67	Norfolk Collegiate School	N	23505	7336 Granby St. (Middle and Upper Schools), 5429 Tidewater Drive (Lower School) www.norfolkcollegiate.org	1948	K - 12 (Combined)	Nonsectarian (Regular)	VAIS, AdvancED		11.3	692	\$13,675	\$14,135 - \$14,989	\$15,947	\$16,592
68	Ryan Academy of Norfolk	N	23518	844 Jerome Ave. www.ryanacademy.org	1950	1 - 12 (Combined)	Nonsectarian (Regular)	No		9.2	81	N/A	\$6,135 - \$7,185	\$7,185	\$7,705
69	The Williams School	N	23507	419 Colonial Ave. www.thewilliamsschool.org	1927	K - 8 (Elementary)	Nonsectarian (Regular)	VAIS		4.7	180	\$13,050	\$13,050	\$13,050	N/A
70	Town & Country Day School	N	23502	1421 Kempsville Road www.townandcountrydayschool.com		PK - 6 (Elementary)	Nonsectarian (Regular)	No		15.1	106	\$80/wk	\$80/wk	\$80/wk	N/A
71	Christopher Academy	P	23703	3300 Cedar Lane www.christopher-academy.org	1970	PK - 5 (Elementary)	Nonsectarian (Regular)	VAIS		9.2	108	\$5,575 - \$7,075	\$7,175	N/A	N/A
72	Nansemond-Suffolk Academy	S	23434	3373 Pruden Blvd. www.nsacademy.org	1966	PK - 12 (Elementary)	Nonsectarian (Regular)	VAIS, AdvancED		6.8	765	\$11,580	\$11,580	\$12,640	\$14,140

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73	Baylake Pines School	VB 23455	4444 Shore Drive www.baylakepines.com		PK - 8 (Elementary)	Nonsectarian (Regular)	No		7.2	237	\$7,288 - \$9,169	\$9,169 - \$9,590	\$10,646	N/A
74	Cape Henry Collegiate School	VB 23454	1320 Mill Dam Road www.capehenrycollegiate.org	1924	PK - 12 (Combined)	Nonsectarian (Regular)	VAIS, SAIS, AdvancED		10.0	819	\$11,230 - \$14,400	\$15,315 - \$15,995	\$17,595	\$17,995
75	Isle of Wight Academy	IW 23397	P.O. Box 105 www.iwacademy.com	1967	PK - 12 (Combined)	Nonsectarian (Regular)	VISA, AdvancED	SAIS	15.6	562	\$5,250	\$5,950 - \$6,050	\$6,100 - \$6,200	\$6,200
76	Chesapeake Montessori School	C 23322	2 campuses: 516 Albemarle Dr., Ste. C (23322); 2013 Scenic Parkway (23323) www.chesapeakemontessorischool.org	1991	PK - 6 (Elementary)	Nonsectarian (Special Emphasis)	No	AMS	4.1	64	\$4,636 - \$7,327	\$8,397		
77	Greenbrier Montessori School	C 23320	1100 Greenbrier Parkway www.greenbriermontessori.com	1999	PK - 6 (Elementary)	Nonsectarian (Special Emphasis)	No	AMS	8.2	33	\$6,315 - \$7,620	\$7,730 - \$8,335	\$8,335	N/A
78	Montessori Academy of Virginia (Chesapeake)	C 23320	1468 Kempsville Road www.montessoriva.com	1997	PK - 5 (Elementary)	Nonsectarian (Special Emphasis)	No		5.5	36	\$6,150	\$6,400 - \$6,500	\$6,500	N/A
79	Ghent Montessori School	N 23507	610 Mowbray Arch www.ghentmontessorischool.com	1978	PK - 8 (Elementary)	Nonsectarian (Special Emphasis)	No	IMC	5.0	168	\$6,250 - \$9,130	\$6,250 - \$9,250	\$9,700	N/A

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80	McDonald Montessori	N 23504	4200 Granby St. www.mcdonaldmontessori.com		PK - 3 (Elementary)	Nonsectarian (Special Emphasis)	No	AMS	7.3	22	\$6,450	\$6,850	N/A	N/A	
81	Courthouse Montessori School	VB 23453	1305 Windmill Point Crescent www.courthousemontessorischool.com		PK - 5 (Elementary)	Nonsectarian (Special Emphasis)	No		16.0	32	\$675/mo	\$675/mo	N/A	N/A	
82	Montessori Academy of Virginia (Virginia Beach)	VB 23462	4774 Alicia Dr. www.montessoriva.com	1997	PK - 5 (Elementary)	Nonsectarian (Special Emphasis)	No		8.3	25					
83	Kempsville Center for Behavioral Health	N 23502	860 Kempsville Road www.kempsvillecbh.com		K - 12 (Combined)	Nonsectarian (Special Education)	VAISEF								
84	Brighton Behavioral Health Center	P 23704	301 Fort Lane www.brightonbhc.com		7 - 12 (Secondary)	Nonsectarian (Special Education)	VAISEF								
85	Harbor Point Behavioral Health Center	P 23704	301 Fort Lane www.harborpointbhc.com		7 - 12 (Secondary)	Nonsectarian (Special Education)	VAISEF								

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86	Chesapeake Bay Academy	VB	23462	821 Baker Road www.cba-va.org	1989	K - 12 (Combined)	Nonsectarian (Special Education)	VAIS	5.0	135 (Middle and Upper Schools Only)	\$20,200	\$20,200	\$20,800	\$22,900	
Acronyms	AACS	American Association of Christian Schools						NAUMS	National Association of University-Model Schools						
	ACE	Accelerated Christian Education						NLSA	National Lutheran School Accreditation						
	ACCS	Association of Classical & Christian Schools						ODACS	Old Dominion Association of Church Schools						
	ACSI	Association of Christian Schools International						ORUEF	Oral Roberts University Educational Fellowship						
	ACTS	Association of Christian Teachers and Schools						PEJE	Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education						
	AMS	American Montessori Society						SAIS	Southern Association of Independent Schools						
	CESA	Council on Educational Standards & Accountability						SBACS	Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools						
	FCE	Friends Council on Education						SED-LCMS	Southeastern District, Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod						
	GSDAC	General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church						SDASPC	Seventh-Day Adventist Schools of the Potomac Conference						
	HRACS	Hampton Roads Association of Christian Schools						VAIS	Virginia Association of Independent Schools						
	ICAA	International Christian Accrediting Association						VAISEF	Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities						
	IMC	International Montessori Council						VISA	Virginia Independent Schools Association						
NAPS	National Association of Private Schools														
Sources: 2009-10 Private School Universe Survey, at: http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch/ Virginia Council for Private Education, at: http://www.vcpe.org/ Private schools of southern Hampton Roads															



