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AUTHOR McHewitt, Earl R.
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ABSTRACT

This report describes Virginia Community College System's (VCCS) performance on several facilities utilization measures for 1998 and compares measures with standards adopted by the state council. As a system, classrooms were used an average of 33 hours per week and were occupied at an average of 67% capacity. Laboratories were used 26 hours per week and were occupied at 75% capacity. Lab use exceeded SCHEV standards for use and occupancy (24 hours per week at 78 percent). For classrooms, the actual use is below the standard of 40 hours but exceeds the occupancy standard of 60 percent. Only three of 23 colleges exceeded classroom usage standards. All measures include both for-credit and not-for-credit instruction in permanent, on-campus facilities. Two figures graph average weekly hours of usage for classroom and laboratories at each campus. Tables detail: the number of classrooms and laboratories at each campus and the square footage of these facilities; actual vs. target weekly room use, weekly station use and occupancy rate; weekly station use hours for classrooms at each campus from 1994, 1996, and 1998; weekly station use hours for laboratories at each campus from 1994, 1996, and 1998; extended-day utilization of on-site space for each campus from fall 1998. (RDG)

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VCCS Utilization of Classrooms and Labs Fall 1998

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**VCCS Utilization of
Classrooms and Labs
Fall 1998**



**Earl R. McHewitt
Academic Services & Research
(804) 225-2297**

March 1999

Fall 1998 Facilities Utilization Study

This report describes VCCS performance on several utilization measures and compares the measures with the utilization standards adopted by state council.

As a system, classrooms were used an average of 33 hours per week, and, when used, the rooms were occupied at two-thirds capacity.

VCCS class laboratories were used 26 hours weekly, and students occupied more than three-fourths of the stations when the labs were used.

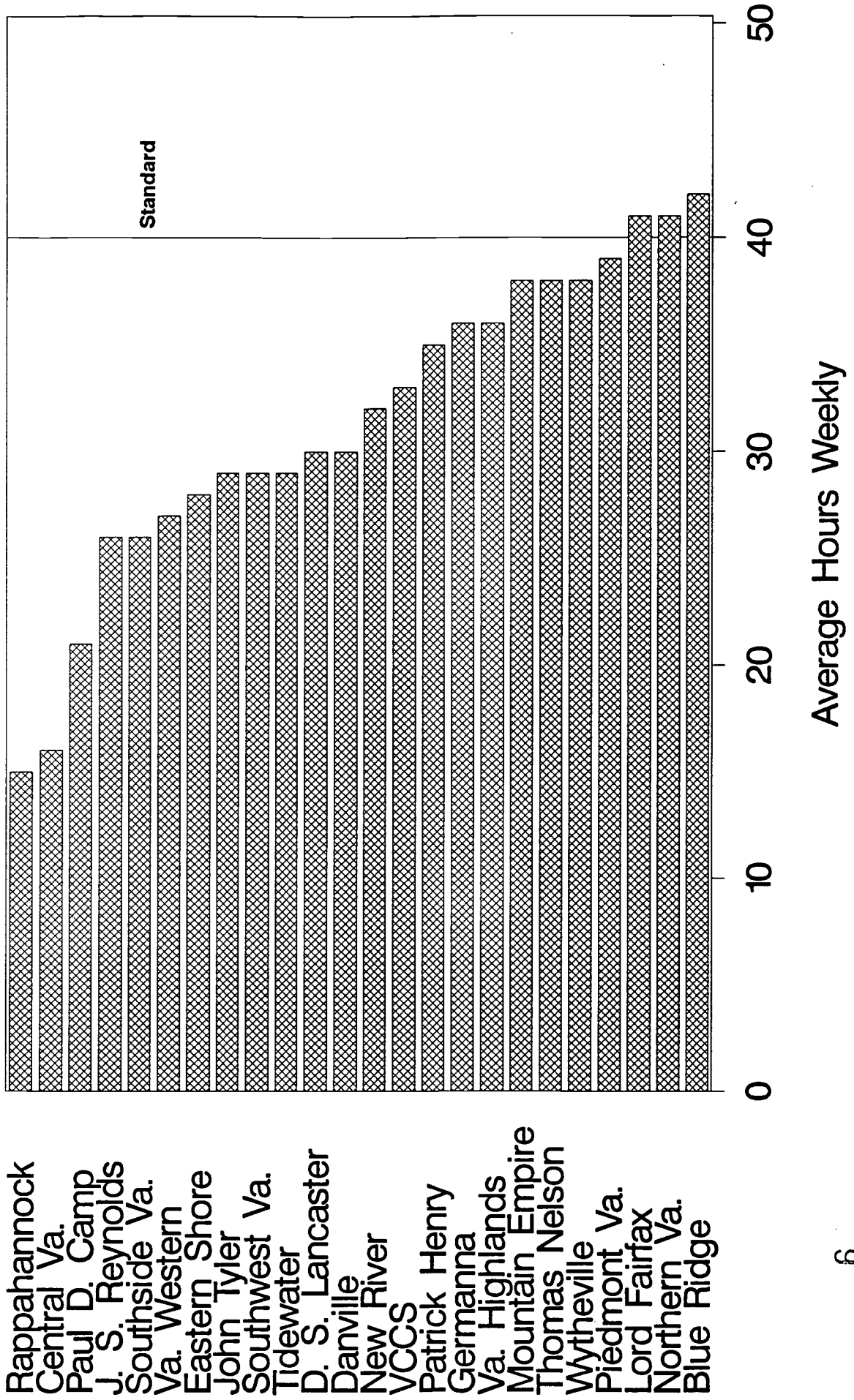
Lab use exceeded SCHEV standards for room use and occupancy, which are 24 hours per week and 78 percent. For classrooms, the actual scheduled use (33 hrs.) is below the standard for weekly use (40 hrs.). But, number of students in the rooms is well above the standard (67% occupancy vs. 60% standard).

The two graphs that follow show VCCS and college use of classrooms and labs. Many community colleges utilize space well above the standard for laboratory space, but only a few schedule classrooms at the "40 hours per week" rate. It should be noted that only a few colleges match this rate if all public institutions in Virginia, 2-year or 4-year, are considered.

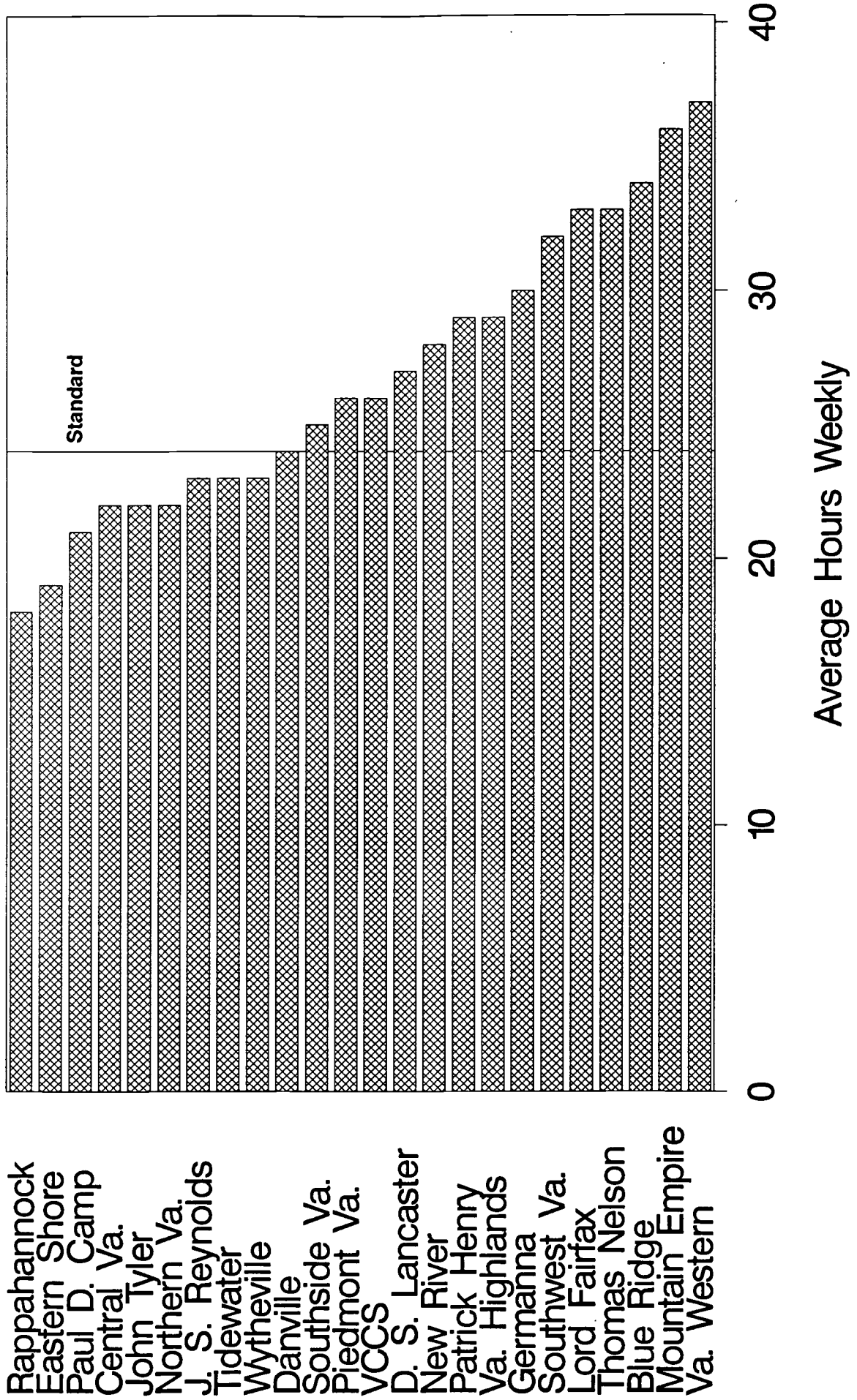
Remaining sections and tables show the number of college classrooms and the amount of space allocated to them, provide a comparison of fall 1998 performance with targets established for DPB performance measures, and define more specifically the measures and standards. The last three tables include more detailed college data on classroom use.

All measures include both credit and non-credit instruction conducted in permanent, on-campus classrooms and class labs.

Classroom Use: Fall 1998 Data



Class Lab Use: Fall 1998



**INVENTORIED INSTRUCTIONAL SPACE
CLASSROOMS AND CLASS LABS
FALL 1998 (On-Site Only)**

	Classrooms	Classroom ASF	Labs	Lab ASF	Total ASF
Blue Ridge	18	11,703	15	17,886	29,589
Central Virginia	41	25,162	36	33,891	59,053
Dabney S. Lancaster	7	4,546	13	15,628	20,174
Danville	22	13,643	34	53,464	67,107
Eastern Shore	9	5,588	9	9,493	15,081
Germanna	25	15,278	20	21,586	36,864
J. Sargeant Reynolds	85	49,137	66	75,796	124,933
John Tyler	37	24,850	22	22,514	47,364
Lord Fairfax	15	8,859	22	25,560	34,419
Mountain Empire	16	12,175	23	18,597	30,772
New River	26	20,783	20	33,487	54,280
Northern Virginia	251	159,361	151	178,265	337,626
Patrick Henry	20	14,624	26	31,173	45,497
Paul D. Camp	19	13,159	13	17,179	30,338
Piedmont Virginia	24	16,335	12	15,770	32,105
Rappahannock	23	15,606	19	19,501	35,107
Southside Virginia	18	10,453	28	26,160	36,613
Southwest Virginia	21	13,679	45	49,366	63,045
Thomas Nelson	38	19,071	23	31,916	50,987
Tidewater	169	100,074	117	126,893	226,967
Virginia Highlands	16	9,365	27	31,096	40,461
Virginia Western	39	23,717	26	28,960	52,677
Wytheville	23	14,159	29	29,095	43,254
VCCS	962	601,444	796	913,124	1,515,568

DPB Performance Measure Comparisons

Performance Measure Targets as Updated November 1998

Standard	Type of Room	Measure	
Weekly Room Use	Classroom	Actual	33 hours
		Target	34 hours
	Class Lab	Actual	26 hours
		Target	26 hours
Weekly Station Use	Classroom	Actual	22 hours
		Target	25 hours
	Class Lab	Actual	20 hours
		Target	20 hours
Occupancy Rate	Classroom	Actual	67%
		Target	75%
	Class Lab	Actual	79%
		Target	79%

Looking first at the Lab targets, laboratory performance measures do not differ by one hour or one percentage point from the targeted values. Classroom measures are close, with room use, station use, and occupancy being 98, 97, and 88 percent of the targeted levels.

The lab measures, as expected, reflect continued high use of the facilities. Classroom measures are below targets because the 1996 classroom utilization measures for classrooms were in error for one college and the VCCS. As a result, targets were based on performance levels that were higher than actual.

Utilization Measure Definitions and Table Descriptions

One component of SCHEV's space planning system compares colleges' actual utilization with standards adopted for space planning purposes. There are separate standards for:

- The amount of space used per student desk or station .
- The number of hours that a room is used per week.
- The percentage of stations occupied when a room is used.

The first section of this report (Tables I-II) presents combined measures of actual room use and station occupancy from each of the last three utilization studies and, for 1998, the measure is expressed as a percentage of the combined SCHEV standards. This measure reflects, on average, how the number of hours that students use desks or stations compares to SCHEV assumptions about how many hours per week they should be used. Off-site facilities have been excluded from all utilization measures. Non-credit utilization is included. These numbers should agree with those from SCHEV's utilization review.

College utilization measures from the Fall 1998 study permitting separate comparisons with each of the three standards are presented in Table IV.

**Tables I and II
Weekly Use of Rooms and Student Stations, 1994-1998**

A primary data outcome of the SCHEV utilization study is total weekly station use hours (WSUH) for classrooms and labs. This number reflects how many hours per week that students are in the rooms and roughly translates to student contact hours. Dividing this number by the total number of stations or seats available in inventory produces an average weekly station use. This measure reflects both frequency of room use and occupancy when in use. The corresponding SCHEV standard or expected level for station use is based on the product of the room use and occupancy rate standards. For example, standards of 40 hours per week for room use and 60 percent for occupancy yield an expected weekly station use rate of 24 hours.

Tables I -II present actual station use for the last three utilization studies and, for 1998, actual use is shown as a percentage of SCHEV standards. Information on classrooms and classroom laboratories are tabled separately. All utilization data and standards are for the extended day, which includes evening hours.

TABLE I
WEEKLY STATION USE HOURS
ALL R AND Z FACILITIES EXCLUDED
CLASSROOMS

College	1994	1996	1998	1998 As Percent of Standard ¹
Blue Ridge	19	17	26	108
Central Virginia	23	20	10	42
Dabney S. Lancaster	13	13	12	50
Danville	22	20	19	79
Eastern Shore	18	15	17	71
Germanna	26	28	27	113
J. Sargeant Reynolds	22	18	19	79
John Tyler	21	22	22	92
Lord Fairfax	25	25	32	133
Mountain Empire	31	22	19	79
New River	21	19	21	88
Northern Virginia	27	39	28	117
Patrick Henry	24	15	13	54
Paul D. Camp	17	14	11	46
Piedmont Virginia	26	38	29	121
Rappahannock	10	7	8	33
Southside Virginia	19	22	16	67
Southwest Virginia	25	19	17	71
Thomas Nelson	31	32	29	121
Tidewater	22	16	18	75
Virginia Highlands	19	18	20	83
Virginia Western	30	27	23	96
Wytheville	12	12	26	110
VCCS	25	25	22	92

¹ The standard for classroom station use is 24 hours a week. This is based on room use of 40 hours a week with an occupancy rate of 60 percent.

TABLE II
WEEKLY STATION USE HOURS
ALL R AND Z FACILITIES EXCLUDED
CLASS LABORATORIES

College	1994	1996	1998	1998 As Percent of Standard ¹
Blue Ridge	20	17	26	145
Central Virginia	20	19	18	100
Dabney S. Lancaster	13	13	13	72
Danville	16	18	19	106
Eastern Shore	11	13	12	67
Germanna	28	23	23	128
J. Sargeant Reynolds	28	20	22	122
John Tyler	20	23	22	122
Lord Fairfax	19	31	40	222
Mountain Empire	28	39	25	139
New River	19	20	17	95
Northern Virginia	23	20	20	111
Patrick Henry	24	14	14	78
Paul D. Camp	15	18	12	67
Piedmont Virginia	19	20	17	95
Rappahannock	13	9	11	61
Southside Virginia	24	21	18	100
Southwest Virginia	31	27	24	133
Thomas Nelson	29	29	24	133
Tidewater	17	15	18	100
Virginia Highlands	14	16	19	106
Virginia Western	34	40	38	211
Wytheville	28	24	17	95
VCCS	21	20	20	111

¹ The standard is 18 station (seat) use hours per week. This is based on using classrooms 24 hours a week with a 78 percent occupancy rate.

Table IV
Component Utilization Measures for Fall 1998

Separate measures for room use, occupancy rates, and amount of space per desk or station are presented in Table IV. Room use is measured in hours per week. Occupancy is the percentage of stations occupied when the room is used. ASF/Station refers to the square footage allocated for each station. These measures are provided for each type of classroom space. Again, off-site facilities were not included in these reports, and all measures are for the extended day.

**TABLE IV
UTILIZATION OF ON-SITE SPACE
FALL 1998 DATA, EXTENDED DAY**

COLLEGE	CLASSROOM				CLASS LABORATORY				
	ASF/Station	Room Use	Occupancy	ASF/Station	Room Use	Occupancy	ASF/Station	Room Use	Occupancy
Blue Ridge	17.8	42	61	57.1	34	76			
Central Virginia	18.1	16	64	46.1	22	81			
Dabney S. Lancaster	14.2	30	41	49.0	27	49			
Danville	19.3	30	62	79.2	24	81			
Eastern Shore	21.2	28	60	53.9	19	64			
Germanna	23.1	36	75	44.8	30	77			
J. Sargeant Reynolds	19.2	26	71	59.5	23	93			
John Tyler	25.6	29	75	66.2	22	91			
Lord Fairfax	20.7	41	78	85.5	33	122			
Mountain Empire	19.0	38	51	36.6	36	70			
New River	22.2	32	66	72.0	28	61			
Northern Virginia	18.2	41	69	48.9	22	90			
Patrick Henry	16.4	35	37	56.0	29	58			
Paul D. Camp	25.9	21	54	55.1	21	59			
Piedmont Virginia	22.6	39	74	55.9	26	78			
Rappahannock	23.2	15	51	47.2	18	59			
Southside Virginia	19.2	26	59	58.5	25	73			
Southwest Virginia	16.5	29	57	52.2	32	75			
Thomas Nelson	15.3	38	76	54.4	33	73			
Tidewater	16.1	29	61	41.9	23	78			
Virginia Highlands	17.5	36	55	49.5	29	64			
Virginia Western	22.4	27	87	55.3	37	105			
Wytheville	18.4	38	70	47.4	23	76			
VCCS	18.6	33	67	52.1	26	79			



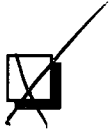


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