

**Background**

The problems of youth violence greatly inflict schools and school systems. As part of its overarching goal of fostering Positive youth development, the VCU Clark-Hill Institute examines trends of youth violence activities in Richmond Public Schools (RPS).

School level data from 2002-2010, some of which continues through 2011, were procured from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and Richmond Public Schools (RPS). Information on truancy conferences (of unique students), dropouts, and discipline incidents were examined. The data were reported to the VDOE by school divisions and verified as accurate by division supervisors. Discipline incident data are specifically gathered from the VDOE Virginia Safe Schools Information Resource (SSIR). Additionally, information on accreditation status was collected for the 2011-2012 school year. School accreditation is based on student achievement on the Standards of Learning Assessments (SOLs) and other tests in English, history/social science, mathematics, and science.

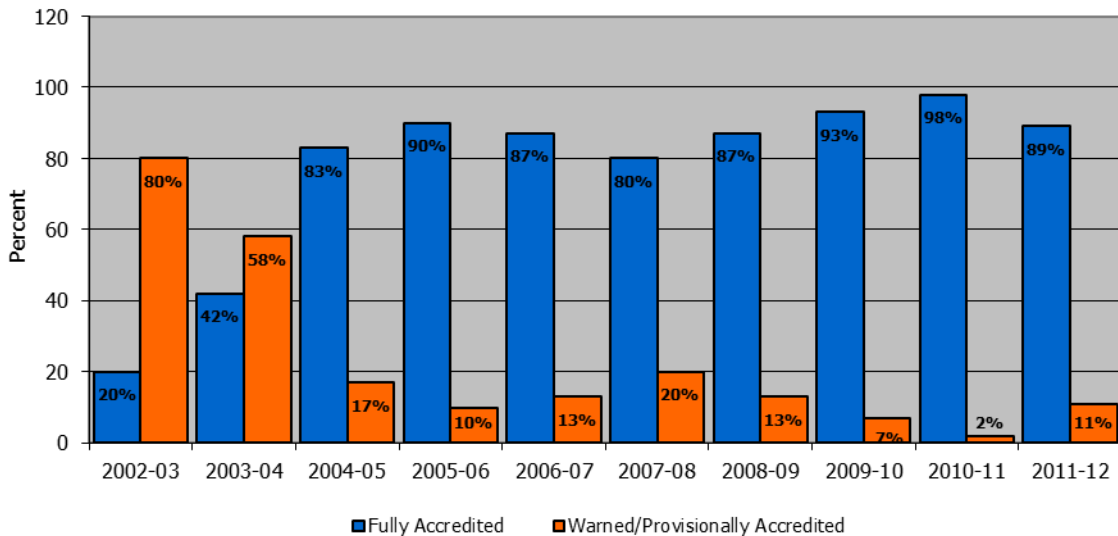
Note: Reporting methodologies may have changed from year to year, so extreme caution must be used when interpreting trends across years. Additionally, due to changes in law and data improvements and collection methods, offense types are sometimes moved between categories.

**Characteristics**

Currently, there are twenty-seven elementary schools (including one charter school), eight middle schools, seven comprehensive high schools, and four specialty schools, serving 23,454 students in Richmond City. Race, ethnic and sex distribution of students 2010-11 school year is shown in Table 1.

Black	White	Hispanic	Other
85% (19,565)	8% (1,874)	6% (1,296)	1% (259)
Male		Female	
51% (11,626)		49% (11,368)	

**Figure 1: Richmond School Accreditation Status, 2002 - 2011**



**Accreditation<sup>1</sup>**

The proportion of Richmond City schools with a fully accredited status has increased each year from 2002 to 2006; however, in school years 2006-07 and 2007-08, a slight reduction in the proportion of fully accredited schools was observed followed by increased trend. The highest proportion of fully accredited schools was observed in the 2010-11 academic year. In the 2011-2012, 5 schools dropped to accreditation with warning, decreasing the proportion of fully accredited schools (Figure 1).

Accreditation by School Level: For the past six years, all high schools in Richmond City have been fully accredited. There was a significant increase in the number of fully accredited elementary schools between the 2002-03 to 2005-06 school years. However, there was a slight decline between 2005-06 and 2008-09. A similar trend was also observed in the accreditation status of middle schools, with an exception in the 2004-05 school year. Additionally, the trend reversed in the 2008-09 school year (Table 2).

	Elementary	Middle	High
2002-2003	23% (7)	10% (1)	22% (2)
2003-2004	55% (17)	10% (1)	33% (3)
2004-2005	84% (26)	78% (7)	86% (6)
2005-2006	94% (29)	67% (6)	100% (8)
2006-2007	93% (26)	56% (5)	100% (8)
2007-2008	93% (26)	22% (2)	100% (8)
2008-2009	89% (25)	67% (6)	100% (8)
2009-2010	96% (27)	75% (6)	100% (8)
2010-2011	96% (27)	100% (8)	100% (8)
2011-2012	100% (26)	75% (6)	71% (5)

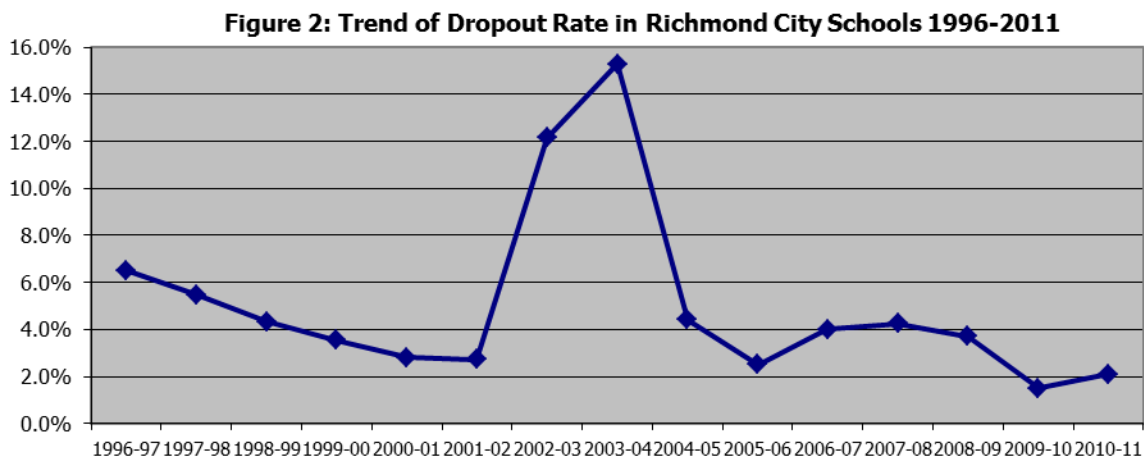
### Truancy Conference<sup>1</sup>

Truancy counts are reported for students who are between 6 and 17 years of age and have accumulated ten or more absences during the school year. While truancy in high schools was greater than in elementary and middle schools, there was an overall decreasing trend in truancy in schools (Table 3). Data for the 2009-10 school year are not available.

	Elementary	Middle	High
2002-2003	8% (1147)	19% (1068)	40% (2236)
2003-2004	13% (1550)	21% (1132)	43% (2288)
2004-2005	5% (637)	18% (915)	35% (1846)
2005-2006	5% (591)	14% (791)	26% (1658)
2006-2007	4% (484)	7% (378)	18% (1066)
2007-2008	4% (474)	7% (317)	19% (1129)
2008-2009	5% (551)	5% (251)	18% (1073)

### Dropout<sup>2</sup>

The rate of students who dropped out of school declined since 2003-04 school years, when the highest increase in dropout rate was observed. Although there was a small but gradual increase in 2006-07 and 2007-08, dropout rates were the lowest in 2009-10 school year (Figure 2).



<sup>1</sup> Excludes Exceptional and Alternative schools

<sup>2</sup>To comply with federal requirements, schools annually report on the number of students in grades 7-12 who drop out during the school year. These estimated dropout percentages represent the number of dropouts for a given school year divided by the membership on September 30th of that school year.

## Discipline Incidents

Number of discipline incidents of all categories has significantly declined through the past eight years (data not shown on table). Table 4 compares the proportion of overall discipline incidents in Virginia and Richmond. Proportion of discipline incidents in RPS was similar to the state. However, incidents related to weapons, against person related to ATOD, property, technology and other incidents are higher in the overall state. On the other hand, behavior related incidents and incident against staff were higher in Richmond.

**Table 4: Discipline Incidents for Richmond City and All Virginia Public Schools**

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		
	Richmond	VA	Richmond	VA	Richmond	VA	Richmond	VA	Richmond	VA	Richmond	VA	Richmond	VA	Richmond	VA	Richmond	VA	
Related to Weapons	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Against Student	4%	3%	5%	0%	6%	4%	5%	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	4%	6%	6%	6%
Against Staff	0%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	3%	1%	5%	2%	2%
Against Person	18%	10%	11%	10%	8%	9%	11%	12%	11%	15%	12%	17%	11%	17%	12%	19%	21%	25%	25%
Related to ATOD	1%	3%	1%	3%	1%	3%	1%	3%	1%	3%	1%	3%	1%	4%	1%	4%	2%	6%	6%
Related to Property	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	1%	3%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	3%
Related to Behavior	75%	65%	31%	30%	35%	26%	34%	19%	65%	58%	64%	53%	64%	52%	71%	58%	60%	49%	49%
Other Incidents	0%	16%	49%	51%	46%	53%	44%	56%	16%	15%	15%	16%	17%	15%	8%	6%	1%	4%	4%
Technology	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%	2%	1%	3%	1%	4%	1%	5%	3%	5%	5%

**Suggested citation:** Masho, SM and Bishop, DL. Trends of Violence Activities and Accreditation Status in Richmond City Public Schools, 2002-2010. April 2012. The VCU Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development. [www.clarkhill.org](http://www.clarkhill.org) (and date accessed).

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