

September 9, 2005

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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WHAT: *Brown v. Board of Education* Scholarship Awards Committee
and Prince Edward County Public Schools

WHEN: Wednesday, September 21, 2005, 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Prince Edward County School Board Building
35 Eagle Drive
Farmville, VA 23901

PURPOSE: Informational Forum for Persons Seeking the GED

The Honorable Benjamin J. Lambert, III, Chairman of the *Brown v. Board of Education* Scholarship Awards Committee, announced today that the Awards Committee and the Prince Edward County Public Schools will hold informational forum for eligible persons who are interested in applying for the Brown scholarship to obtain the General Education Development (GED) certificate, and all other persons who wish to earn a GED. The members of the Scholarship Awards Committee are Senators Benjamin J. Lambert, III of Richmond and Henry L. Marsh, III of Richmond; Delegates Watkins M. Abbitt, Jr. of Appomattox, Clarke N. Hogan of South Boston, Floyd H. Miles, Sr. of Charles City, Thomas C. Wright, Jr. of Victoria; and nonlegislative citizens Dr. Patricia Johnson Brown of Richmond, Tameka A. Ferrell of Halifax, Andrew I. Heidelberg of Norfolk, Donald E. Martin of Charlottesville, and Phyllistine Ward Mosley of Lynchburg.

The 2004 Virginia General Assembly established the scholarship program during the first year of the Commonwealth's two-year long commemoration of the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*. The program is designed to assist current domiciled residents of Virginia, who were enrolled in the public schools of the Commonwealth between 1954 and 1964 during Massive Resistance in localities that closed public schools to avoid desegregation, in obtaining an education. During this era, many African-American and White students moved to other localities in- and out-of-state to try to secure an education, and other school divisions were also impacted by school closings.

Eligible Virginians may attend approved preparation programs for the GED or adult high school diploma, or enroll part time or full time in accredited public and private two-year and four-year institutions of higher education in Virginia to obtain career or technical education or training, or an undergraduate degree. Scholarships may be used only to cover the costs of tuition for adult education and undergraduate degree programs, and the cost of the GED test. Scholarship applications for the 2006-2007 school year will be available in October 2005.

All persons interested in earning a GED, whether or not you are eligible to receive the *Brown v. Board of Education* scholarship, are encouraged to attend the informational forum on September 21, 2005.