

# Meet the CIL Advisory Board

## PATRICIA WRIGHT

**Patricia Wright** retired from her post as Virginia’s superintendent of public instruction in 2014. With the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), she has served as chief deputy superintendent, acting superintendent, deputy superintendent, assistant superintendent for instruction, director of secondary instruction, associate director of secondary instruction, and state mathematics specialist. Before coming to VDOE in 1985, Dr. Wright taught mathematics for 10 years at the secondary school level in Virginia public schools. Dr. Wright earned her bachelor’s degree in mathematics from James Madison University, her master’s degree in mathematics education from Virginia Commonwealth University, and her doctorate in mathematics education from the University of Virginia.



Dr. Wright served as acting superintendent of public instruction in 2005 and early 2006. She was appointed state superintendent in 2008 and reappointed in 2010 to oversee some significant reforms targeting K–12 education, including expanded access to charter and virtual schools, implementing an A–F school grading system, and creating a statewide school division to take over failing schools. During her tenure, she oversaw a major revision of the commonwealth’s Standards of Learning (SOL), a revision emphasizing college and career readiness; the introduction of more challenging and innovative SOL tests in all subjects; and the expanded use of technology in instruction and assessment.

Virginia public schools are widely acknowledged as among the best in the nation. Virginia students outperform almost all of their peers on national reading, mathematics and science tests and on the SAT and ACT college-admissions assessments. The commonwealth now ranks third in the nation in the percentage of public high school graduates who qualify for college credit on Advanced Placement examinations. Student achievement on all of these national measures improved during Wright’s six years as superintendent of public instruction.

Upon her retirement as state superintendent, Dr. Wright said, “It has been a great honor to serve as state superintendent and collaborate with so many outstanding educators across the commonwealth to develop and implement policies that support higher levels of student learning and achievement. I am profoundly grateful for the support and trust over the years of governors, legislators and Board of Education members — both Democrats and Republicans — who believed in doing the right thing for students, even when the choices were difficult.”