

# Press Release

## **Possible Final Extension of VICC Program**

- As part of VICC's strategic planning process during 2015/16, we have considered how we can serve students and their families as long as possible while continuing to do so within our legal constraints.
- Court decisions prohibit a race-based school desegregation program from continuing in perpetuity. The second Settlement Agreement approved in 1999 anticipated an initial term limiting admission of new students through 2009 (10 years).
- As permitted by the Settlement Agreement, the admission of new students was extended for 5 years on two separate occasions – the first time in 2007 and the second time in 2012.
- We currently can admit new students through the 2018/19 school year which is for three more school years. All districts have committed to allow all students to continue through graduation which means that kindergarten students admitted in 2018/19 could participate in the program through their graduation from high school in 2032.
- Our strategic planning deliberations are leading us in the direction of one final 5 year extension to allow new students to be admitted through 2023/24 with such new admissions somewhat limited in numbers (about 1,000 new students over 5 years) with priority given to siblings as is required under the terms of the Settlement Agreement.
- No final decision has been made at this time related to a final 5 year extension, but we anticipate such decision to be made during the 2016/17 school year.