

BOARD BRIEF

Date: August 2, 2019

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION X

Board Agenda: Yes _____

No X

FROM: Clinton Page, Ed.S., Chief Accountability Officer

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: SOL Reporting and Accreditation Timeline for Fall 2019

SUMMARY:

This year marks the first year of full implementation of the new Virginia Accreditation system. The VDOE is scheduled to publicly release final school Accreditation statuses on September 26, 2019. The Board will be provided preliminary Accreditation results and division next steps at the September 12 School Board Meeting. Further, VDOE is scheduled to release federally adjusted school, division, and state pass rates by grade, content area, and subgroup on August 13, 2019. The Board will be provided a Brief summarizing division federally adjusted results and key takeaways on August 13.

BACKGROUND:

The goal of this memo is to provide information on SOL pass rates and update the School Board on the timeline for dissemination of SOL and Accreditation system results based on student performance from the 2018-2019 school year. As previously discussed with the Board, Virginia Board of Education (VBOE) approved changes to the State’s Accreditation Accountability system in November 2017. The changes adopted by the VBOE were significant in scale and aimed to provide a more comprehensive picture of school quality while driving continuous improvement for all schools through the new system. To achieve these aims, the new system incorporates a wider breadth of indicators than the previous system and also has provisions which recognize student growth for discrete indicators. This year will be Virginia’s first year of full implementation of the new Accreditation system. Annually, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) releases SOL pass rate results as well as accountability system statuses within a set timeline.

SOL Federally Adjusted Pass Rate Results

This year, SOL pass rates for the state, divisions, and schools will be released on August 13, 2019. Pass rates calculated do not align with the methodology incorporating growth used within the State’s Accreditation system.

SOL Accreditation Results

SOL Accreditation results will be publicly released by VDOE on September 26, 2019 and will include Accreditation statuses and SOL outcomes for all schools. Concurrently, VDOE will

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update School Quality Profiles for schools, divisions, and the commonwealth to include new accreditation ratings and federal support and improvement designations. Preliminary information will be presented publicly at the School Board Meeting on September 12, 2019 and will include next-steps for the division.

As a reminder, within the new Accreditation system all schools are held to indicators in the areas of: overall proficiency and growth in English achievement; overall proficiency and growth in mathematics; overall proficiency in science; achievement gaps among student groups in English and mathematics; and chronic absenteeism. Additionally, schools with graduating classes, such as T.C. Williams High School, will be held to the indicators of Graduation and Completion Index, dropout rate, and, beginning in school year 2021-2022, a college, career and civic readiness indicator. Please review the attached *VDOE School Accreditation Brief* for additional high-level information regarding the Accreditation system.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the information contained within this brief and the attachment for an understanding of the timeline of SOL data releases and a reminder to the structures and mechanisms contained within the Virginia Accreditation system.

IMPACT: The new State Accreditation system includes multiple measures that incorporate growth and illuminate subgroup performance, which is a great value to the division as it more closely aligns to existing ACPS practices and values. This alignment across state, division, and school will continue to be reinforced through department and school improvement plans, the beliefs and values reinforced by leadership across all levels, and the practices and strategies used to continuously improve across all facets of the organization.

ATTACHMENTS: (1) *VDOE School Accreditation Brief*

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