

Date: January 11, 2018

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION X

Board Agenda: Yes X
No _____

FROM: Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer, Department of Accountability
Natalie Mitchell, Director of Title I Programs, Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Terri Mazingo, Chief Academic Officer, Curriculum & Instruction

THROUGH: Lois Berlin, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Ramee Gentry, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria
City School Board

TOPIC: Virginia Accreditation Accountability Update

BACKGROUND:

The goal of this memo and attached PowerPoint is to update the School Board on the recently approved changes to the Virginia Accreditation Accountability system. The Virginia Board of Education (VBOE) in November 2017 approved changes to the State's Accreditation Accountability system. 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.

All schools within the new Accreditation system will be 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.

Within each of these indicators schools will be assigned one of three performance levels based on their performance. This new 'stoplight' approach is designed to allow Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to monitor continuous improvement within schools falling in Level I (Green) or Level II (Yellow) areas for all indicators, while State support would be provided to schools with any indicators falling within Level III (Red). Overall school ratings will continue to be provided within the new Accreditation system. Schools with all indicators in either Level I (Green) or Level II (Yellow) will be "Accredited." Schools with one or more indicators at Level III (Red) will be "Accredited with Conditions." Finally, if a school under "Accredited with Conditions" is determined by the VBOE to have not adhered to their corrective action plan then they would receive an "Accreditation Denied" status.

Additional details pertaining to the indicators, how growth will be accounted for, and benchmarks for each indicator performance level can be found in the attached PowerPoint.

The timeline for the implementation of the new Accreditation system will take a phased approach. In January 2018, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is scheduled to provide divisions with reports providing information on how individual schools would have performed within the new accountability system based on SY 16-17 data. These reports will be informational only, and intended to allow schools to understand the application of the new system based on their performance data from the most recent year. In summer 2018, VDOE will determine schools' Accreditation statuses by running their SY 17-18 data through both the current and new Accreditation systems and using the system, current or new, that produces the highest overall Accreditation status for that school. Finally, performance data from SY 18-19 will be used only within the new Accreditation system in summer 2019 for the calculation of school statuses.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends review of the Virginia Accreditation Accountability System Update materials for possible planning, procedural, programmatic, and/or budgetary changes.

IMPACT:

Changes within the State Accountability system and their impact to discrete schools will be further investigated upon receipt of the informational reports within the coming month. Further, adjustments to School Education Plans (SEPs), Governance, and all other school and/or division monitoring processes will require review and potential revision for ensured alignment with the new Accreditation Accountability system.

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ATTACHMENTS: 1. *Virginia Accreditation Accountability Update PowerPoint*