

BOARD BRIEF

Date: June 7, 2019

For ACTION

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes

No

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: Review of New Accreditation Accountability System

SUMMARY:

The goal of this Board Brief is to review the new Virginia Accreditation accountability system. As discussed with the Board on January 11, February 22, and September 13 2018, the Virginia Board of Education (VBOE) approved changes to the State’s Accreditation Accountability system in November 2017. In summer 2018, Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) determined schools’ Accreditation statuses by running their SY 17-18 data through both the old and new Accreditation systems. Schools’ final Accreditation statuses were assigned based on the highest status received from either system. ACPS had four schools receive full Accreditation status based only on the old Accreditation system. These schools were: Douglas MacArthur, Matthew Maury, Mount Vernon, and George Washington. Starting this summer, performance data from SY 18-19 will be used only within the new Accreditation system for the calculation of school Accreditation statuses assigned in the fall 2019.

BACKGROUND:

The changes adopted by the VBOE to the Accreditation system were significant in scale. The impetus for change was pointed toward providing 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

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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, they would then 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.

In summer 2018, VDOE determined schools' Accreditation statuses by running their SY 17-18 data through both the old and new Accreditation systems. Schools' final Accreditation statuses were assigned based on the highest status received from either system. ACPS had four schools receive full Accreditation status based only on the old Accreditation system. These schools were: Douglas MacArthur, Matthew Maury, Mount Vernon, and George Washington. All of these schools did not meet requirements for full accreditation within the new system based on SY 17-18 results. To retain their full Accreditation statuses moving forward, all schools must meet the requirements within the new Accreditation system.

Annually, the VDOE releases SOL pass rate results as well as accountability system statuses within a set timeline. The VDOE has not sent out the preliminary timeline for the release of this information. Historically, Accreditation results are released by VDOE in mid to late September. Once a timeline is provided by VDOE, the Board will be updated on the timeline for the release accountability information based on results from SY 18-19.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the School Board review this Board Brief and PowerPoint attachment to ensure an understanding of the new VDOE Accreditation accountability system.

IMPACT: Starting with SOL results from SY 18-19, schools across the Commonwealth will be held fully to the new VDOE Accreditation system. This will shift the focus of the VDOE accountability system from solely "all student" performance measures on SOLs to emphasizing student subgroup performance as well as additional indicators outside of SOL performance linked to overall school quality and continuous improvement efforts.

ATTACHMENTS: (1) *PowerPoint: Review of New Accreditation System*

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