

Date: August 24, 2018

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION X

Board Agenda: Yes _____
No X

FROM: Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer, Accountability

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

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

TOPIC: SOL Reporting and Accreditation Timeline for Fall 2018

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 from the 2017-2018 school year. As discussed with the Board on January 11 and February 22, 2018, the 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. Annually the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) releases SOL pass rate results as well as accountability system statuses within a set timeline.

SOL Pass Rate Results

This year, SOL pass rates for the state, divisions, and schools were released on August 22, 2018. This information release does not align with any accountability system and pass rates calculated do not align with the methodology incorporating growth used within the State's Accreditation system.

All student pass rates reported in this release showed little change in ACPS performance in the areas of Reading (69%, -2 percentage points), History/Social Sciences (75%, -1 percentage point), and Science (69%, +1 percentage point) when compared to the previous year. Writing showed moderate growth (72%) increasing by four percentage points, while Mathematics showed moderate decline (61%) decreasing by five percentage points when compared to the previous year. For additional information on the VDOE SOL pass rate release please visit the VDOE School Quality Profiles available at <http://schoolquality.virginia.gov/>.

SOL Accreditation Results

The next VDOE public release is currently scheduled for September 27, 2018 and will include Accreditation statuses and SOL outcomes for all schools. This release will also include any schools across the state identified for Comprehensive Assistance or Additional Targeted Assistance under ESSA. Prior to this release, the Board will receive preliminary data on school Accreditation statuses as well as detailed reports on performance by discrete indicator within the new and old system by school. This preliminary information will be presented publicly at the School Board Meeting on September 13, 2018 and will include next-steps for the division.

As a reminder, 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. Please review the attached *VDOE School Accreditation Brief* for additional high-level information regarding the new Accreditation system or the more detailed *VDOE Standards of Accreditation Changes* document which includes benchmarks and calculation methodologies previously discussed with the Board.

RECOMMENDATION:

Review the information contained within this memo and the attachments for an understanding of the timeline of SOL data releases and a reminder to the structures and mechanisms contained within the new Accreditation system.

IMPACT:

Changes within the State Accreditation system of moving to a multiple measures model that incorporates growth and illuminates subgroup performance is a great value to the division as it more closely aligns to existing ACPS practices and values. This year 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.

CONTACT PERSON: Clinton Page

ATTACHMENT: (1) *VDOE School Accreditation Brief*
(2) *VDOE Standards of Accreditation Changes*