

BOARD BRIEF

Date: August 13, 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: Federally Adjusted SOL Results

SUMMARY:

VDOE is scheduled to release federally adjusted school, division, and state pass rates by grade, content area, and subgroup today, August 13, 2019. This Board Brief summarizes division federally adjusted results. 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, 2019 School Board Meeting.

BACKGROUND:

The goal of this Board Brief is to provide information on federally adjusted SOL pass rates for the state, divisions, and schools as released by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) today. Federally adjusted student pass rates reported in the release showed a nine percentage point increase in ACPS performance in the area of Mathematics (70%). Math results increased across all subgroups. The percentage of Black, Hispanic, English Learner and Economically Disadvantaged students proficient in math all increased by nine percentage points or more. The ACPS rate of growth in math for all students was four percentage points higher than growth seen at the state level. There was little change in the areas of History/Social Sciences (72%, -3 percentage points), Writing (70%, -2 percentage points), Science (67%, -2 percentage points), and Reading (68%, -1 percentage point) when compared to the previous year. For additional information on the VDOE SOL pass rate results, please visit http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/sol-pass-rates/index.shtml. Federal pass rates do not align with the State’s Accreditation system which incorporates student growth.

State SOL assessments were given to students in grades three through eight in English Language Arts (Reading/Writing), Math, Science and History/Social Studies and in high school core subjects assessed by end-of-course exams. Revisions to the Standards of Accreditation that were approved by the state Board of Education in 2017 and became effective last year reduced the number of SOL tests high school students must pass in order to graduate. Under the revised regulations, students who meet the testing requirement in a content area do not have to take

BOARD BRIEF

another test in the subject unless additional testing is required for the school to comply with federal testing requirements. Previously, high school students continued to take end-of-course tests even if they had already earned the credits in the content area necessary to graduate. The 2018-19 school year saw the introduction of new math SOL tests, reflecting revisions to the state mathematics standards approved by the state Board of Education in 2016. The introduction of the new tests marked the end of the three-year transition to the revised standards.

The next VDOE public release is currently scheduled for September 26, 2019 and will include Accreditation statuses and SOL outcomes for all schools. Concurrently, VDOE will update School Quality Profiles for schools, divisions, and the commonwealth to include new accreditation ratings and federal support and improvement designations. 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 12, 2019 and will include next-steps for the division.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the information contained within this brief for a high-level understanding of federally adjusted SOL pass rates and the timeline for the release of SOL data through the Virginia Accreditation system.

IMPACT: Federally adjusted student pass rates reported in the VDOE release showed an increase in ACPS performance in the area of Mathematics and little change in the areas of History/Social Sciences, Writing, Science, and Reading when compared to the previous year. Pass rates calculated do not align with the methodology incorporating growth used within the State's Accreditation system. Accreditation results will be presented at the School Board Meeting on September 12, 2019 and publicly released by the VDOE on September 26, 2019.

ATTACHMENTS: [SOL News Release](#)
 Key Takeaways

CONTACT:
Clinton Page
Chief Accountability Officer
703-619-8032