# Superintendent’s Memo #130-19

[](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/index.shtml)  
**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: June 7, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Standards of Accreditation (SOA) Guidance Document

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide notification that the updated *Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (i.e. the SOA Guidance Document) is now available for public comment on the [Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website](https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/gdocs.cfm?agencynumber=201). In accordance with § [2.2-4002.1](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/2.2-4002.1) of the *Code of Virginia*, this guidance document is subject to a 30-day public comment period beginning June 10, 2019. Following the close of the public comment period, the document may be updated to address public comments, as appropriate. The SOA Guidance Document is also available on the Virginia Department of Education [Standards of Accreditation webpage](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/accreditation/index.shtml).

The SOA Guidance Document includes guidance to assist school divisions in implementation and interpretation of certain provisions of the [*Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter131/) (i.e., Standards of Accreditation or SOA). It reflects the current SOA that became effective as of the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. The SOA Guidance Document incorporates both guidance adopted by the Board of Education and issued by the Virginia Department of Education, and will be updated regularly to incorporate additional guidance as it is issued.

The SOA Guidance Document is organized by SOA section and provides the relevant regulatory language for each topic addressed, followed by an explanation. The SOA Guidance Document does not include the text of the SOA in its entirety. The full text of the SOA is available online at [*Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8VAC20-131)](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter131/).

Please direct questions regarding the SOA and the SOA Guidance Document to the Policy Office at [policy@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:policy@doe.virginia.gov) or (804) 225-2092.

JFL/EMM