# Superintendent’s Memo #135-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: June 7, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment to Virginia’s *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA) State Plan – Additional Change

[Superintendent’s Memo #127-19](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2019/127-19.docx) announced the opportunity to comment on an amendment to Virginia’s [ESSA State Plan](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/federal_programs/esea/essa/essa-state-plan.pdf). In addition to the proposed changes described in the memo, the change below is proposed.

Chronic Absenteeism Targets

The chronic absenteeism targets in the current ESSA State Plan were calculated using the average rate of chronic absenteeism in each student group as the baseline and ten percent or less of students chronically absent as the long term goal. The amendment proposes to use the chronic absenteeism rate of the school at the 20th percentile of enrollment as the baseline and to update the baseline data by using the 2017-2018 school year as the baseline year. This methodology is aligned with the methodology used to determine the other federal targets. The proposed targets are provided in the table below.

|  | **Baseline** | **Year 2 Targets** | **Year 3 Targets** | **Year 4 Targets** | **Year 5 Targets** | **Year 6 Targets** | **Long Term Goal** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Data Year** | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 |
| **Accountability Year** |  | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 |
| **All Students** | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 |
| **Asian Students** | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| **Black Students** | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 |
| **Economically Disadvantaged Students** | 21 | 19 | 17 | 15 | 13 | 11 | 10 |
| **English Learners** | 14 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 |
| **Hispanic Students** | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 |
| **Students with Disabilities** | 22 | 20 | 18 | 16 | 14 | 12 | 10 |
| **White Students** | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 |

The Department welcomes comments on this amendment. Comments may be submitted electronically by Friday, July 26, 2019, to ESSA@doe.virginia.gov. Comments may also be presented in person during the Board of Education Business Meetings on Thursday, June 20, 2019, and on Thursday, July 25, 2019. The meetings will convene at 9:00 a.m. in the Jefferson Conference Room, 22nd floor, James Monroe Building, 101 N. 14th Street, Richmond, Virginia. Speakers intending to present comment are encouraged to contact Sonya Broady, Secretary, Office of Board Relations, at sonya.broady@doe.virginia.gov to be placed on the speaker list.

Questions regarding Virginia’s ESSA State Plan may be submitted to ESSA@doe.virginia.gov.

JFL/ls