| **Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item** | **Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia** |
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# Agenda Item: E

## Date: September 19, 2019

### Title: Final Review of Request for Division Level Review for Prince Edward County Public Schools

#### Presenter: Dr. Yvonne Holloman, Interim Director, Office of School Quality, Division of School Quality, Instruction and Performance

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## Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by Board of Education regulation.

## Executive Summary:

During the 2015-2016 and 2017-2018 school years, Prince Edward County division and school leaders met with the Office of School Quality quarterly to review evidence of progress on essential actions for the Partially Accredited: Reconstituted schools. In February 2017, an academic review was conducted for Prince Edward County Elementary School. In November 2017, academic reviews were conducted at Prince Edward County Middle and High Schools. In March 2019, an on-site visit was conducted by the Office of School Quality to review the alignment of the written and taught curriculum during lesson delivery. Following the visit, the superintendent requested additional supports for principals regarding the alignment of curriculum content and rigor. Beginning in April 2019, the Office of School Quality provided the services of a contractor. One school identified under the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* as Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) received support with the development of the school improvement grant (SIG) application as it related to the school’s comprehensive needs assessment and continuous school improvement plan.

In September 2019, the superintendent of Prince Edward County Public Schools submitted a request to the Virginia Department of Education to conduct a division-level review to gain a deeper objective analysis of the division’s strengths and opportunities for improvement. The division-level review will focus on the following categories: Academics and Student Success, Leadership and Governance, Operations and Governance, and Human Resource Leadership.

The following chart contains an overview of school accreditation data for Prince Edward County Public Schools for the current school year, as well as the previous five years. Attachment A contains the achievement data for each school in Prince Edward County Public Schools.

| **School Year** | **Number of Schools Accredited with Conditions** | | | | **Number of Schools Denied Accreditation** | **Total Number Not Fully Accredited** | **Total Number of Schools** | **Percent Not Fully Accredited** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2019-2020 | 3 | | | | 0 | 3 | 3 | 100% |
| 2018-2019 | 2 | | | | 0 | 2 | 3 | 66.7% |
| **School Year** | **Number of Schools Not Fully Accredited First Year** | **Number of Schools Not Fully Accredited Second Year** | **Number of Schools Not Fully Accredited Third Year** | **Number of Partially Accredited Reconstituted Schools** | **Number of Schools Denied Accreditation** | **Total Number Not Fully Accredited** | **Total Number of Schools** | **Percent Not Fully Accredited** |
| 2017-2018 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 100% |
| 2016-2017 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 66.7% |
| 2015-2016 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 66.7% |
| 2014-2015 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 100% |

This request aligns to the Board’s Comprehensive Plan: 2018-2023, Priority 1 to provide high quality, effective learning environments for all students.

## Action Requested:

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

**Superintendent’s Recommendation**:   
The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Virginia Board of Education approve the Request for Division-Level Review for Prince Edward County Public Schools.

## Rationale for Action:

The division-level review process will provide information about how the local educational agency’s systems and processes influence student academic performance. Findings from the division-level review will be used to determine essential actions for the superintendent and other staff to implement under the guidance of the Office of School Quality.

## Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

## **Background Information and Statutory Authority:**

## The Standards of Quality (SOQ) require local school boards to maintain fully accredited schools and shall implement processes for corrective actions and improvement planning.

## § 22.1-253.13:3. Standard 3. Accreditation, other standards, assessments, and releases from state regulations.

1. … Each local school board shall maintain schools that are fully accredited pursuant to the standards for accreditation as prescribed by the Board of Education. Each local school board shall report the accreditation status of all schools in the local school division annually in public session.

The Board shall establish a review process to assist any school that does not meet the standards established by the Board. The relevant school board shall report the results of such review and any annual progress reports in public session and shall implement any actions identified through such review and utilize them for improvement planning.

… When the Board determines through its review process that the failure of schools within a division to meet the standards established by the Board is related to division-level failure to implement the Standards of Quality or other division-level action or inaction, the Board may require a division-level academic review. After the conduct of such review and within the time specified by the Board of Education, each school board shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Board and shall subsequently submit to the Board for approval a corrective action plan, consistent with criteria established by the Board setting forth specific actions and a schedule designed to ensure that schools within its school division meet the standards established by the Board. If the Board determines that the proposed corrective action plan is not sufficient to enable all schools within the division to meet the standards established by the Board, the Board may return the plan to the local school board with directions to submit an amended plan pursuant to Board guidance. Such corrective action plans shall be part of the relevant school division's comprehensive plan pursuant to § [22.1-253.13:6](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-253.13:6/).

## **Timetable for Further Review/Action**: Following Board approval, the Office of School Quality will collaborate with the Prince Edward County Public Schools and other VDOE offices to plan and conduct the division-level review. During a future meeting, the resulting findings and essential actions will be reported to the Virginia Board of Education.

**Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:**

The cost of the Prince Edward County Public Schools division-level review will be paid using existing state funds.