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

## Date: September 19, 2019

### Title: Final Review of Request for Division-Level Review for Danville City 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 2018-2019 school year, Danville City Public Schools and the Office of School Quality had a School Improvement Technical Assistance Plan in place to support the improvement efforts of all schools in the division. Actions of the plan included technical assistance in the areas of continuous school improvement planning, professional development for principals through the Principal Leaders in Action program, and professional development for teacher leaders through the Teacher Leaders in Action program. The professional development for principals and teachers included support related to alignment of lesson plans, lesson delivery and monitoring implementation of the written and taught curriculum. Additionally, the Office of School Quality provided the services of a contractor for all schools to support their improvement efforts. In February 2019, the Office of School Quality led academic reviews for all schools regarding lesson plan alignment. School-level reviews were followed by a division-level academic review in March 2019 regarding leadership and professional development. Schools identified under the *Every Student Succeeds* *Act of 2015* as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) or Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) received on-site support in the development of the school improvement grant application as it related to each school’s comprehensive needs assessment and continuous school improvement plan.

In August 2019, the superintendent of Danville City Public Schools submitted a request for 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 Danville City Public Schools for the current school year, as well as the previous five years. Attachment A contains the achievement data for each school in Danville City 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 | 9 | | | | 0 | 9 | 11 | 81.2% |
| 2018-2019 | 6 | | | | 0 | 6 | 11 | 54.5% |
| **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 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 72.7% |
| 2016-2017 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 72.7% |
| 2015-2016 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 11 | 72.7% |
| 2014-2015 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 11 | 63.6% |

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 Danville City 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 Danville City 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 Danville City Public Schools division- level review will be paid using existing state funds.