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

## Date: October 17, 2019

### Title: First Review of 2019-2020 Accreditation Appeals from Bristol City and Fairfax County

#### Presenter: Dr. Jennifer Piver-Renna, Director of Research

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## Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by Board of Education regulation.

**Executive Summary:**   
The Standards of Accreditation (SOA) at *8VAC20-131-380.F.6* provide the opportunity for local school boards to appeal a performance level indicator for a school. The intent of the appeal provision in the SOA is to provide potential relief to schools that have experienced a significant event impacting performance on an indicator. Such circumstances should be unusual and appeals based on this section of the SOA should be rare.

## The Virginia Department of Education received four applications for appeals for 2019-2020 accreditation year, presented in the table below:

| Division | School | Indicator | Application |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bristol City | Virginia Middle School | Achievement Gap - English (students with disabilities) | Attachment A |
| Fairfax County | Fort Belvoir Elementary | Achievement Gap - English (Black students and students with disabilities) | Attachment B |
| Fairfax County | Justice High School | Dropout Rate | Attachment C |
| Fairfax County | Mount Vernon High School | Dropout Rate | Attachment D |

A committee comprised of Department staff representing areas of research, accountability, assessment, federal programs, special education, and policy reviewed each appeal application. The committee referred its findings to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for final recommendation to the Board of Education.

## Action Requested:

Other. Specify below:

## The Board is requested to waive first review and approve the Superintendent’s recommendations for each appeal.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation: The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends the following action for each appeal:

* Virginia Middle School, Bristol City: Deny appeal
* Fort Belvoir Elementary, Fairfax County: Deny appeal
* Justice High School, Fairfax County: Deny appeal
* Mount Vernon High School, Fairfax County:Deny appeal

## Rationale for Action:

## The table below provides a brief summary of the rationale for each of the Superintendent’s recommendations. Relevant data on each appealed indicator are noted in the attachments.

## 

| Division | School | Rationale | Data Sheet |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bristol City | Virginia Middle School | (a) Application does not describe any single, significant event or circumstance impacting indicator  (b) Failure rate, as currently calculated, aligns with Board's intent | Attachment E |
| Fairfax County | Fort Belvoir Elementary | (a) Application does not describe any single, significant event or circumstance impacting indicator  (b) School grade structure is locally determined | Attachment F |
| Fairfax County | Justice High School | (a) Application does not describe any single, significant event or circumstance impacting indicator  (b) Application does not provide sufficient rationale for appeal | Attachment G |
| Fairfax County | Mount Vernon High School | (a) Application does not describe any single, significant event or circumstance impacting indicator  (b) Application does not provide sufficient rationale for appeal | Attachment H |

## Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

## **Background Information and Statutory Authority:** Section *8VAC20-131-380.F.6* of the *Code of Virginia* states:

## *The board shall provide a process for a local school board to appeal the performance level designation for a specific school quality indicator for any school in the division. The board shall grant such appeals only in limited circumstances that warrant special consideration in designating performance levels. In order to appeal such designation the local school board shall submit a request to the board, signed by the chairman of the school board and the school superintendent, explaining why the school board is appealing the designation and shall include documentation supporting the request to change the performance level designation.*

On July 24, 2019, school divisions were notified via Superintendent’s E-mail of the process for submitting an accreditation appeal. Notification included the intent of the appeal provision in the SOA which is to provide potential relief to schools that have experienced a significant event impacting performance on an indicator. Such circumstances should be unusual and appeals based on this section of the SOA should be rare. Divisions were given one month to complete and return the appeal application which requested the reason for the appeal, supporting information, and any steps taken to mitigate the impact of the circumstance prior to submitting the appeal.

The Department received four appeal applications before the August 23, 2019 deadline, and those applications and relevant data on the school and appealed indicator were reviewed by a six-member internal appeals committee representing the areas of research, accountability, assessment, federal programs, special education, and policy. The committee’s finding were referred to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for a final recommendation.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:  
School divisions will be notified of the final status of the appeal. Any approved appeals which change performance levels and/or accreditation status will be updated in administrative records and public reporting within 14 calendar days of the Board of Education’s final decision.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

None.

Attachment A – D

Attachment A: Virginia Middle School, Bristol City Appeal Application (PDF)

Attachment B: Fort Belvoir Elementary, Fairfax County Appeal Application (PDF)

Attachment C: Justice High School, Fairfax County Appeal Application (PDF)

Attachment D: Mount Vernon High School, Fairfax County Appeal Application (PDF)

Attachment E

**Virginia Middle School (Bristol City) Data Sheet**

Appealed Indicator: Achievement Gap – English (students with disabilities)

*2019-2020 Accreditation Results*

| **Indicator** | **Performance Level** |
| --- | --- |
| Academic Achievement – English | Level One |
| Achievement Gap – English | Level Three |
| Academic Achievement – Mathematics | Level One |
| Achievement Gap – Mathematics | Level Two |
| Academic Achievement – Science | Level One |
| Chronic Absenteeism | Level Two |
| *Accreditation Rating* | *Accredited with Conditions* |

*VDOE Failure Rate Calculation: Achievement Gap – English (students with disabilities)*

| **Rate** | **Students Failing** | **Students Tested** | **Rate**  **(Students Failing / Students Tested)** | **Percent Change in Rate** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Current Year | 59 | 92 | 64.13 | Decreased by 5.65%\* |
| Previous Year | 87 | 128 | 67.97 |  |

*\*Rate must decrease by 10.00 percent or more to qualify for performance level improvement*

*School-Level Historical Accreditation Data: Academic Achievement – English*

| **Year** | **Combined Rate‡ – All Students** | **Combined Rate‡ –**  **Students with Disabilities** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2015 | 76.99 | 43.75 |
| 2016 | 74.44 | 32.80 |
| 2017 | 73.40 | 41.46 |
| 2018 | 73.09 | 44.69 |
| 2019 | 74.69 | 50.51 |

**‡***Combined rate includes students who: (1) pass the state assessment; (2) fail*

*the state assessment and demonstrate growth; and (3) for English, fail the*

*state assessment and show progress on the ACCESS for ELs assessment*

Attachment F

**Fort Belvoir Elementary (Fairfax County) Data Sheet**

Appealed Indicator: Achievement Gap – English (Black students and students with disabilities)

*2019-2020 Accreditation Results*

| **Indicator** | **Performance Level** |
| --- | --- |
| Academic Achievement – English | Level Two |
| Achievement Gap – English | Level Three |
| Academic Achievement – Mathematics | Level One |
| Achievement Gap – Mathematics | Level One |
| Academic Achievement – Science | N/A |
| Chronic Absenteeism | Level One |
| *Accreditation Rating* | *Accredited with Conditions* |

*School-Level Historical Accreditation Data: Academic Achievement – English*

| **Year** | **Combined Rate‡ – All Students** | **Combined Rate‡ – Black Students** | **Combined Rate‡**  **– Students with Disabilities** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2017\* | 75.70 | 68.42 | 59.45 |
| 2018 | 76.08 | 68.75 | 57.14 |
| 2019 | 67.37 | 42.85 | 51.21 |

*\*First year of school operation*

**‡***Combined rate includes students who: (1) pass the state assessment; (2) fail the state*

*assessment and demonstrate growth; and (3) for English, fail the state assessment and*

*show progress on the ACCESS for ELs assessment*

Attachment G

**Justice High School (Fairfax County) Data Sheet**

Appealed Indicator: Dropout Rate

*2019-2020 Accreditation Results*

| **Indicator** | **Performance Level** |
| --- | --- |
| Academic Achievement – English | Level One |
| Achievement Gap – English | Level One |
| Academic Achievement – Mathematics | Level One |
| Achievement Gap – Mathematics | Level One |
| Academic Achievement – Science | Level One |
| Chronic Absenteeism | Level Two |
| Graduation and Completion Index | Level One |
| Dropout Rate | Level Three |
| *Accreditation Rating* | *Accredited with Conditions* |

*School-Level Historical Accreditation Data: Dropout Rate*

| **Year** | **Dropout Rate** |
| --- | --- |
| 2010 | 14.36 |
| 2011 | 15.76 |
| 2012 | 13.93 |
| 2013 | 12.91 |
| 2014 | 15.96 |
| 2015 | 13.40 |
| 2016 | 16.10 |
| 2017 | 12.31 |
| 2018 | 11.18 |
| 2019 | 11.49 |

Attachment H

**Mount Vernon High School (Fairfax County) Data Sheet**

Appealed Indicator: Dropout Rate

*2019-2020 Accreditation Results*

| **Indicator** | **Performance Level** |
| --- | --- |
| Academic Achievement – English | Level One |
| Achievement Gap – English | Level One |
| Academic Achievement – Mathematics | Level One |
| Achievement Gap – Mathematics | Level Two |
| Academic Achievement – Science | Level One |
| Chronic Absenteeism | Level One |
| Graduation and Completion Index | Level One |
| Dropout Rate | Level Three |
| *Accreditation Rating* | *Accredited with Conditions* |

*School-Level Historical Accreditation Data: Dropout Rate*

| **Year** | **Dropout Rate** |
| --- | --- |
| 2010 | 8.93 |
| 2011 | 9.16 |
| 2012 | 9.71 |
| 2013 | 6.67 |
| 2014 | 6.18 |
| 2015 | 7.22 |
| 2016 | 6.03 |
| 2017 | 11.58 |
| 2018 | 11.11 |
| 2019 | 11.80 |