



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: September 5, 2018

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Opportunity to Comment on an Amendment to Virginia's *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) State Plan*

The Virginia Department of Education is seeking input on an amendment to its [ESSA State Plan](#). The purpose of the amendment is to change a procedural step in the process for identifying schools for comprehensive support and improvement.

Virginia's approved ESSA plan describes a multi-step process to identify the lowest 5 percent of Title I schools for comprehensive support and improvement based on all required indicators. After all indicators are applied, schools that do not meet any of the indicator targets must be ranked to identify the lowest 5 percent. The last step of Virginia's identification process states that schools that did not meet the interim measures of progress for chronic absenteeism and are not accredited will be ranked in order of the rate of chronic absenteeism. Virginia wishes to modify its methodology to rank by reading and mathematics performance instead of by chronic absenteeism. The revised plan language is below:

Step 3: Of those schools identified in Step 1 through 2, identify schools that did not meet the interim measure of progress for chronic absenteeism and have an SOA rating of Accredited with Conditions or Accreditation Denied. Rank those schools ~~by the rate of chronic absenteeism~~, and identify a number equal to 5% of Title I schools for comprehensive support and improvement.

A review of data indicates that ranking the schools that do not meet the indicator targets by the rate of chronic absenteeism would put greater emphasis on chronic absenteeism than on reading and mathematics performance during this final step in the identification process. Ranking schools that do not meet the indicator targets by reading and mathematics performance will ensure that the academic achievement indicators carry the greatest weight in the identification process.

The Virginia Department of Education welcomes comments on this waiver request. Comments may be submitted electronically by Friday, September 21, 2018, to ESSA@doe.virginia.gov. Comments may also be presented in person during the Board of Education Business Meeting, which will convene on Thursday, September 20, 2018 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.broadly@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/lis

Links:

- [Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 \(ESSA\)](#)
- [Virginia's ESSA State Plan](#)