



#275-22

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #275-22**

DATE: December 9, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Chronic Absenteeism Indicator in Accountability Years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025**

At the November 17, 2022 business meeting, the [Virginia Board of Education \(Board\)](#) adopted [special provisions](#) to temporarily alter the manner in which the performance level is assigned for the chronic absenteeism indicator in accountability years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Specifically, the Board authorized the removal of the 2021-2022 school year chronic absenteeism data from the chronic absenteeism calculations in accountability years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Because the 2021-2022 data was negatively impacted by several factors related to the pandemic and was not necessarily an accurate indicator of the school's programs and efforts to engage students in attending school, the [Board adopted special provisions](#) on April 21, 2022, to remove the 2021-2022 school year chronic absenteeism data from the determination of accreditation status in accountability year 2022-2023. Similarly, at the November 17, 2022, meeting, the Board adopted special provisions to remove the 2021-2022 school year data from accountability years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 as well.

As a result, this table demonstrates how each performance level will be determined for accountability years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025:

	Accountability Year 2023-2024	Accountability Year 2024-2025
Level One	The performance level is determined by using the current year rate (2022-2023 school year).	The performance level is determined by using the best of the current (2023-2024 school year) or cumulative two-year rate (2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years) or, by using the current year rate (2023-2024 school year) if it is in the Level Two range, and the school demonstrated at least a 10% improvement in the chronic absenteeism rate from the previous year.
Level Two	The performance level is determined by using the current year rate (2022-2023 school year data).	The performance level is determined by using the best of the current (2023-2024 school year) or cumulative two-year rate (2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years) or, by using the current year rate (2023-2024 school year) if it is in the Level Three range, and the school demonstrated at least a 10% improvement in the chronic absenteeism rate from the previous year.
Level Three	The performance level is determined by using the current year rate (2022-2023 school year data).	The performance level is determined by using the best of the current (2023-2024 school year data) or cumulative two-year rate (2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years) or, if the school has been a Level Two or Level Three through four consecutive years.

It is important to note that in accountability year 2023-2024, there is not the opportunity to demonstrate adequate improvement, nor are there consecutive years in which to calculate a three-year rate. **The 2022-2023 chronic absenteeism data will be the sole determinant of the chronic absenteeism performance level assigned to a school in accountability year 2023-2024.**

The performance level calculations noted in the above table will provide an accurate reflection of how schools have addressed chronic absenteeism post-pandemic. Using this methodology provides the most transparent reflection of a school's programs and practices to re-engage students in school, and will directly inform a school as it seeks to improve its programs and practices that address absenteeism.

For more information

Questions regarding the contents of this memorandum should be directed to Amy Siepka, Director, Office of Accountability, at accountability@doe.virginia.gov or at (804) 225-2102.

JB/ABS/abs