# Title: An Overview of Reforming Virginia’s Accountability Model

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## Presented to: Work Session

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## Summary of the Topic:

The Governor has stated his intent to implement a new and less complex accountability system that provides meaningful, transparent information for the community, as well as for school division educators and leaders, year-over-year. Additionally, the Board of Education (Board) has discussed the need to “bifurcate” accreditation and accountability so that school accountability is a measure of student outcomes and school accreditation is a compliance measure.

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is currently working on a two phase approach to reform Virginia’s accountability system to provide all stakeholders with quality, timely, actionable information about each K-12 public school, and to bifurcate accreditation and accountability as requested by the Board.

The implementation of a new accountability system based on student outcome measures, and a new accreditation model based on compliance is proposed for accountability year 2025-2026 (based on data from school year 2024-2025).

**Phase I: Changes to Current Accreditation System to be implemented in accountability year 2024-2025 (based on 2023-2024 school year data)**: In order to address concerns regarding our current accreditation model prior to implementation of the new accountability system in fall 2025, the Department will recommend immediate changes that can be made to the current accreditation system to create a more transparent and accurate accountability system. This is a transition phase between the current accreditation model and the new accountability system. (These changes can be made under the Board's existing authority, without statutory or regulatory changes.) The Department will engage with stakeholders and educators to inform the recommendations presented to the Board.

**Phase II: Development of a New Accountability System**: Concurrent with Phase I, Department staff are moving forward with steps to develop a plan for making changes to permanently separate accreditation and accountability and to create a new best-in-class accountability system, and a new accreditation system that is focused on legal compliance. The Department will engage with the Board and consultants to assist in the development of two separate systems, and collaborate with stakeholders and educators, representatives of higher education, and the business community.

**Timetable for Follow-up or Next Steps:**

A draft of the revisions to the current accreditation system (Phase I) will be presented to the Board for first review on April 20, 2023.