



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: May 11, 2023
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Amendment 6 to Virginia's Consolidated State Plan**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is seeking input on proposed Amendment 6 to [Virginia's Consolidated State Plan](#) (CSP), which is required under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeed Act. The proposed revision to the CSP changes the methodology for determining student growth when calculating the rates for the **federal** growth indicators in reading and mathematics, beginning in school year 2022-2023.

In December 2022, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) approved [Amendment 5 to Virginia's Consolidated State Plan](#). Amendment 5 includes the growth methodology that was in place during the 2021-2022 school year (comparison of spring 2021 state assessment results to spring 2022 state assessment results; and fall 2021 growth assessment results to spring 2022 state assessment results, if necessary). Communication from USED indicated that the use of two comparisons in the growth determination methodology could only be approved for the 2021-2022 school year based on flexibility related to the pandemic. Therefore, a revision to the methodology is required for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond.

Additionally, in April 2023, [the Virginia Board of Education \(board\) approved a growth methodology for state accreditation](#) beginning in school year 2022-2023. The proposed growth methodology in Amendment 6, which is used to determine whether students who

failed the state assessments demonstrated growth, is the same as the methodology approved by the board in April 2023 for state accreditation. Specifically, in **Amendment 6 for federal accountability**, the growth indicators for reading and mathematics will include:

- Grades 3 through 8 students who pass the reading or mathematics state assessments (Standards of Learning (SOL) tests or Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) tests) in the current year.
- Grades 4-8 students who have failed the previous year state test and the current year state test (SOL or VAAP) and demonstrated growth using a progress table methodology that compares the student's previous year test score to the student's current year test score.
- Grade 3 students who have failed the current year SOL test and demonstrated growth using a progress table methodology that compares the student's fall growth assessment score to the student's current year SOL test score.

[A red-lined version of Amendment 6](#) is posted to the Virginia Department of Education website. The proposed changes to the CSP are on page 18 of the document. Comments are welcomed, and may be submitted electronically to accountability@doe.virginia.gov by June 8, 2023. Use the subject line: *Proposed Amendment 6*.

For questions regarding the growth methodology in Virginia's Consolidated State Plan, please contact Amy Siepka, Director, Office of Accountability, at (804) 225-2102 or Accountability@doe.virginia.gov.

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