COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

# REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN

**For the 2024-2025 accreditation year based on data from the 2023-2024 school year**

The *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8 VAC 20-131-10 et. seq.) set the minimum standards public schools must meet to be accredited by the Board of Education. Accreditation of public schools is required by the Standards of Quality (§§ 22.1-253.13:1 et. seq.).

8 VAC 20-131-420.D of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* states (in part):

*D. Alternative accreditation plans. Subject to the provisions of subsection B of this section, the governing school board of special purpose schools such as those provided for in § 22.1-26 of the Code of Virginia, Governor's schools, special education schools, alternative schools, or career and technical schools that serve as the student's school of principal enrollment may seek approval of an alternative accreditation plan from the board. Schools offering alternative education programs, schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students as defined by the graduation rate formula adopted by the board may request that the board approve an alternative accreditation plan to meet the graduation and completion index benchmark. Special purpose schools with alternative accreditation plans shall be evaluated on standards appropriate to the programs offered in the school and approved by the board prior to August 1 of the school year for which approval is requested. Any student graduating from a special purpose school with a Standard Diploma or an Advanced Studies Diploma must meet the requirements prescribed in* [*8VAC20-131-50*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter131/section50/) *or* [*8VAC20-131-51*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter131/section51/)*.*

In addition, pursuant to § [22.1-253.13:3](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?000+cod+22.1-253.13C3).H of the *Code of Virginia*, any school board, on behalf of one or more of its schools, may request the Board of Education for releases from state regulations and for approval of an Individual School Accreditation Plan for the evaluation of the performance of one or more of its schools as authorized for certain other schools by the Standards of Accreditation.

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we may be called to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised. We also understand that this school must meet all requirements of federal law including but not limited to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Strengthening Career and the Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V).

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| Date Approved by the Local School Board |  | Signature – Chairman of the School Board |
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| Submission Date |  | Signature – Division Superintendent |

# ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN APPLICATION

**For Special Purpose Schools**

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| --- | --- |
| **School Name** | **Division Name** |
| **School Address** |
| **Contact Person** |
| **Phone Number of Contact Person** | **Email of Contact Person** |

**All staff who should be copied on email correspondence:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Position** | **Email Address** |
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**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Number of Students** |
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| **Previous Submission of an approved Alternative Accreditation Plan in 2023-2024 Accreditation Year? (Yes or No)** |
| **Besides updated data, briefly summarize how this plan varies from the one approved for accreditation year 2023-2024. If it does not differ, please indicate that.**  |

**Each question should be answered thoroughly yet succinctly.**

1. **Describe the purpose and mission of the school.**
2. **Describe the characteristics of the student population. Include how students are identified for attendance at this school.** (Demographic data should be part of the description.)
3. **What qualifies this school for the flexibility of an alternative accreditation plan?**
4. **Indicate which accreditation indicators, as they are currently calculated, are not an appropriate measure of the school’s success.** (Only include indicators for which there is data to support your choice.)

[ ]  Academic Achievement-Mathematics

[ ]  Academic Achievement-English

[ ]  Academic Achievement-Science

[ ]  Achievement Gap-Mathematics

[ ]  Achievement Gap-English

[ ]  Graduation and Completion Index

[ ]  Dropout Rate

[ ]  Chronic Absenteeism

[ ]  College, Career and Civic Readiness

1. **Why are the current measures for the indicators selected in question 4 not appropriate, as they are currently calculated, for this school? Please provide data that supports your answer.** (Historical data on the school’s performance on each accreditation indicator, when available, must be included in the rationale for determining which indicators are not appropriate for the school or students served.)
2. **For each of the indicators listed in question 4, clearly describe the alternate means of evaluating the indicator that are objective, measurable, and directly related to the mission and purpose of the school. Include sample calculations to describe how the data will be used to determine a rate for each indicator.**
3. **Is there another indicator(s) or measure outside of the current accreditation model that is being proposed as part of this alternative accreditation plan? If so, please clearly describe how the indicator or measure will be used in the overall accreditation rating, a rationale of why it is being included, how it will be reported, and an example showing a sample calculation, if appropriate.**
4. **Do students return to a “regular” school setting after they complete part or all of the school’s program?**

[ ]  Yes (proceed to question 9)

[ ]  No (do not answer question 9)

1. **If the answer to question 8 is yes, what transition activities are in place that will allow students to be successful when they return to the regular school setting?**