




**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

September 2, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Three Year Cycle for School Full Accreditation Status

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that implementation of full accreditation status for three years for schools meeting criteria according to legislation passed this year begins with the accreditation ratings provided for 2016-2017. As described in the June 23, 2016 [Superintendent's Memo #147-16](#) about approved 2016 legislation and the July 15, 2016 [Superintendent's Memo #176-16](#) on 2016 revisions to the Standards of Quality, [SB 368](#)  became effective on July 1, 2016, and requires the Board of Education to review the accreditation status of a school once every three years if the school has been fully accredited for three consecutive years.

If the triennial review indicates the school would have been accredited every year of the triennial review period, the Board shall accredit the school for another three years. Subsequently, schools which have been fully accredited in 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016 will be rated as fully accredited for 2016-2017. School divisions with schools which meet the criteria to be designated as fully accredited for the three-year period are being notified by the Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement.

If you have questions, please contact Shelly Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent of Student Assessment and School Improvement at 804-225-2102 or by email at Shelley.Loving-Ryder@doe.virginia.gov.

SRS/CAC/bj