



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

December 13, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: A-F School Grading Formula Developed in Response to the 2013 Acts of Assembly

On November 21, 2013, the Virginia Board of Education adopted the A-F School Grading Formula. The formula, which was developed in response to legislation passed by the 2013 General Assembly, incorporates the legislative requirements into the A-F grading scale by combining three primary focus areas that are important for students' long-term school and life success:

1. Proficiency of a school's students in core content areas of mathematics, English (reading and writing), science, and history and social science as measured by passing rates on statewide assessments
2. Growth or learning gains of an elementary or middle school's students in reading and mathematics as measured by year-to-year ("growth") on state assessments
3. College and career readiness of a high school's students as measured by indicators that students have graduated with college and career ready credentials, or are progressing on a pathway to graduating from high school prepared for college and careers

The grading formula may be found in [Attachment A](#).

The Board voted to conduct an annual review of the formula each fall following the release of the school grades. Department staff are in the process of developing a plan to communicate the grading formula to educators, parents, students, and citizens. Additional information about the communication plan and the business rules used to calculate the school grades will be provided to school divisions as it becomes available.

The 2013-2014 End-of-Year Student Record Collection will be modified to accommodate the requirements of the formula. Several data elements related to student growth and college and career readiness will need to be added or modified. More specific information about the changes will be provided as they are finalized.

If you have questions about the school grading formula, please contact the student assessment staff at Student_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2102.

PIW/SLR/cb

Attachment:

- a. [Virginia School Grading Formula](#) (PDF)

