



#141-22

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #141-22**

DATE: July 1, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Impact of the 2022 Appropriation Act on Triennial Accreditation**

[House Bill 30](#) (HB30), also known as the 2022 Appropriation Act, was recently signed into law by Governor Glenn Youngkin. This memorandum is being provided to explain the impact of a particular provision in HB30 related to school accreditation, found in Item 135.J.

Standard Three of the [Standards of Quality \(§ 22.1-253.13:3\)](#) indicates that *“the Board shall review annually the accreditation status of all schools in the Commonwealth. The Board shall review the accreditation status of a school once every three years if the school has been fully accredited for three consecutive years. Upon such triennial review, the Board shall review the accreditation status of the school for each individual year within that triennial review period. If the Board finds that the school would have been accredited every year of that triennial review period the Board shall accredit the school for another three years [triennial accreditation].”*

Previously, the Superintendent of Public Instruction exercised emergency authority granted by the Virginia General Assembly to waive accreditation ratings for both the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 accreditation years. This resulted in a “break” of consecutive years in which an accreditation rating was assigned to schools, and the Virginia Board of Education could not implement the authority granted in [§ 22.1-253.13:3](#) without further clarification. Item 135.J of the 2022 Appropriation Act provides the Board authority to exclude the years for which

schools received an *Accreditation Waived* status due to the COVID-19 pandemic, by not including them in the three year count of 1) consecutive years for purposes of working towards a triennial accreditation and 2) consecutive years of the triennial accreditation period. Specifically, Item 135.J states:

For purposes of determining the date of triennial review for schools that were previously "Accredited" for three consecutive years and for counting consecutive years towards earning triennial accreditation review pursuant to § 22.1-253.13:3 of the Code of Virginia, the years for which schools received an "Accreditation Waived" status due to the COVID-19 pandemic shall not be included in the three year count. Any student outcome data collected that would have informed accreditation for the two years in which accreditation was waived shall continue to be publicly reported by the Virginia Department of Education."

To further clarify, the following examples are being provided.

For schools that are working towards a triennial accreditation:

- If a school was *Accredited* for two consecutive accreditation years in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, and is *Accredited* in 2022-2023 based on 2021-2022 school year data, then that school will be eligible for a triennial accreditation beginning in accreditation year 2023-2024.
- If a school was not *Accredited* for 2018-2019 but was *Accredited* for 2019-2020, and is *Accredited* in 2022-2023 based on 2021-2022 school year data, then that school will have to be *Accredited* in 2023-2024 based on 2022-2023 school year data to be eligible for a triennial accreditation beginning in accreditation year 2024-2025.

For schools that had already earned a triennial accreditation by being *Accredited* for three consecutive years, but their triennial accreditation period was interrupted by the pandemic:

- If a school had received two years of its triennial accreditation in years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, and was to receive its third year in 2020-2021 when accreditation was waived due to the pandemic, then it will receive its third year of triennial accreditation in 2022-2023.

- If a school had received one year of its triennial accreditation in 2019-2020, and was to receive its second and third years in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 when accreditation was waived due to the pandemic, then it will receive its second and third years of triennial accreditation in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.
- If a school was to receive its first and second years of triennial accreditation in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 when accreditation was waived due to the pandemic, and was to receive its third year in 2022-2023, then it will receive its first year of triennial accreditation in 2022-2023, and its second and third years of triennial accreditation will be in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

It should also be noted that the [Standards of Accreditation](#) indicate that *“a multi-year accreditation status shall not relieve any school or division of annual reporting requirements, nor shall it relieve any school or division of annual review of school quality indicators used for school accreditation and subsequent actions as appropriate and provided for in [8VAC20-131-400](#), depending on performance level.”* All schools, regardless of whether they are in a triennial accreditation period, are expected to adhere to the requirements outlined in [8VAC20-131-400](#).

For more information

For questions regarding triennial accreditation, contact Amy Siepka in the Office of Accountability at accountability@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2102.

For questions regarding the Standards of Accreditation requirements based on school quality indicators, contact Rebecca Hall in the Office of School Quality at Rebecca.Hall@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 786-7018.

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