



#145-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #145-21**

DATE: May 28, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **United States Department of Education's Approval of Virginia's
Accountability and Reporting Waiver for School Year 2020-2021**

On May 17, 2021, the United States Department of Education (USED) approved Virginia's request for waivers to certain accountability and reporting requirements under the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA). Upon approval of these waivers, Virginia is required to provide certain assurances to the USED. A summary of the approved waivers and the required assurances is provided below.

Accountability

- Waiver to the requirement that Virginia identify additional schools for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) based on 2020-2021 data.
- Waiver to the requirement that Virginia measure a school's progress toward the Measures of Interim Progress and Long Term Goals based on 2020-2021 data.
- Waiver to certain implications for schools that do not meet the 95 percent participation rate in reading or mathematics. In Virginia, this means that schools that do not meet the 95 percent participation requirement in reading and mathematics in 2020-2021 will NOT be required to include strategies for improving participation in their school improvement plans. The inclusion of such strategies is typically required

of schools that do not meet the 95 percent participation threshold as described in Virginia's Consolidated State Plan under ESSA. Although the implications for not meeting the 95 percent participation requirement this year are waived, the expectation to test all students for instructional purposes remain. Please reference [Superintendent's Memo #053-21](#) for more information.

- With the approval of these waivers, Virginia must assure USED that:
 - Federal identifications of CSI, TSI, and ATSI schools will be maintained from the 2019-2020 school year and these schools will receive appropriate supports and interventions as a result.
 - Identification of CSI, TSI, and ATSI schools will resume in fall 2022 using data from the 2021-2022 school year.

Transparency and Public Reporting

- A waiver to the reporting requirements for growth, accreditation ratings, and progress toward Measures of Interim Progress and Long-Term Goals.
- With the approval of this waiver, Virginia must assure USED that:
 - Virginia will report, disaggregate, and make publicly available the following data from the 2020-2021 school year:
 - assessment results (Virginia will report the annual pass rate),
 - student participation on assessments,
 - chronic absenteeism,
 - federal graduation cohort rate (FGI), and
 - progress of English Learners toward English language attainment measured by the ACCESS for ELs[®] (this measure will not include assessments taken in fall of 2020).
- Virginia will report and make publicly available aggregate information on student access to technology devices like laptops or tablets and high-speed internet at home. This information is currently collected on the Student Record Collection (SRC).

The approval letter from USED is attached.

For more information

Questions regarding Virginia's ESSA State Plan may be submitted to Accountability@doe.virginia.gov.

JFL/JAM/as

- A. Attachment: [20-21 Virginia Accountability Waiver Approval Letter](#) (PDF)