



VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item: P

Date: October 24, 2024

Title: Report on Schools Recognized for Exemplar Performance as Required by the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (SOA)

Presenters: Dr. Andy Armstrong, Associate Superintendent of Programs

Purpose of Presentation

For information only: No action required.

Executive Summary

This report identifies schools, divisions, or school boards meeting the criteria for exemplar performance under the Board of Education's authority prescribed in the former *Regulations Establishing the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8VAC20-131).

In April 2018, the Board approved final guidelines (pages 95 through 97 of the [Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia](#)) establishing the criteria for three types of recognition: (1) highest achievement, (2) continuous improvement, and (3) innovative practices. Recognition for highest achievement and continuous improvement are awarded annually based on the most current data and accreditation status. Recognition for innovative practice is awarded every two years and will be awarded later this school year upon completion of the nomination and review process.

For the 2024-2025 award year, **92** schools met the criteria for the Highest Achievement Award. These schools are listed in Attachment 1. Schools identified for this recognition must meet all these criteria using 2023-2024 school year data:

- The school must be Accredited (includes triennial waivers).

- The school meets state benchmark in reading, math and science (75 percent for reading and 70 percent for math and science) based on the current year pass rate on state assessments (not including growth or English Learner progress);
- All student groups within the school meet state benchmarks in reading and math (75 percent for reading and 70 percent for math) based on the current year pass rate on state assessments (not including growth or English Learner progress), *and*
 - For schools with two student groups, there is no more than five percentage points between the lowest performing group and all other students in the school; *or*
 - For schools with three or more student groups, there is no more than ten percentage points between the lowest performing group and all other students in the school.
- School demonstrates a current year chronic absenteeism rate of 15 percent or lower.

For schools with a graduating class, two additional criteria apply:

- School demonstrates a current year Graduation and Completion Index of 88 points or higher; and
- School demonstrates a current year dropout rate of six percent or lower.

There were **49** schools recognized for the Continuous Improvement Award. These schools are listed in Attachment 2. To receive this recognition the school can be *Accredited* or *Accredited with Conditions* and must meet at least **one** of the following criteria with three years of data (2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024):

The school demonstrates an increase--

- in the combined rate for math, reading and science for each of the past three years with a total increase across the three years of ten points or more;
- in the combined rate for two or more student groups in reading and math for each of the past three years with a total increase across the three years of ten points or more; *or*
- in the Graduation and Completion Index (GCI) for each of the past three years with a total increase across the three years of four percent or more; *and* the school demonstrates a decrease in the dropout rate for each of the past three years with the total reduction across three years of 15 percent or more of the first year’s dropout rate.

Note: The Continuous Improvement Award criteria was amended for 2024-2025 to remove chronic absenteeism criteria since only two years of chronic absenteeism data was available (2022-2023 and 2023-2024).

Action Requested

No action requested.

Previous Review or Action

No previous review or action.

Background Information and Statutory Authority

Schools are identified for exemplar performance under the Board of Education's authority prescribed in the *Regulations Establishing the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8VAC20-131-410) which stated the following:

Recognitions and rewards for school and division accountability.

Schools and divisions shall be recognized by the board in accordance with guidelines the board shall establish for the Exemplar School Recognition Program to recognize (i) schools or school divisions that exceed board-established requirements or show continuous improvement on academic and school quality indicators and (ii) schools, school divisions, and school boards that implement effective, innovative practices. Such recognition may include:

1. Public announcements recognizing individual schools and divisions;
2. Tangible rewards;
3. Waivers of certain board regulations;
4. Exemptions from certain reporting requirements; or
5. Other commendations deemed appropriate to recognize high achievement.

In addition to board recognition, local school boards shall adopt policies to recognize individual schools through public announcements, media releases, and participation in community activities when setting policy relating to schools and budget development, as well as other appropriate recognition.

In April 2018, the Board approved final guidelines (pages 95 through 97 of the [Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia](#)) establishing the criteria for three types of recognition: (1) highest achievement, (2) continuous improvement, and (3) innovative practices.

Implementation and Communication

Schools will be officially notified of their recognition after the Board meeting. To recognize all the award winners in the 2024-2025 school year:

- a) VDOE staff will create a school-specific image with the award recognition that a school may post to their school/division website, social media accounts, etc.
- b) A video will be developed with the names of the awardees in “rolling credits,” and they will be posted to the VDOE website. Divisions and schools can link to this video share on social media platforms.
- c) An Exemplar Performance Awards page will be created on the VDOE website which includes the award criteria, the videos and division names, as per the *Guidance Document*.
- d) A press release will be issued in October 2024, and it will include the names of the divisions receiving recognition.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

There is no significant impact on fiscal or human resources for either VDOE or school divisions.

**Schools Recognized for Exemplar Performance as Required by the
Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia
(SOA)**

Attachment 1

2024-2025 Highest Achievement Award	
Division	School
Albemarle County	Broadus Wood Elementary
Albemarle County	Community Lab School
Albemarle County	Hollymead Elementary
Albemarle County	Ivy Elementary
Albemarle County	Stony Point Elementary
Albemarle County	Virginia L. Murray Elementary
Amherst County	Temperance Elementary
Arlington County	Arlington Traditional
Arlington County	Nottingham Elementary
Arlington County	Tuckahoe Elementary
Bath County	Millboro Elementary
Bedford County	Forest Elementary
Botetourt County	Eagle Rock Elementary
Carroll County	Carroll County High
Carroll County	Gladesboro Elementary
Charlotte County	Bacon District Elementary
Chesapeake City	Grassfield High
Chesapeake City	Hickory High
Chesterfield County	Cosby High
Danville City	Galileo Magnet High
Fairfax County	Sangster Elementary
Fairfax County	Thomas Jefferson High for Science and Technology
Fairfax County	Woodson High
Fauquier County	P.B. Smith Elementary
Floyd County	Indian Valley Elementary
Franklin County	Callaway Elementary
Franklin County	Ferrum Elementary
Franklin County	Lee M. Waid Elementary
Galax City	Galax High

Grayson County	Grayson Highlands
Hampton City	Barron Elementary
Hampton City	Bethel High
Hampton City	Kecoughtan High
Hampton City	Mary W. Jackson Elementary
Henrico County	Echo Lake Elementary
Loudoun County	Aldie Elementary
Loudoun County	Hamilton Elementary
Loudoun County	Hillsboro Charter Academy
Loudoun County	Lincoln Elementary
Loudoun County	Loudoun Valley High
Loudoun County	Waterford Elementary
Loudoun County	Woodgrove High
Lunenburg County	Central High
Montgomery County	Auburn High
Montgomery County	Gilbert Linkous Elementary
Montgomery County	Harding Avenue Elementary
Newport News City	Deer Park Elementary
Norfolk City	Tarrallton Elementary
Patrick County	Woolwine Elementary
Pittsylvania County	John L. Hurt Elementary
Pittsylvania County	Mount Airy Elementary
Pittsylvania County	Southside Elementary
Pittsylvania County	Stony Mill Elementary
Pittsylvania County	Union Hall Elementary
Prince William County	Featherstone Elementary
Prince William County	Kerrydale Elementary
Richmond City	Franklin Military Academy
Roanoke County	Back Creek Elementary
Roanoke County	Cave Spring High
Roanoke County	Fort Lewis Elementary
Roanoke County	Hidden Valley High
Roanoke County	Mount Pleasant Elementary
Russell County	Belfast Elementary
Russell County	Honaker High
Scott County	Hilton Elementary
Shenandoah County	Stonewall Jackson High School
Shenandoah County	Strasburg High
Smyth County	Marion Elementary

Smyth County	Northwood High
Smyth County	Saltville Elementary
Southampton County	Nottoway Elementary
Suffolk City	Oakland Elementary
Surry County	Surry County High
Virginia Beach City	Frank W. Cox High
Virginia Beach City	Green Run Collegiate
Virginia Beach City	Ocean Lakes High
Virginia Beach City	Old Donation School
Virginia Beach City	Princess Anne Elementary
Virginia Beach City	Shelton Park Elementary
Virginia Beach City	Tallwood Elementary
Virginia Beach City	Tallwood High
Washington County	Greendale Elementary
Washington County	Holston High
Wise County	Eastside High
Wise County	J.W. Adams Combined
Wise County	St. Paul Elementary
Wythe County	Fort Chiswell High
Wythe County	Max Meadows Elementary
Wythe County	Rural Retreat Elementary
Wythe County	Rural Retreat High
York County	Seaford Elementary
York County	Tabb Elementary

**Schools Recognized for Exemplar Performance as Required by the
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Attachment 2

2024-2025 Continuous Improvement Award Increase in Achievement Over Three Year Period: Mathematics, Reading and Science	
Division	School
Buena Vista City	Parry McCluer High
Fairfax County	Fairfax County Adult High
Fairfax County	Key Center
Newport News City	Huntington Middle
Newport News City	Katherine Johnson Elementary
Richmond City	Albert Hill Middle
Richmond City	Broad Rock Elementary
Richmond City	Chimborazo Elementary
Richmond City	Martin Luther King Jr. Middle
Richmond City	Richmond High School for the Arts
Smyth County	Rich Valley Elementary

2024-2025	
Continuous Improvement Award	
Increase in Achievement in Mathematics and Reading for Two or More Student Groups	
Division	School
Alexandria City	Alexandria City High School
Buena Vista City	Parry McCluer High
Chesterfield County	James River High
Chesterfield County	Thomas Dale High
Fairfax County	Fairfax County Adult High
Fairfax County	West Potomac High
Greene County	William Monroe High
Hanover County	Atlee High
Henrico County	Henrico High
Henrico County	Hermitage High
Henrico County	Varina High
Newport News City	Hiddenwood Elementary
Newport News City	Huntington Middle
Newport News City	Katherine Johnson Elementary
Newport News City	Woodside High
Norfolk City	Booker T Washington High
Prince William County	Charles J. Colgan Sr. High
Prince William County	Gar-Field High
Richmond City	Albert Hill Middle
Richmond City	Chimborazo Elementary
Richmond City	Huguenot High
Richmond City	Martin Luther King Jr. Middle
Richmond City	Richmond High School for the Arts
Shenandoah County	Signal Knob Middle
Suffolk City	Lakeland High
Virginia Beach City	Green Run High

2024-2025	
Continuous Improvement Award	
Increase in Graduation and Completion Index and Decrease in Dropout Rate	
Division	School
Accomack County	Arcadia High
Augusta County	Wilson Memorial High
Buchanan County	Twin Valley High
Campbell County	Altavista High
Culpeper County	Culpeper County High
Franklin County	Franklin County High
Giles County	Narrows High
Harrisonburg City	Harrisonburg High
Henrico County	Douglas S. Freeman High
Martinsville City	Martinsville High
Orange County	Orange County High
Pittsylvania County	Chatham High
Pittsylvania County	Tunstall High
Prince William County	Freedom High
Prince William County	Potomac High
Prince William County	Woodbridge High
Rockbridge County	Rockbridge County High
Scott County	Gate City High
Suffolk City	Lakeland High
Tazewell County	Graham High
Winchester City	John Handley High