Roanoke City PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

Dr. Verletta White

Supporting Every Student's Growth: Understanding the New State Accountability System

A guide to what the Commonwealth of Virginia's new school ratings mean for RCPS families

December 9, 2025

Dear RCPS Families,

We are reaching out to share important information about the Commonwealth of Virginia's **new School Performance and Support Framework (SPSF)** and today's release of 2024-2025 school results by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). Transparency is a core value in Roanoke City Public Schools, and we want to proactively provide context so you can fully understand what these results mean. We also want you to know that we are continuing to carefully review the data and are working with the VDOE to resolve discrepancies we have identified to ensure the information is accurate.

The SPSF is a new accountability and support system developed with input from teachers, parents, students, and education leaders across Virginia. It is designed to provide clear, actionable information about how students are mastering grade-level expectations, how schools are supporting all learners, and what resources schools need to ensure student success. The system uses multiple measures — student proficiency and growth, readiness, and graduation rates — to determine an overall performance level for each school.

Schools have been given one of the four following labels:

- **Distinguished**: exceeding state expectations; serving as a model for best practices.
- **On Track**: meeting state expectations with general supports in place.
- **Off Track**: not fully meeting expectations; additional supports provided.
- **Needs Intensive Support**: significantly below expectations; intensive supports provided.

It is important to understand that these categories represent a point-in-time measurement. Think of it like a student learning to play an instrument. At first, the notes might not sound perfect, but with daily practice, focus, and small improvements, the music gets better over time. In the same way, when a school is labeled "On Track" or "Off Track" (meaning it may need extra support), that label shows where we are in this moment, but it doesn't tell the full story of the hard work, growth, and progress happening every day in our classrooms.

Along with the SPSF, VDOE is implementing new cut scores for Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments that are given to students in grades 3-12. Cut scores are the scores a student must achieve to pass the SOL test and define what it means to be at the proficient and mastery levels. These updated scores will be phased in over the next four years, starting next school year (2026-27), since instruction is already underway. **Current seniors will be exempt from the new cut scores.** Your school will provide more resources in the coming weeks.

Roanoke City PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

Dr. Verletta White

We have attached information from the VDOE outlining these updates for your reference. You can view your school's quality profile by visiting schoolquality.virginia.gov.

Our goal is to support every student in achieving their full potential. While the labels and scores provide one perspective, we have also shown growth. The number of elementary students identified as high-risk for reading difficulties has decreased, and students demonstrated growth in their reading and math SOL scores during the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, the number of disciplinary incidents and chronic absenteeism also decreased last school year. We are proud of the progress our students are making, and we are committed to providing the instruction, support, and resources necessary to help every child thrive.

Thank you for your continued partnership and engagement in your child's education. We encourage you to contact your child's school with any questions, and we will continue to keep you updated.

Sincerely,



Verletta White, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Roanoke City Public Schools