

# SPSF Educator Guide

Families often turn to teachers first when they have questions about school or student performance. This resource outlines [the School Performance and Support Framework \(SPSF\)](#), Virginia’s accountability system, so you can use the data it provides and communicate about it effectively with parents and caregivers.

## How Virginia Measures School Performance

Virginia schools are measured based on a variety of factors to create a balanced picture. Each factor, or component, includes multiple measures. Depending on the grade span, the state looks at:



### Mastery:

Student performance in reading, math, and science, plus English learners’ progress in acquiring English language skills, on state assessments in **all schools**.



### Growth:

How much students improve in reading and math over the year in **elementary and middle schools**.



### Readiness:

Indicators of future success, including consistent attendance in **all schools**, advanced **middle school** math coursework, postsecondary preparation (3E Readiness), and **high school** graduation within six years.



### Graduation:

The percentage of **high school** students who earn a standard or advanced diploma within four years.

## School Ratings

Schools earn points based on how they do in each component, and a school’s overall number of points places it into one of four Performance Categories:

### Distinguished (90+ points):

Exceeding expectations for students.

### Meets Expectations (formerly On Track) (80–89 points):

Meeting expectations for students.

### Approaching Expectations (formerly Off Track) (65–79 points):

Not yet meeting expectations for students.

### Needs Intensive Support (<65 points):

Schools significantly not meeting expectations for students.

## How Can I Use this Information?

School Performance Categories, much like student performance on a report card, provide a snapshot of how your school is doing in meeting the state’s expectations across all the SPSF components combined. Because this information cannot fully capture all of the strengths and weaknesses of a school, it is also helpful to look at the individual components and data points to support actions like the following:

- The Mastery measures can help educators tailor instruction by identifying which student groups need extra support in specific subjects.
- The Growth measures provides crucial context on the amount of progress your students are making, regardless of their starting point.
- Each Graduation and Readiness measure can help to inform schoolwide initiatives for improvement.

## How Virginia Calculates School Performance

|            | Mastery                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Growth                                                                                                                                                        | Readiness                                                                                                                                                                    | Graduation                                                                                                          |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ELEMENTARY | <b>Total Weight:</b><br><b>65%</b><br>Reading Performance<br>(SOL & VAAP assessments):<br><b>22.5%</b><br>Math Performance<br>(SOL & VAAP assessments):<br><b>22.5%</b><br>Science Performance<br>(SOL & VAAP assessments):<br><b>10%</b><br>English Learner Progress<br>(WIDA assessments):<br><b>10%</b> | <b>Total Weight:</b><br><b>25%</b><br>Reading Growth<br>(SOL & VAAP assessments):<br><b>12.5%</b><br>Math Growth<br>(SOL & VAAP assessments):<br><b>12.5%</b> | <b>Total Weight:</b><br><b>10%</b><br>Chronic<br>Absenteeism:<br><b>10%</b>                                                                                                  | N/A                                                                                                                 |
| MIDDLE     | <b>Total Weight:</b><br><b>60%</b><br>Reading Performance<br>(SOL & VAAP assessments):<br><b>20%</b><br>Math Performance<br>(SOL & VAAP assessments):<br><b>20%</b><br>Science Performance<br>(SOL & VAAP assessments):<br><b>10%</b><br>English Learner Progress<br>(WIDA assessments):<br><b>10%</b>     | <b>Total Weight:</b><br><b>20%</b><br>Reading Growth<br>(SOL & VAAP assessments):<br><b>10%</b><br>Math Growth<br>(SOL & VAAP assessments):<br><b>10%</b>     | <b>Total Weight:</b><br><b>20%</b><br>Chronic<br>Absenteeism:<br><b>10%</b><br>Advanced Math<br>Coursework:<br><b>10%</b>                                                    | N/A                                                                                                                 |
| HIGH       | <b>Total Weight:</b><br><b>50%</b><br>Reading Performance<br>(SOL & VAAP assessments):<br><b>15%</b><br>Math Performance<br>(SOL & VAAP assessments):<br><b>15%</b><br>Science Performance<br>(SOL & VAAP assessments):<br><b>10%</b><br>English Learner Progress<br>(WIDA assessments):<br><b>10%</b>     | N/A                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Total Weight:</b><br><b>35%</b><br>Chronic<br>Absenteeism:<br><b>5%</b><br>6-Year Graduation<br>Rate with Applied<br>Studies:<br><b>5%</b><br>3E Readiness:<br><b>25%</b> | <b>Total Weight:</b><br><b>15%</b><br>Federal<br>Graduation<br>Indicator (4-Year<br>Graduation Rate):<br><b>15%</b> |

## Partnering with Families

Parents play a vital role in supporting their child's success and their school's success. You can **develop strong partnerships with families** to support school success by explaining what a school's SPSF rating means for their child.

- Explain the "why" behind the data: Share that the state has raised expectations and made tests more rigorous to better prepare students for college, careers, or service—and reassure families that schools are adjusting.
- Encourage a full-picture view: Remind parents that no single test measures everything; multiple measures matter, and that's reflected in the Readiness and Graduation portions of the SPSF.
- Highlight attendance: Connect chronic absenteeism to readiness and emphasize its impact on learning.