



Section 8 VAC 20-131-5 of the standards states that the definition of “reconstitution means a process that may be used to initiate a range of accountability actions to improve pupil performance, curriculum, and instruction to address deficiencies that caused a school to be rated Accreditation Denied that may include, but not be limited to, restructuring a school’s governance, instructional program, staff or student population.”

Richmond Alternative School is rated Accreditation Denied for the 2006-2007 school year. Richmond City Public Schools has reconstituted Richmond Alternative School and is applying to the Board to accept the terms of the reconstitution and change the rating of Accreditation Denied to Conditionally Accredited.

**Summary of Major Elements**

During the 2005-2006 school year, the Richmond City School Board and superintendent made the process of restructuring Richmond Alternative School a primary goal. The school serves students in grades three through twelve that have severe behavior problems that interfere with their learning. School improvement efforts included hiring a new administrator to focus on the middle school component, reassigning an administrator with a track record of achieving significant gains to focus on curriculum, accountability, instructional delivery, and remediation strategies. An educational specialist was hired to augment these efforts. Since September 2005, 10 of the 18 teachers are new hires. The central office provides continuous monitoring and support to ensure implementation of schoolwide efforts. During the 2006-2007 school year, additional strategies such as providing extensive districtwide and building-level professional development will be implemented.

The request to consider the reconstitution efforts from Richmond City Public Schools for Richmond Alternative School is included as Attachment A.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept for first review the reconstitution application from Richmond Public Schools for Richmond Alternative School.

**Impact on Resources:**

N/A

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

The Department of Education will assign an accreditation rating upon final action of the Board.

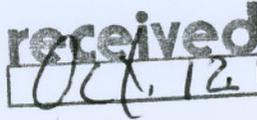
# RICHMOND CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



DEBORAH JEWELL-SHERMAN, Ed.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT

October 4, 2006

Dr. Mark E. Emblidge, President  
Virginia Board of Education  
PO Box 2120  
Richmond, VA 23218



Dear Dr. Emblidge:

In accordance with Standard 8 VAC.20-131-315 of the Virginia Standards of Accreditation, a school division may seek "conditional accreditation" by application to the State Board of Education. This letter serves as official application from the Richmond City Public School Board and Superintendent for conditional accreditation for the Richmond Alternative School.

The Richmond Alternative School, encompassing students in grades three through twelve serves young people who have been transferred to this facility because of severe behavioral problems that interfered with their learning. This school was collaboratively organized with Community Education Partners (CEP) to implement a rigorous instructional and behavioral modification program. During the 2005-2006 school year, the Richmond City School Board and the Superintendent made the process of restructuring the Richmond Alternative School a primary goal.

The school improvement plan has included major restructuring efforts guided by the major tenets of CEP, *Be Here, Be Have and Be Learning*. CEP provides the opportunity for each student to receive individual attention and family support to assist the student to become successful. The restructuring efforts have included, but are not limited to, hiring a new administrator to focus on the middle school component and reassigning an administrator with a stellar track record of achieving significant student gains to focus on curriculum, accountability, instructional delivery, intervention and remediation strategies. Additionally, an educational specialist was hired to augment these school improvement efforts. Since September 2005, ten of the current eighteen teachers are new hires. Lastly, the Central Office is providing continuous monitoring and support to insure implementation of the school-wide improvement efforts. The second phase of the restructuring initiative, which is being implemented during the 2006-2007 school year, includes additional strategies such as providing extensive district-wide and building level professional development. We also are planning to request consideration of an alternative accreditation plan for this school.

In closing, it is our hope that the comprehensive instructional restructuring initiative undertaken for the Richmond Alternative School will cause you to grant the school the conditional accreditation status being requested.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this waiver. Should you need any additional information or wish to discuss the matter further, we welcome the opportunity to assist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Ballard".

The Honorable David Ballard, Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Jewell-Sherman".

Deborah Jewell-Sherman, Ed.D., Superintendent

*"The Capital Choice in Public Education"*