

### **APPROVAL OF ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLANS**

- ✓ Local school boards must apply at least 90 days prior to the proposed implementation of the plan. Implementation shall be no earlier than August 1 of the school year following approval by the Board of Education (i.e., no later than May 1 for the following school year).
- ✓ The chair of the local school board and the division superintendent are expected to be in attendance at the Board of Education meeting when the proposal is considered.
- ✓ Primary issues to be considered by the Department:
  1. What is different about the student population and/or the school that the requirements of the accreditation standards cannot be met? Which of the accrediting standards are not appropriate to the school and why?
  2. What are the criteria/standards for students to be admitted to the school?
  3. What is the mission of the school? What are the goals for students in the school? (NOTE: The goals must address 100% of the students in the school.)
  4. What objective data is the school board willing to be evaluated by in order to show that the mission is being met?
  5. The proposal for the alternative plan must show that all federal requirements are being met (e.g., Title I, Perkins, Nutrition, Special Education, etc.).
- ✓ In accordance with 8 VAC 20-131-330 of the accrediting standards, no waivers of the requirements for Standards of Learning (SOL) testing or the requirements for diplomas will be waived.

Local school boards are advised that the approval may be a lengthy process and that the board must submit the request. There is no specific format required for the submission and each proposal will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.