

## **APPEAL BY SCHOOL OF ITS AYP ACCOUNTABILITY DECISION**

AYP Accountability decisions include:

- AYP determination for a given school year; and/or
- identification for improvement and sanctions or corrective actions under NCLB.

The following policies and procedures shall apply to all appeals made by schools.

A school appeals directly to the division superintendent concerning its AYP accountability decision.

1. An appeal is limited to the following circumstances:

- When a school believes that an error or omission was made in reporting the number of enrolled students or the designation of less than a 95 percent participation rate.
- When a school believes that an error or omission occurred in the calculation of the passing rate, such as a failure to calculate safe harbor or a failure to consider a three-year cumulative pass rate.
- When a school believes that the demographic information associated with the test scores is in error.
- When a school believes that there was an omission of other information or data necessary for the determination of Adequate Yearly Progress.
- When a school can document that its failure to make AYP because of failure to meet the annual measurable objective in the other academic indicator (graduation rate, attendance rate, or student performance on science assessments) or make progress in that indicator is due to other, verifiable substantive reason.

2. Time period for appeals for claims of errors in scoring or reporting of data:

- The division superintendent is the person designated for accepting any appeal made by a school and for forwarding the decision to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).
- If a division superintendent determines that the appeal is warranted and that the identification should be changed, the division superintendent forwards the following to the department of education:
  - For non-Title I schools – decision and rationale
  - For Title I schools – decision, rationale, and a listing of evidence analyzed
- The division superintendent must file appeals in writing with the VDOE **within 15 business days** of the school receiving official notice of its AYP accountability decision.

3. Review of information and data related to the appeal:

- The burden to demonstrate through supporting evidence that an error had occurred as a basis for appeal is the responsibility of the school and school division.
- In preparing a response to a school's appeal filed by the division superintendent, the VDOE may audit data relative to the AYP accountability decision. The state reserves the right to investigate any irregularities that are identified in the process of reviewing information related to the appeal. The VDOE will designate the information to be used to review an appeal on a case-by-case basis.

- Results of VDOE's review of the appeal will be provided to the division superintendent in writing within 15 business days of receipt of the appeal. If a site visit is required as a part of the review, notification will be made within 15 business days of the visit.
- The determination made by VDOE regarding Title I schools shall be final.