

Virginia Department of Education
Appeal by a School of its 2015-2016 Federal Accountability Results
(Based on 2014-2015 Standards of Learning Test Results)

Section 1116(b)(2) of ESEA states that school divisions must provide schools with an opportunity to review the data upon which their federal accountability results are based. If a school believes the proposed results are in error, the school may provide supporting evidence to the school division. The school division must review the evidence before making a final decision and submit the evidence and decision to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) for consideration.

The guidelines and procedures for a school division to use in considering a school's appeal of federal accountability results are outlined below. The VDOE must receive appeals filed by the division superintendent within one month of the school receiving notice of results, but **no later than Friday, August 28, 2015**.

Appeals Policies and Procedures

The following policies and procedures shall apply to all appeals made by schools. A **school** appeals directly to the division superintendent concerning its federal accountability results.

1. Appeals are 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 the reduction of failure rate 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; or
 - When a school believes that there was an omission of other information or data necessary to calculate federal accountability results.
2. High schools may submit an appeal based on the following circumstances:
 - When the only AMO missed by the high school is the federal graduation indicator (FGI) for one or more subgroup(s); and
 - When the four-year adjusted FGI rate for all students and subgroups is 80 percent or higher in the 2014-2015 school year.
3. 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 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 VDOE:
 - For non-Title I schools – decision and rationale; or
 - For Title I schools – decision, rationale, and a listing of evidence analyzed.

- Prior to submitting an appeal, the school division should ensure that all record changes have been made or that a Post Authorization to Proceed (ATP) Record Change Request Form has been submitted to the VDOE. The Post ATP Record Change Request Form is used when additional record changes are required after the division superintendent has signed the ATP form indicating that the data are accurate and may be found at: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/test_administration/index.shtml. Directions are located at the top of the form.
- The VDOE must receive appeals filed by the division superintendent within one month of the school receiving notice of results, but no later than **Friday, August 28, 2015**. Appeals packets must be submitted to the address below:

Virginia Department of Education
Office of Program Administration and Accountability
Attention: Christopher Kelly
P.O. Box 2120
Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120

- Submit six packets (an original and five copies) per school appeal. Include as the first document in each packet a copy of the appropriate school's AMO and FGI reports. Highlight relevant data that would enhance the review of any of the documents submitted.
4. Review of information and data related to the appeal:
- The school and school division assume the burden to demonstrate through supporting evidence that an error has occurred as a basis for appeal.
 - In preparing a response to a school's appeal filed by the division superintendent, the VDOE may audit data relative to the federal accountability results. 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 the 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 the VDOE regarding Title I schools shall be final.

Contact Information

School divisions may submit questions about federal accountability results or related issues to the following Department contacts:

- General questions about ESEA flexibility: ESEA@doe.virginia.gov
- Requests for appeals of federal accountability results: Christopher Kelly, education coordinator, Office of Program Administration and Accountability, at AMOTBD@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2122
- Student assessment records and record changes: Office of Test Administration, Scoring and Reporting, at student_assessment@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2102
- AMO calculations: Office of Information Management at resultshelp@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2099