

# Accountability Committee Meeting

**2014 Legislation Regarding  
A-F School Grading Formula  
September 17, 2014**

# 2014 Legislation Regarding School Grading Formula

- ▶ Delays issuance of school grades from October 2014 to October 2016
- ▶ Board of Education to consider a single school grade or multiple grades
- ▶ Includes additional factors to consider in developing a school grading formula
- ▶ Board to submit plan for school grading formula to General Assembly by January 2015
- ▶ Finalize plan by December 2015
- ▶ Report School Grades by October 2016

# 2014 Acts of the Assembly

*An Act to amend and reenact § 2 of Chapter 672 and § 2 of Chapter 692 of the Acts of Assembly of 2013, relating to a grading system for individual school performance; delay.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 2 of Chapter 672 of the Acts of Assembly of 2013 is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 2. The Board of Education, *by October 1, 2016*, shall report individual school performance using a grading system that *is* based on an A-to-F scale. *No later than January 1, 2015, the Board shall develop and submit to the Chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Health a preliminary plan for an A-to-F school performance grading system.*

# 2014 Acts of the Assembly (continued)

*No later than December 1, 2015, the Board shall finalize the school performance grading system, make a summary of the system available to the public, and submit a summary of the system to the Chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Health. No later than October 1, 2016, and each October 1 thereafter, the Board shall assign a grade or a series of grades to each public elementary and secondary school in the Commonwealth and make such grades available to the public.*

# 2014 Acts of the Assembly (continued)

*As part of its preliminary plan, the Board shall also determine, in consultation with the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health, whether to (a) assign a single letter grade to each school or (b) assign a series of letter grades to each school based on some or all of the factors in clauses (i) through (x) or any combination of such factors. No later than July 1, 2015, the Board shall provide notice and solicit public comment on the preliminary school performance grading system plan.*

# 2014 Acts of the Assembly (continued)

*The Board, in developing the school performance grading system, can consider (i) the standards of accreditation, (ii) state and federal accountability requirements, (iii) state-mandated assessments, (iv) any alternative assessments developed or approved for use by the relevant local school board, (v) student growth indicators, (vi) student mobility, (vii) the experience and qualifications of school staff, (viii) total cost and funding per pupil, (ix) school safety, and (x) any other factors that the Board deems necessary to produce a full and accurate grade for each public elementary and secondary school in the Commonwealth.*

# 2014: § 2. Required Actions

- ▶ By **January 1, 2015**: Develop a preliminary plan for the school grading system and submit this plan to the Chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Health.
- ▶ By **July 1, 2015**: Provide notice and solicit public comment on the preliminary school grading plan.

# 2014: § 2. Required Actions

- ▶ By **December 1, 2015**:
  - Finalize the school grading system;
  - Make a summary of this system available to the public; and
  - Submit a summary of this system to the Chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Health.
  
- ▶ By **October 1, 2016** and each October 1 thereafter: Report a grade for each public school.

# Developing the Grading System

- ▶ The legislation includes a list of 10 factors the Board **may consider** in developing the preliminary grading system.
- ▶ Some of the factors listed in the legislation were included in the system adopted in 2013.
- ▶ Factors that were included in the adopted grading system will be indicated by **red** on the next screen.

# 2014: § 2. School Grading System

Factors the Board **may consider** :

- ▶ **The Standards of Accreditation**
- ▶ **State and federal accountability requirements**
- ▶ **State–mandated assessments**
- ▶ Any alternative assessments developed or approved for use by the relevant local school board
- ▶ **Student growth indicators**
- ▶ **Student mobility**
- ▶ The experience and qualifications of school staff
- ▶ Total cost and funding per pupil
- ▶ School safety
- ▶ Any other factors that the Board deems necessary to produce a full and accurate grade for each public elementary and secondary school in the Commonwealth

# Additional Factors for Consideration:

Determine, in consultation with the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health, whether to:

- ▶ assign a single letter grade to each school, or
- ▶ assign a series of letter grades to each school based on some or all of the factors listed previously, or any combination of such factors.

# Review of Board of Education's Response to 2013 Acts of the Assembly

# 2013: Virginia Board of Education Adopted A–F School Grading Formula

Legislation required the Board of Education to report individual school performance using an A–to–F grading system that includes the standards of accreditation, state and federal accountability requirements, and student growth indicators.

(§ 2 of Chapters 672 and 692 of the Acts of  
Assembly of 2013)

# 2013 Acts of the Assembly

## Chapters 672 and 692

*An Act to require the Board of Education to develop a grading system for individual school performance.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

- 1. § 1. The Board of Education shall approve student growth indicators by July 31, 2013. The Department of Education shall provide a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the approval of the student growth indicators and their uses by December 1, 2013. The growth indicators shall be used in the standards of accreditation of schools and in teacher evaluations.*

# 2013 Acts of the Assembly

## Chapters 672 and 692

*§ 2. The Board of Education shall report individual school performance using a grading system that includes the standards of accreditation, state and federal accountability requirements, and student growth indicators in assigning grades. The grading system shall be based on an A-to-F grading scale. The Board, by October 1, 2014, shall (i) assign a grade from A to F to each public school in the Commonwealth; (ii) make both the system and the grade assigned to each school in the Commonwealth available to the public; and (iii) report to the General Assembly a summary of the system and the assigned grades.*

# 2013 Acts of the Assembly

## Chapters 672 and 692

*§ 3. As used in this act, for purposes of assigning grades, "student growth" means (i) whether individual students on average fall below, meet, or exceed an expected amount of growth based on a statewide average or reference base year on state assessments or additional assessments approved by the Board; (ii) maintaining a proficient or advanced proficient performance level on state assessments; or (iii) making significant improvement within the below basic or basic level of performance on reading or mathematics assessments as determined by the Board.*

# Virginia Board of Education Response to 2013 Acts of the Assembly

On November 21, 2013, the Board adopted the A–F School Grading Formula that combines three primary focus areas:

1. Proficiency of a school's students in core content areas of mathematics, English (reading and writing), science, and history and social science as measured by passing rates on statewide assessments
2. Growth or learning gains of an elementary or middle school's students in reading and mathematics as measured by year-to-year ("growth") on state assessments
3. College and career readiness of a high school's students as measured by indicators that students have graduated with college and career ready credentials, or are progressing on a pathway to graduating from high school prepared for college and careers

# Discussion of Next Steps