

Staff Thoughts on the Standards of Accreditation (SOA)

Virginia Board of Education Committee on School and Division Accountability

March 25, 2015

Proposed Changes

Topic	Proposed Change
Definition of class period, planning period, instructional day and student class period	Redefine class period, planning period, instructional day, and student class period
Exemptions from testing	Add language recognizing that exemptions from testing allowed by federal law will also be permitted for accreditation
Credit accommodations for students with disabilities	Consider expanding the credit accommodations currently available to students with disabilities for the standard diploma to the advanced studies diploma
Credit accommodations for English language learners	Consider adding credit accommodations for English language learners
Standard and Verified Credit Requirements for Transfer students	Revise to make the standard and verified credit requirements for non-military transfer students the same as for military dependents
Standard credits	Revise the definition of a standard credit to provide school divisions with additional flexibility in awarding standard credits (also addressed in 2015 legislation)
Role of principal	Consider adding language to reflect the role of the principal in developing, leading, and implementing a plan for the school's improvement process.
Frequency of Accreditation	Consider moving to 3 year accreditation cycle (multiple year accreditation cycle is also addressed in 2015 legislation)
Multiple Measures included in Accreditation	Consider including other measures of school quality in accreditation ratings. Measures may include scores from other tests, climate surveys from parents and students, college level course work, student participation in intramural and extracurricular activities, World language attainment and CTE credentials.
Information included in School Performance Report Card	Evaluate current report card requirements.
Tiered responses to accreditation	Consider further differentiating the interventions provided to schools that are not fully accredited based on the number of years a school has been accredited with warning and the number of subjects in which the school is warned

Issues for Potential Board Discussion

Topic	Issue for Discussion
Definition of College Readiness	<p>Consider defining college readiness for advanced studies diploma students as a verified credit in Algebra II and a qualifying score on tests such as AP or IB</p> <p>Consider defining college readiness for standard diploma students as a qualifying score on the Virginia Community College System's (VCCS) Virginia Placement Tests in mathematics and English/Language Arts. The VPT would be taken at the end of the 10th grade year and results could be used for targeted remediation. 11th and 12th grades could be used to completed remediation modules supplied by the VCCS system.</p>
Graduation requirements	Consider requiring a real world problem solving exercise for graduation