

§ [22.1-79.1](#). Opening of the school year; approvals for certain alternative schedules.

A. Each local school board shall set the school calendar so that the first day students are required to attend school shall be after Labor Day. The Board of Education may waive this requirement on a showing of good cause.

B. For purposes of this section, "good cause" means:

1. A school division has been closed an average of eight days per year during any five of the last 10 years because of severe weather conditions, energy shortages, power failures, or other emergency situations;
2. A school division is providing, in the school year for which the waiver is sought, an instructional program or programs in one or more of its elementary or middle or high schools, excluding the electronic classroom, which are dependent on and provided in one or more elementary or middle or high schools of another school division that qualifies for such waiver. However, any waiver granted by the Board of Education pursuant to this subdivision shall only apply to the opening date for those schools where such dependent programs are provided; or
3. A school division is providing its students, in the school year for which the waiver is sought, with an experimental or innovative program which requires an earlier opening date than that established in subsection A of this section and which has been approved by the Department of Education pursuant to the regulations of the Board of Education establishing standards for accrediting public schools. However, any waiver or extension of the school year granted by the Board of Education pursuant to this subdivision or its standards for accrediting public schools for such an experimental or innovative program shall only apply to the opening date for those schools where such experimental or innovative programs are offered generally to the student body of the school. For the purposes of this subdivision, experimental or innovative programs shall include instructional programs that are offered on a year-round basis by the school division in one or more of its elementary or middle or high schools....

For the 2009-2010 school year, 58 school divisions have been approved for emergency or weather-related reasons, 13 have one or more schools approved because of a dependent program, and five have one or more schools approved because of an innovative or experimental program. Of the five, four have year-round schools (Alexandria, Arlington, Danville, and Fairfax), and one, Covington City Public Schools, was approved by the Board in May 2008. Danville City Public Schools and Covington City Public Schools have some schools approved as dependent programs, and some as innovative or experimental programs.

On January 14, 2010, the Board approved a request for an innovative program from the Charlotte County School Board. The program, CASHE (Connecting All Students to Higher Education), was developed and implemented with the goal of having 100 percent of its graduates attending postsecondary education.

Summary of Major Elements: The Richmond City School Board is requesting approval of an

innovative program for Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts, a charter school serving grades K-5.

Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts is a public charter school operating under a contractual arrangement with Richmond City Public Schools. It plans to open for the 2010-2011 school year on August 9, 2010, but in subsequent years, it plans to begin the school year in July. For the 2010-2011 school year, the calendar includes 183½ teaching days, 10½ planning and development days, and 10 in-service days.

The school plans to operate on a “progressive quarter calendar” consisting of four quarters of approximately nine weeks of instruction, followed by a break of at least two weeks. During the breaks, there will be intersessions to provide remediation and enrichment programs for the students attending the school. There will be a five week summer break between school years. The school’s calendar is very similar to the calendars of other year-round schools the Board of Education has approved in past years.

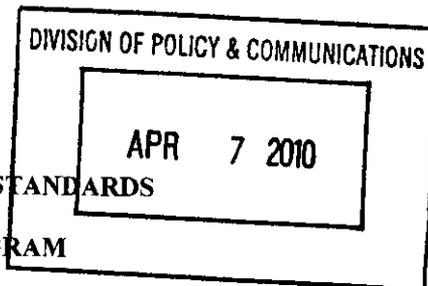
A copy of the complete package submitted by the Richmond City School Board is attached.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education approve the request from Richmond City Public Schools for an innovative program, pursuant to the provisions of §.22.1-79.1 of the *Code of Virginia*.

Impact on Resources: The impact on resources is not expected to be significant.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: Upon approval by the Board of Education, Department of Education staff will notify the Superintendent of Richmond City Public Schools that Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts is authorized to open prior to Labor Day for the 2010-2011 school year.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
P.O. Box 2120
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23218-2120



REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF CERTAIN ACCREDITING STANDARDS
AND/OR APPROVAL
OF AN INNOVATIVE OR EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM

The *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, (8 VAC 20-131-10 et seq.) set the minimum standards public schools must meet to be accredited by the Board of Education. Accreditation of public schools is required by the Standards of Quality (§§ 22.1-253.13:1 et seq.). The annual accrediting cycle for public schools is July 1 through June 30.

This cover sheet, with the supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Department of Education for review and recommendation to the Board at least 90 days prior to the beginning of an accrediting cycle or the proposed implementation of the program or activity that precipitates the request for the waiver. The types of waivers available and the corresponding section of the standards are indicated below. Please attach additional sheets or information deemed appropriate. (The Board will consider this request in its monthly meeting and school divisions **are required** to appear before the board **in person or electronically** to explain a waiver request.)

SCHOOL DIVISION Richmond Public Schools

TITLE OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts – A Charter School Serving Grades K-5

TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED:

- Approval of an Alternative to the Standard School Year and School Day (8 VAC 20-131-150)
- Approval of an Alternative Accreditation Plan (8 VAC 20-131-280.D)
- Approval of an Experimental Program (8 VAC 20-131-290.D)
- Approval of an Innovative Program (8 VAC 20-131-290.D)
- Approval of a Waiver of Other Provision(s) of the Standards (8 VAC 20-131-350)
(Complete Pages 1 and 3 of the application only.)

SCHOOL(S) INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED PROGRAM/ACTIVITY Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts

March 29, 2010
Date Approved
by the Local School Board

Kintyrelyle Briggs
Signature
Chairman of the School Board

April 6, 2010
Submission Date

Yvonne M. Brandon
Signature
Division Superintendent

SCHOOL DIVISION

Richmond Public Schools

TITLE OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY

Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts – A Charter School Serving Grades K-5

IF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM IS EXPERIMENTAL OR INNOVATIVE, EXPLAIN HOW THIS IS SO AND PROVIDE A PROGRAM DESCRIPTION, INCLUDING THE TYPE OF PROGRAM, ITS PURPOSE, THE GRADES SERVED, DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION DESCRIBING THE STUDENTS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING, THE RATIONALE FOR THE PROGRAM, THE PROGRAM'S GOALS, EVALUATION PROCEDURES, AND OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION.

Request: Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, the Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts (PHSSA) will open as a school serving grades K-5. PHSSA is a public charter school operating under a contractual agreement with Richmond City Public Schools (RPS). On behalf of PHSSA, Richmond City Public Schools is requesting a waiver from the Virginia Board of Education so that PHSSA may begin the school year prior to Labor Day. If this waiver is granted, PHSSA will open on August 9, 2010 and anticipates providing 183 1/2 days of instruction.

Background: (PHSSA) is an innovative program with a rigorous science and arts curriculum that emphasizes environmental awareness and social responsibility. Through the school's integrated theme-based curriculum and overall progressive approach to learning, students will develop the advanced academic skills, strong personal values, and critical social and cultural understandings they need to become effective citizens in today's complex and evolving world. Forest Hill Park, adjacent to the Patrick Henry building, offers a rich natural learning environment. Interactive park experiences will be utilized to enhance understanding of all subject areas. Through a rigorous literacy program, students will leave elementary school with knowledge of all core disciplines, understanding of scientific principles, and an appreciation for the arts that will serve them in future grades and throughout their lives.

A cornerstone of the PHSSA paradigm is acknowledgment that education of the whole child is a community effort that requires participation of the family in addition to the school. Students simply learn better when their family is involved in their education. PHSSA therefore requires family involvement as a condition of admission and continued enrollment of a child to the school. Family members will be required to give approximately six (6) hours per quarter of their time to the school. Involvement hours will be fulfilled in a way that is manageable to all families/guardians.

PHSSA will serve Richmond City students in grades K-5. PHSSA will enroll 150 students for the 2010-11 school year. Student selection has not been completed for the 2010-11 school year. PHSSA in their application stated that their student population would mirror RPS demographics.

The creation of Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts meets Richmond's need for an elementary school that develops the whole child, promotes ethnic diversity, and levels economic barriers through innovative educational approaches that have proven successful in other states.

Student Achievement Goals:

- Master State and Federal learning objectives
- Develop reasoning skills through science and arts curriculum
- Acquire problem solving skills through scientific inquiry
- Foster an appreciation of the natural world through environmental studies
- Increase social awareness through the arts and social sciences
- Develop citizenship skills

- Master self discipline
- Develop an appreciation of diversity
- Develop mental creativity and flexibility through an interdisciplinary curriculum

Evaluation Procedures

PHSSA will use the same grading system as other RPS elementary schools. PHSSA will meet Federal and State accountability measures including AYP and accreditation. PHSSA shall implement a comprehensive student academic/achievement testing program that includes all state, federal, and local assessment requirements, including administration of Virginia's SOL assessments at the required grade levels.

The PHSSA will use multiple assessment measures to create a comprehensive picture of student achievement and perform grade level assessment. Students will master state objectives for each grade year. PHSSA will utilize an assessment reporting system compiled from standardized assessments and scoring rubrics will be used to determine student performance and mastery of the integrated curriculum content. Assessment data will be provided in the form of Assessment Data Reports that will be submitted to the superintendent each nine weeks, in conjunction with the RPS reporting requirements.

Each year, a Personalized Evaluation Plan (PEP) will be developed for each student, based on reading and other assessments, and input from the child's teachers and parents or guardians. These plans will assess what the child has learned and set educational goals for the upcoming year. These plans also will serve as a guide for each student's individual instruction, and will aid teachers in crafting individualized lesson plans that serve specific student's needs and capabilities.

DOES THE PROGRAM REQUIRE THAT SCHOOLS IN THE DIVISION OPEN PRIOR TO LABOR DAY?
 YES NO.

IF YES, EXPLAIN WHY.

Patrick Henry intends to have a "progressive quarter calendar" (PQC), which will contain the same number of school days in the school year as traditional school calendars, but the school days are distributed more evenly throughout the year. Each quarter is followed by a break of at least two weeks. At the end of the school year (in summer), the vacation break is five weeks. The PHSSA school calendar is attached for review.

The PQC is an essential component of the instructional strategy that promotes continuous learning. The progressive quarter calendar has several academic benefits. It aids in the learning retention usually lost over summer months, reduces teacher and student burn-out by offering quarterly breaks, and ultimately aids in teacher retention. The calendar also allows for a better utilization of Forest Hill and James River Park resources as all four seasons can be studied equally and affording more fair weather days in which to use the outdoor classroom. The intercession between quarters will be used to remediate and enrich learning through camps rather than waiting until summer time to address areas where students need help.

IF THE PROGRAM IS EXPERIMENTAL, INCLUDE INFORMATION THAT EXPLAINS WHY THERE IS REASON TO EXPECT THAT THE PROGRAM WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

year-round program at PHSSA will provide remediation and enrichment instruction during intercessions that will meet the abilities, interests, and educational needs of its students. Students who are not successfully progressing in reading shall receive additional instructional time in reading, which will include instruction

during intercession. During intercession, specific remedial classes will be offered and tailored to address identified student skill deficits from the prior quarter. PALS results, DRA 2 assessment results and assessments from the core reading program Reading Street by Pearson / Scott Foresman will be used to determine specific small group reading instruction. Teachers will write and implement lessons to meet the specific needs of each student. Students will receive instruction in small group setting with a teacher/ pupil ratio of one to five.

DESCRIBE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAM.

The anticipated outcomes for students attend PHSSA are as follows:

1. All third and fifth graders will read at or above grade level by year three of operation as measured by PALS and DRA results
2. Students will achieve and exceed the State and Federal Benchmarks for the 2010-11 school year
3. Acquire problem solving skills through scientific inquiry
4. Foster an appreciation of the natural world through environmental studies
5. Increase social awareness through the arts and social sciences
5. Develop mental creativity and flexibility through an interdisciplinary curriculum

Mastery of goals three to five will be demonstrated in each student's Personalized Evaluation Plan and portfolio.

SCHOOL DIVISION

Richmond Public Schools

TITLE OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY

Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts – A Charter School Serving Grades K-5

IF YOU ARE SEEKING A WAIVER OF A PROVISION OR PROVISIONS OF THE ACCREDITING STANDARDS, STATE THE PROVISION AND THE RATIONALE FOR SEEKING A WAIVER FOR EACH.

Code of Virginia § 22.1-79.1. Opening of the school year; approvals for certain alternative schedules

Each local school board shall set the school calendar so that the first day students are required to attend school shall be after Labor Day. The Board of Education may waive this requirement on a showing of good cause.

For purposes of this section, "good cause" means: A school division is providing its students, in the school year for which the waiver is sought, with an experimental or innovative program which requires an earlier opening date than that established in subsection A of this section and which has been approved by the Department of Education pursuant to the regulations of the Board of Education establishing standards for accrediting public schools. However, any waiver or extension of the school year granted by the Board of Education pursuant to this subdivision or its standards for accrediting public schools for such an experimental or innovative program shall only apply to the opening date for those schools where such experimental or innovative programs are offered generally to the student body of the school. For the purposes of this subdivision, experimental or innovative programs shall include instructional programs that are offered on a year-round basis by the school division in one or more of its elementary or middle or high schools

DESCRIBE THE PROCEDURES THAT WILL BE USED TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WAIVER/PROGRAM/ACTIVITY. (Include information that includes measurable goals, objectives, and student academic achievement that will be expected as a result of the implementation of the program/activity.)

PHSSA will quarterly monitor student achievement to determine if the progressive calendar has a positive effect on student achievement. The PHSSA accountability plan is modeled in accordance with the Richmond Public School's Balanced Scorecard presenting the education goals with leading and lagging indicators.

PHSSA will provide an innovative interdisciplinary program of instruction that promotes individual student academic achievement in the essential academic disciplines and will provide additional instruction opportunities through using a progressive calendar. The year-round program provides remediation and enrichment instruction during intercessions that will meet the abilities, interests, and educational needs of its students. Students who are not successfully progressing in reading skills shall receive additional instructional time in reading, which will include instruction during intercession.

The progressive calendar allows for environmental on-site learning to be integrated into the curriculum which is a key component of the instructional program at PHSSA.

Number of students involved in the program 150

What is the anticipated length of the program or duration of the waiver?

July 2010 – June 2011

Questions should be directed to the Division of Policy and Communications at (804) 225-2092, or by e-mail to policydata@doe.virginia.gov. This application and supporting documentation must be sent to:

Division of Policy and Communications
Department of Education
P. O. Box 2120
Richmond, VA 23218-2120

PHSSA School Calendar 2010-2011

183½ Teaching Days
10½ Planning & Development Days
10 In-Service Days
School opening delayed until August this year only

July 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

July
19-30 In-Service Training (Only Teachers Report)

August
2-6 Planning & Development (Only Teachers Report)
9 First Day of School (All Students Report)

September
2 Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences (19 days)
6 Labor Day (School & Office Closed)

October
5 Evening Parent Teacher Conferences (41 days)
8 End of First Grading Period (43 ½ days)
8 Early Release / ½ Teacher Work Day
11-15 Intersession

November
2 Planning & Development (Students Do Not Report)
11 Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences (18 days)
24 Early Dismissal (Students & Staff)
25-26 Thanksgiving Holiday (School & Office Closed)

December
14 Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences (38 days)
20-31 Winter Holiday (School Closed)

January
3-7 Intersession
13 End of Second Grading Period (44 ½ days)
13 Early Release / ½ Teacher Work Day
14 Planning & Development (Students Do Not Report)
17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Schools & Office Closed)

February
8 Evening Parent Teacher Conferences (16 days)
21 Presidents' Day (School & Office Closed)

March
10 Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences (37 days)
18 End of Third Grading Period (42 ½ days)
18 Early Release / ½ Teacher Work Day
21-25 Intersession

April
18-22 Spring Break Holiday (Students & Staff)
26 Evening Parent Teacher Conferences (17 days)

May
19 Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences (34 days)
30 Memorial Day (School & Office Closed)

June
16 Last Day of School
16 End of Fourth Grading Period (53 days)
17 Professional Development (Students Do Not Report)
20-30 Intersession

January 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
	8	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Calendar Key:

First Day of School	Last Day of School
Teacher Planning & Development	In-Service Training
Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences	Holiday
Early Dismissal, Report Cards, Planning & Development	
Intersession	