Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: H. **Date:** September 22, 2011

Topic: Final Review of Requests for Approval of Alternative Accreditation Plans from Bland County Public Schools, Colonial Beach Public Schools, Craig County Public Schools, Danville City Public Schools, Dickenson County Public Schools, Highland County Public Schools, Richmond City Public Schools, Scott County Public Schools and York County Public Schools for High Schools with a Graduation Cohort of Fifty (50) Students or Fewer

Presenter: Dr. Kathleen M. Smith, Director, Office of School Improvement, Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement

Telephone Number: (804) 225-2865 **E-Mail Address:** Kathleen.Smith@doe.virginia.gov

Origin:

____ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

____ Board review required by
- ____ State or federal law or regulation
- ____ Board of Education regulation
- ____ Other: _____

__X__ Action requested at this meeting ____ Action requested at future meeting:

Previous Review/Action:

____ No previous board review/action

__X__ Previous review/action
date July 28, 2011
action Board accepted for first review the proposed alternative accreditation plans

Background Information:

Section 8 VAC 20-131.280.C. of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (SOA) states:

> Subject to the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350, the governing school board of special purpose schools such as those provided for in § 22.1-26 of the Code of Virginia, Governor's schools, special education schools, alternative schools, or career and technical schools that serve as the student's school of principal enrollment may seek approval of an alternative accreditation plan from the Board of Education. Schools offering alternative education programs and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students as defined by the graduation rate formula adopted by the board may request that the board approve an alternative accreditation plan to meet the graduation and completion index benchmark. Special purpose schools with alternative accreditation plans shall be evaluated on standards appropriate to the programs offered in the school and approved by the board prior to August 1 of the school year for which approval is requested. Any student graduating from a special purpose school with a Standard, Advanced Studies, or Modified Standard Diploma must meet the requirements prescribed in 8 VAC 20-131-50.

Summary of Major Elements:

The following school divisions request approval of an alternative accreditation plan for the high schools indicated below to meet the Graduation and Completion Index (GCI) benchmark for schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students. Only three of these schools (Colonial Beach High School, Ervington High School and York River Academy) had a GCI below 85 in 2010.

Name of School Division	Name of School(s) Submitting Alternative Accreditation Plan	2010 GCI Index
Bland County	Bland High	97
	Rocky Gap High	98
Colonial Beach City	Colonial Beach High	82
Craig County	Craig County High	89
Danville City	Galileo Magnet High	97
Dickenson County	Ervinton High	83
Highland County	Highland High	98
Richmond City	Franklin Military Academy	94
	Open High	100
	Richmond Community High	99
	Amelia Street Special Education Center	100
Scott County	Twin Springs High	98
York County	York River Academy	81

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the GCI. For this reason, the GCI alone is not an appropriate measure for these schools; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation. Each school division is requesting a waiver to 8VAC 20-131-280 (as provided in the background information) of the SOA so that adjustments may be made to the accreditation calculations for accountability purposes. The following are being requested by each school division for the accreditation cycles for three years beginning in 2011:

1. The proposed alternative accreditation plan will be used only if the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation AND the cohort size for the graduating class is less than 50.
2. The maximum number of GCI bonus points allowable for alternative accreditation will be based upon the size of the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort as follows:
   - 0-14 students, no bonus points assigned: the school division will submit a written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
   - Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
   - Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
   - Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students
3. The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction will make the final determination if the school division appeals the GCI due to cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration.

Each school division has determined additional criteria and measurable thresholds for achieving bonus points based upon individual school data. Each school has submitted between three and six additional criteria, each of which is worth one bonus point if the benchmark is met. Descriptions of the additional criteria fall into the following categories:

- Advanced Diplomas earned by graduating cohort
- Advanced Placement course enrollment and/or Advanced Placement examination scores
- Completion of internships/mentorships
- Completion of service learning programs
- Career and Technical Education program completion, certification, and/or credential awards
- Dual Enrollment course enrollment
- Enrollment in higher level courses such as chemistry, calculus, and physics
- Post-High School status – postsecondary education, joining the military, full-time employment
- School earns Virginia Index of Performance points that qualify for an award
- SOL pass rates and/or SOL pass advanced pass rates

The proposed school plans are included as Attachments A-I.

Superintendent's Recommendation:
The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Virginia Board of Education approve the alternative accreditation plans from the nine (9) school divisions as presented for the accreditation cycles beginning in 2011 through 2013.

Impact on Resources:
None

Timetable for Further Review/Action:
Reauthorize alternative accreditation plans August 2014.

Attachment A

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

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 August 1 of the school year in which the plan is to be implemented.

8 VAC 20-131-280 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* states (in part):

Subject to the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 . . . schools offering alternative education programs and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students as defined by the graduation rate formula adopted by the board may request that the board approve an alternative accreditation plan to meet the graduation and completion index benchmark. Special purpose schools with alternative accreditation plans shall be evaluated on standards appropriate to the programs offered in the school and approved by the board prior to August 1 of the school year for which approval is requested. Any student graduating from a special purpose school with a Standard, Advanced Studies, or Modified Standard Diploma must meet the requirements prescribed in 8 VAC 20-131-50.

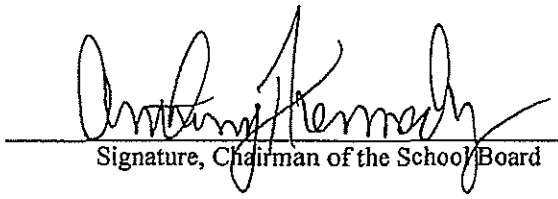
The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia,* states:

Schools described in this section are those that serve as a student's school of principal enrollment and where students are reported in fall membership for the school. Fall membership determines whether or not these schools are subject to the provisions of the accrediting standards; therefore, schools reporting fall membership are subject to the provisions of the standards.

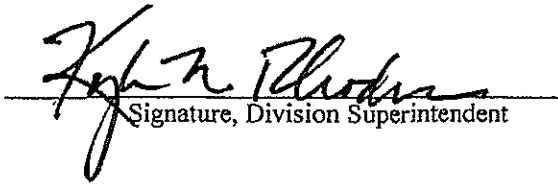
In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-330 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of these special purpose schools. Such requests may include an alternative accreditation plan. Applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least ninety days prior to August 1 of the school year. Requests for consideration must be accompanied by information that documents the need for approval of the request.

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

June 27, 2011
Date Approved by the Local School Board


Signature, Chairman of the School Board

June 28, 2011
Submission Date


Signature, Division Superintendent

ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

School Name: Bland High School

Division Name: Bland

School Address:31 Rocket Drive

Contact Person: Temple Musser

Phone Number: (276) 688-3621

Email: tmusser@bland.k12.va.us

Proposed Duration of Plan: Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

Grade Levels Served: 8 - 12

Number of Students Enrolled by Grade: Grade 8= 49, Grade 9= 27, Grade 10=40, Grade 11=35, Grade 12= 35

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in *8 VAC 20-131-280 of the* Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school's accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school's graduation rate.

(This will be different for each school. Use the sample indicators in the PowerPoint as a reference point. The Virginia Index of Performance may provide useful indicators that may be considered. This information can be found at:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/va_index_performance_awards/index.shtml)

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
GCI bonus for 80% pass rate for all of the EOC SOL's	+1
GCI bonus for when 75% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full-time job	+1
GCI bonus when 50% of the graduating students receive an industry certification or credential	+1
GCI bonus for increased attendance rate for graduating cohort	+1
GCI bonus for 30% of the graduating cohort receiving a pass advanced score on EOC reading or math	+1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.

Dr. Kyle Rhodes, Superintendent
Nancy Bralley, Director of Instruction
Temple Musser, Principal Bland High School
Joe Makolandra, Principal Rocky Gap High School
Shellie Hartley, Business Instructor

ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

School Name: Rocky Gap High School

Division Name: Bland County

School Address: P. O. Box 9 Rocky Gap, Virginia 24366

Contact Person: Joe Makolandra, Principal

Phone Number: (276) 928-1100

Email: jmakolandra@bland.k12.va.us

Proposed Duration of Plan: Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

Grade Levels Served: 8 - 12

Number of Students Enrolled by Grade: Grade 8= 36, Grade 9= 42, Grade 10= 39, Grade 11= 38, Grade 12= 40

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in *8 VAC 20-131-280 of the* Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school's accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school's graduation rate.

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http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/va_index_performance_awards/index.shtml)

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
GCI bonus for 80% pass rate for all of the EOC SOL's	+1
GCI bonus for when 75% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full-time job	+1
GCI bonus when 50 % of the graduating students receive an industry certification or credential	+1
GCI bonus for increased attendance rate for graduating cohort	+1
GCI bonus for 30% of the graduating cohort receiving a pass advanced score on EOC reading or math	+1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.

Dr. Kyle Rhodes, Superintendent
Nancy Bralley, Director of Instruction/Asst. to Superintendent
Joe Makolandra, Principal Rocky Gap High School
Temple Musser, Principal, Bland High School
Marlene Belcher, Counselor

Attachment B

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

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8 VAC 20-131-280 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* states (in part):

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The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia,* states:

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In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-330 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of these special purpose schools. Such requests may include an alternative accreditation plan. Applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least ninety days prior to August 1 of the school year. Requests for consideration must be accompanied by information that documents the need for approval of the request.

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

June 30, 2011
Date Approved by the Local School Board

Timothy J. Trumbo
Signature, Chairman of the School Board

July 6, 2011
Submission Date

Dr. Diane M. Turner
Signature, Division Superintendent

ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

School Name: Colonial Beach High School

Division Name: Colonial Beach

School Address: 100 First Street, Colonial Beach, VA 22443

Contact Person: Dr. Donna M. Power

Phone Number: 804-224-0906

Email: dpower@cbschools.net

Proposed Duration of Plan: Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

Grade Levels Served: 8-12

Number of Students Enrolled by Grade: 8th Grade – 47; 9th Grade – 57; 10th Grade – 34; 11th Grade - 46

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in *8 VAC 20-131-280 of the* Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

It is important to note that four-year cohort information was never recorded, as a dedicated data person was not hired until the 2010-2011 school year. Great efforts have been made to educate our technology department on the accurate input of data into PowerSchool, the student database, especially in the areas of special education, GED, and dropouts. With the hiring of a new superintendent in August of 2009, serious deficiencies in data entry were evidenced and a plan of corrective action was implemented in grades pre-k through 12. Over the last three years, the SAT reading scores went from 452 in 2009, to 482 in 2010, and 501 in 2011. The SAT writing scores went from 433 in 2009, to 437 in 2010, and 466 in 2011.

Additional Performance Criteria will be objective, measurable, and directly address the graduation rate. Data progress will be recorded quarterly and reported to the superintendent and the school board. Other changes that have been implemented to help raise the on-time graduation rate are listed below:

Description of Additional Criteria	**Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria**
GCI bonus when 50% or more of graduating students have taken chemistry, physics, and/or calculus	1
GCI bonus when 25% or more of graduating students have enrolled in AP and/or DE classes	1
GCI bonus when 25% or more of graduating students are CTE Completers	1
GCI bonus for increased percentage of students graduating with an Advanced Diploma	1
GCI bonus for increased percentage of students scoring advanced proficient on EOC reading, writing and/or math SOL assessments	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.

Dr. Donna M. Power, Kathleen F. Beane, and Clinton W. Runyan

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Attachment C

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

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8 VAC 20-131-280 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* states (in part):

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The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, states:

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In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-330 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of these special purpose schools. Such requests may include an alternative accreditation plan. Applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least ninety days prior to August 1 of the school year. Requests for consideration must be accompanied by information that documents the need for approval of the request.

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

21 July 2011
Date Approved by the Local School Board

Signature, Chairman of the School Board

Submission Date
7/7/2011

Signature, Division Superintendent

ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

School Name: Craig County High School

Division Name: Craig County Public Schools

School Address: 25239 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle, Va. 24127

Contact Person: Dan Bowman

Phone Number: (540) 8645185

Email: dbowman@craig.K12.va.us

Proposed Duration of Plan: Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

Grade Levels Served: 6-12

Number of Students Enrolled by Grade: 12th- 52, 11th- 53, 10th- 51, 9th- 51, 8th- 42, 7th- 59, 6th- 62

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in *8 VAC 20-131-280 of the* Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school's accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school's graduation rate.

(This will be different for each school. Use the sample indicators in the PowerPoint as a reference point. The Virginia Index of Performance may provide useful indicators that may be considered. This information can be found at:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/va_index_performance_awards/index.shtml)

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
45% of students get a Pass Advance score on English, Math, or Science SOL	1
25% of enrolled students get a 3 or higher on AP exam	1
25% of CTE students have earned certification	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time

Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.

Ron Gordon- Superintendent
Dan Bowman- High School Principal
Adele Morris- Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services
Scott Critzer- Director of Federal Programs and Testing

Attachment D

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

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In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-330 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of these special purpose schools. Such requests may include an alternative accreditation plan. Applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least ninety days prior to August 1 of the school year. Requests for consideration must be accompanied by information that documents the need for approval of the request.

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

7/22/11
Date Approved by the Local School Board

George M Wilson
Signature, Chairman of the School Board

7/22/11
Submission Date

Sue B Davis
Signature, Division Superintendent

ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

School Name: Galileo Magnet High School

Division Name: Danville City

School Address: 230 South Ridge Street, Danville, VA 24541

Contact Person: Jay Lancaster

Phone Number: 434-773-8186

Email: jlancast@mail.dps.k12.va.us

Proposed Duration of Plan: Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

Grade Levels Served: 9-12

Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:

Grade	Number of Students
9	58
10	61
11	78
12	59

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in *8 VAC 20-131-280 of the* Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school's accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school's graduation rate.

(This will be different for each school. Use the sample indicators in the PowerPoint as a reference point. The Virginia Index of Performance may provide useful indicators that may be considered. This information can be found at:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/va_index_performance_awards/index.shtml)

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
Earn at least 80 VIP Achievement Index Points in English	1
Earn at least 80 VIP Achievement Index Points in Mathematics	1
At least 75% of graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full-time job	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.
Dr. Sammy Shields, Director of Middle School Instruction and Accountability
Mr. Andrew Tyrrell, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Mr. Jay Lancaster, Principal of Galileo Magnet High School

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

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 August 1 of the school year in which the plan is to be implemented.

8 VAC 20-131-280 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* states (in part):

Subject to the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 . . . schools offering alternative education programs and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students as defined by the graduation rate formula adopted by the board may request that the board approve an alternative accreditation plan to meet the graduation and completion index benchmark. Special purpose schools with alternative accreditation plans shall be evaluated on standards appropriate to the programs offered in the school and approved by the board prior to August 1 of the school year for which approval is requested. Any student graduating from a special purpose school with a Standard, Advanced Studies, or Modified Standard Diploma must meet the requirements prescribed in 8 VAC 20-131-50.

The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia,* states:

Schools described in this section are those that serve as a student's school of principal enrollment and where students are reported in fall membership for the school. Fall membership determines whether or not these schools are subject to the provisions of the accrediting standards; therefore, schools reporting fall membership are subject to the provisions of the standards.

In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-330 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of these special purpose schools. Such requests may include an alternative accreditation plan. Applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least ninety days prior to August 1 of the school year. Requests for consideration must be accompanied by information that documents the need for approval of the request.

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

7-13-11
Date Approved by the Local School Board

Susan B. Mullins
Signature, Chairman of the School Board

7-11-11
Submission Date

Haydee L. Robinson
Signature, Division Superintendent

ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

School Name: Ervinton High School

Division Name: Dickenson County Public Schools

School Address: 123 Rebel Drive, Nora, VA 24272

Contact Person: Rodney Compton

Phone Number: 276-835-8604

Email: rlcompton@dickenson.k12.va.us

Proposed Duration of Plan: Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

Grade Levels Served: 8-12

Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:
Grade 8-28
Grade 9-38
Grade 10-40
Grade 11-36
Grade 12-41

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in *8 VAC 20-131-280 of the* Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

Description of Additional Criteria	**Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria**
Have a combined percent of cohort students who dropped out or have unconfirmed status of 10 percent or less.	1
Percentage of high school students enrolled in one or more AP or dual enrollment courses meets or exceeds 25 percent.	1
GCI bonus when an 80% pass rate for all End of Course SOLs is achieved.	1
GCI bonus when 50% of students score advanced proficient on reading and math SOL assessments.	1
GCI bonus when 50% of cohort students receive CTE Industry Certification	1
Percentage of graduates earning an Advanced Studies diploma out of the total number of diplomas awarded meets or exceeds 50 percent	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted

- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.

Haydee Robinson, Superintendent, hrobinson@dickenson.k12.va.us, 276-926-4643
Mike Setser, Supervisor of Compliance, msetser@dickenson.k12.va.us, 276-926-4643
Rodney Compton, Principal, rlcompton@dickenson.k12.va.us, 276-835-8604

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

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The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, states:

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In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-330 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of these special purpose schools. Such requests may include an alternative accreditation plan. Applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least ninety days prior to August 1 of the school year. Requests for consideration must be accompanied by information that documents the need for approval of the request.

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

Ken Olson 6/27/11
Date Approved by the Local School Board

Signature, Chairman of the School Board

6/27/11
Submission Date

Ken Olson
Signature, Division Superintendent

ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

School Name: Highland High School

Division Name: Highland County Public Schools

School Address: PO Box 430, Monterey, VA 24465

Contact Person: April Goff

Phone Number: 540-468-6322

Email: agoff@highland.k12.va.us

Proposed Duration of Plan: Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

Grade Levels Served: 6-12

Number of Students Enrolled by Grade: Grade 6—18; Grade 7—19; Grade 8—17; Grade 9—22; Grade 10—17; Grade 11—21; Grade 12--25

If Highland High School does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in *8 VAC 20-131-280 of the* Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school's accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school's graduation rate.

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
GCI bonus when 50 % or more of graduating students will have taken chemistry, anatomy/physiology, calculus, and/or physics.	1
GCI bonus when 50% or more of graduating students have scored advanced proficient on EOC reading, writing and/or math SOL assessments.	1
GCI bonus when 25% or more of graduating students have enrolled in AP and/or DE classes.	1
GCI bonus for increased percentage of graduating students receiving CTE certifications.	1
GCI bonus when Highland High School earns points for a VIP award.	1
GCI bonus when 75% or more of graduating students enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full time job.	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.

Mr. Percy C. Nowlin, retiring Superintendent
Dr. William Crawford, incoming Superintendent
Mrs. April Goff, Highland High School Principal
Mrs. Mary G. Stephenson, Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Attachment G

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

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The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia,* states:

Schools described in this section are those that serve as a student's school of principal enrollment and where students are reported in fall membership for the school. Fall membership determines whether or not these schools are subject to the provisions of the accrediting standards; therefore, schools reporting fall membership are subject to the provisions of the standards.

In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-330 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of these special purpose schools. Such requests may include an alternative accreditation plan. Applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least ninety days prior to August 1 of the school year. Requests for consideration must be accompanied by information that documents the need for approval of the request.

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

July 18, 2011
Date Approved by the Local School Board

Kimberly M. Bright
Signature, Chairman of the School Board

July 18, 2011
Submission Date

Yvonne W. Brandon
Signature, Division Superintendent

ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

School Name: Franklin Military Academy

Division Name: Richmond Public Schools

School Address: 701 North 37th Street
Richmond, VA 23223

Contact Person: Victoria S. Oakley, Chief Academic Officer

Phone Number: 804-780-7727

Email: voakley@richmond.k12.va.us

Proposed Duration of Plan: Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

Grade Levels Served: sixth, seventh, ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades
Eighth graders will start during the 2011-12 school year.

Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:

Ninth Graders:	49	Sixth Graders	84
Tenth Graders:	58	Seventh Graders	79
Eleventh Graders:	36		
Twelfth Graders:	46		

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in *8 VAC 20-131-280 of the* Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school's accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school's graduation rate.

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
90% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full time job	1
Increase the percent of career and technical certifications, state licenses, or successful national occupational assessments	1
Increase the percent of students earning advanced studies diploma	1
Increase the percent of students scoring pass advanced on the English SOL assessments	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.

Victoria S. Oakley	Chief Academic Officer
Thomas Beatty	Executive Director of Secondary Education
Maria Crenshaw	Director of Instruction
Sheron Carter-Gunter	Principal of Franklin Military Academy

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

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 August 1 of the school year in which the plan is to be implemented.

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The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia,* states:

Schools described in this section are those that serve as a student's school of principal enrollment and where students are reported in fall membership for the school. Fall membership determines whether or not these schools are subject to the provisions of the accrediting standards; therefore, schools reporting fall membership are subject to the provisions of the standards.

In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-330 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of these special purpose schools. Such requests may include an alternative accreditation plan. Applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least ninety days prior to August 1 of the school year. Requests for consideration must be accompanied by information that documents the need for approval of the request.

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

July 18, 2011
Date Approved by the Local School Board

Kimberly L. Bright
Signature, Chairman of the School Board

July 18, 2011
Submission Date

Yvonne W. Brenda
Signature, Division Superintendent

ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

School Name: Open High School

Division Name: Richmond Public Schools

School Address: 600 South Pine Street
Richmond, VA 23220

Contact Person: Victoria S. Oakley, Chief Academic Officer

Phone Number: 804-780-7727

Email: voakley@richmond.k12.va.us

Proposed Duration of Plan: Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

Grade Levels Served: ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades

Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:

Ninth Graders:	56
Tenth Graders:	40
Eleventh Graders:	53
Twelfth Graders:	40

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in *8 VAC 20-131-280 of the* Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school's accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school's graduation rate.

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
90% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full time job	1
85% or more graduates earning Advanced Studies Diploma	1
60% or more graduates enrolled in advanced placement and/ or dual enrollment classes	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.

Victoria S. Oakley	Chief Academic Officer
Thomas Beatty	Executive Director of Secondary Education
Maria Crenshaw	Director of Instruction
Candace Veney-Chaplin	Open High School

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

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July 18, 2011
Date Approved by the Local School Board

Kimberly M. Bridgeforth
Signature, Chairman of the School Board

July 18, 2011
Submission Date

Yvonne W. Brandon
Signature, Division Superintendent

ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

School Name: Richmond Community High School

Division Name: Richmond Public Schools

School Address: 201 E. Brookland Park Blvd.
Richmond, VA 23222

Contact Person: Victoria S. Oakley, Chief Academic Officer

Phone Number: 804-780-7727

Email: voakley@richmond.k12.va.us

Proposed Duration of Plan: ThreeYears, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

Grade Levels Served: ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades

Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:

Ninth Graders:	78
Tenth Graders:	70
Eleventh Graders:	56
Twelfth Graders:	62

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in *8 VAC 20-131-280 of the* Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school's accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school's graduation rate.

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
90% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full time job	1
60% or more graduates enrolled in advanced placement and/ or dual enrollment classes	1
50% of students having taken Calculus, Chemistry and Physics	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

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- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

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III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.

Victoria S. Oakley	Chief Academic Officer
Thomas Beatty	Executive Director of Secondary Education
Maria Crenshaw	Director of Instruction
James Brown	Principal of Richmond Community High School

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

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July 18, 2011
Date Approved by the Local School Board

Kimberly H. Brafford
Signature, Chairman of the School Board

July 18, 2011
Submission Date

Jerome W. Brandon
Signature, Division Superintendent

ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

School Name: Amelia Street School

Division Name: Richmond Public Schools

School Address: 1821 Amelia Street
Richmond, VA 23220

Contact Person: Victoria S. Oakley, Chief Academic Officer

Phone Number: 804-780-7727

Email: voakley@richmond.k12.va.us

Proposed Duration of Plan: Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

Grade Levels Served: PreK – 12th Grade

Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:

Ninth Graders:	4
Tenth Graders:	2
Eleventh Graders:	4
Twelfth Graders:	11

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in *8 VAC 20-131-280 of the* Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school's accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school's graduation rate.

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
No bonus points assigned due to cohort size. Amelia Street School will always have a cohort less than 15.	

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.

Victoria S. Oakley	Chief Academic Officer
Maria Crenshaw	Director of Instruction
Harley Tomey	Director of Exceptional Education
Evelyn Waddell	Principal of Amelia Street School

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

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 August 1 of the school year in which the plan is to be implemented.

8 VAC 20-131-280 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* states (in part):

Subject to the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 . . . schools offering alternative education programs and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students as defined by the graduation rate formula adopted by the board may request that the board approve an alternative accreditation plan to meet the graduation and completion index benchmark. Special purpose schools with alternative accreditation plans shall be evaluated on standards appropriate to the programs offered in the school and approved by the board prior to August 1 of the school year for which approval is requested. Any student graduating from a special purpose school with a Standard, Advanced Studies, or Modified Standard Diploma must meet the requirements prescribed in 8 VAC 20-131-50.

The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia,* states:

Schools described in this section are those that serve as a student's school of principal enrollment and where students are reported in fall membership for the school. Fall membership determines whether or not these schools are subject to the provisions of the accrediting standards; therefore, schools reporting fall membership are subject to the provisions of the standards.

In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-330 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of these special purpose schools. Such requests may include an alternative accreditation plan. Applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least ninety days prior to August 1 of the school year. Requests for consideration must be accompanied by information that documents the need for approval of the request.

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

July 5, 2011
Date Approved by the Local School Board

Signature, Chairman of the School Board

July 7, 2011
Submission Date

Signature, Division Superintendent

ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

School Name: Twin Springs High School

Division Name: Scott

School Address: 273 Titan Lane

Contact Person: Sam Parks

Phone Number: 276 479 2185

Email: lori.flanary@scott.k12.va.us

Proposed Duration of Plan: Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

Grade Levels Served: 8-12

Number of Students Enrolled by Grade: 8^{th} – 60; 9^{th} – 66; 10^{th}- 47; 11^{th}-65; 12^{th}-56

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in *8 VAC 20-131-280 of the* Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school's accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school's graduation rate.

(This will be different for each school. Use the sample indicators in the PowerPoint as a reference point. The Virginia Index of Performance may provide useful indicators that may be considered. This information can be found at:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/va_index_performance_awards/index.shtml)

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
GCI bonus for 50% of students scoring advanced proficient on SOL assessments	1
GCI bonus for 25% of students enrolled in Dual Enrollment classes	1
GCI for 50% of graduates enrolling in post-secondary education, joining the military, or obtaining a full-time employment	1
GCI bonus for 25% of students receiving CTE certifications	1
GCI bonus for increasing the percentage of students graduating with an Advanced diploma	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time

Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.

Sam Parks
Lori Flanary

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

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 August 1 of the school year in which the plan is to be implemented.

8 VAC 20-131-280 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* states (in part):

Subject to the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 . . . schools offering alternative education programs and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students as defined by the graduation rate formula adopted by the board may request that the board approve an alternative accreditation plan to meet the graduation and completion index benchmark. Special purpose schools with alternative accreditation plans shall be evaluated on standards appropriate to the programs offered in the school and approved by the board prior to August 1 of the school year for which approval is requested. Any student graduating from a special purpose school with a Standard, Advanced Studies, or Modified Standard Diploma must meet the requirements prescribed in 8 VAC 20-131-50.

The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, states:

Schools described in this section are those that serve as a student's school of principal enrollment and where students are reported in fall membership for the school. Fall membership determines whether or not these schools are subject to the provisions of the accrediting standards; therefore, schools reporting fall membership are subject to the provisions of the standards.

In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-330 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of these special purpose schools. Such requests may include an alternative accreditation plan. Applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least ninety days prior to August 1 of the school year. Requests for consideration must be accompanied by information that documents the need for approval of the request.

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

6/27/11
Date Approved by the Local School Board

Signature, Chairman of the School Board

June 30, 2011
Submission Date

Signature, Division Superintendent

ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

School Name: **York River Academy**

Division Name: **York County School Division**

School Address: **9300 George Washington Highway, Yorktown, VA 23692**

Contact Person: **Dr. Kipp Rogers, Director of Secondary Instruction; Mr. Walter Cross, Principal YRA**

Phone Number: **Dr. Rogers (757) 898-0409, Mr. Cross (757) 898-0516**

Email: krogers@ycsd.york.va.us; wcross@ycsd.york.va.us

Proposed Duration of Plan: **Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle**

Grade Levels Served: **Grades 9-12**

Number of Students Enrolled by Grade: **9th – 20**
10th – 15
11th – 9
12th – 10

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in *8 VAC 20-131-280* of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

Description of Additional Criteria	**Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria**
GCI bonus when 50% or more graduates obtain Career and Technical Education industry certification	+ 1
GCI bonus when 70% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military (includes students placed on waiting list), or obtain a full-time job	+ 1
GCI bonus when 70% or more graduates complete internships/mentorships during their senior year	+ 1
GCI bonus when 50% or more graduates complete 40 hours of service learning	+ 1
GCI bonus when 80% of seniors are CTE completers.	+ 1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.

Mr. Walter Cross, York River Academy Principal
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, Director of Accountability and Instructional Services
Dr. Kipp Rogers, Director of Secondary Instruction
Dr. Stephanie Guy, Chief Academic Officer