

# Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



**Agenda Item:** F

**Date:** March 27, 2014

<b>Title</b>	First Review of Request for Approval of an Innovative Program Opening Prior to Labor Day (Year-Round Schools) for Petersburg City Public Schools' Peabody Middle School and A.P. Hill Elementary School		
<b>Presenter</b>	Ms. Anne D. Wescott, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communications Dr. Joseph C. Melvin, Superintendent, Petersburg City Schools		
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**Purpose of Presentation:**

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

**Previous Review or Action:**

No previous review or action.

**Action Requested:**

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

**Alignment with Board of Education Goals: Please indicate (X) all that apply:**

	Goal 1: Accountability for Student Learning
	Goal 2: Rigorous Standards to Promote College and Career Readiness
	Goal 3: Expanded Opportunities to Learn
	Goal 4: Nurturing Young Learners
	Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Educators
X	Goal 6: Sound Policies for Student Success
	Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools
	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify:

Goal 6: The review of the request to waive the requirement that the school year would begin prior to Labor Day, pursuant to § 22.1-79.1 of the *Code of Virginia* relates to the goal that the Board will provide leadership in the development and implementation of state and federal laws and regulations in ways that provide sound policies for student success.

**Background Information and Statutory Authority:**

Section 22.1-79.1 of the *Code of Virginia* prohibits local school boards from adopting school calendars that require schools to open prior to Labor Day unless a waiver is granted by the Board for "good cause." The conditions under which the Board may grant such waivers are outlined in the *Code*. The provision that permits the Board to approve a waiver for an experimental or innovative program may be found in § 22.1-79.1 as follows:

§ 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 based on a school board certifying that it meets one of the good cause requirements of subsection B.
- 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 Virtual Virginia, 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;
  - 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; or
  - 4. A school division is entirely surrounded by a school division that has an opening date prior to Labor Day in the school year for which the waiver is sought. Such school division may open schools on the same opening date as the surrounding school division....

**Summary of Important Issues:** Petersburg City Public Schools (PCPS) seeks a waiver request to implement an innovative year-round program at two schools. The school system received a 2013 General Assembly-funded year-round schools planning grant for the 2013-2014 school year to pursue development of year-round schools in the division; through the resulting planning effort, PCPS undertook a number of significant activities to prepare for implementation of the year-round school model. PCPS is the first grantee to pursue implementation of the year-round model. PCPS has selected two schools to begin the approach in the 2014-2015 school year, Peabody Middle School and A.P. Hill Elementary School, which were approved by the PCPS School Board to operate as year-round schools on November 6, 2013.

Under its commitment to implementing the division's corrective action plan approved by the Virginia Board of Education on October 24, 2013, the school system requests this waiver to help reach the goals and targets of the plan. In addition, the year-round school decision has been informed by the findings of the 2012 Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission's (JLARC) *Review of Year-Round Schools*. (<http://jlarc.virginia.gov/reports/Rpt430.pdf>)

### **Stated benefits of the year-round approach and need for a Pre-Labor Day opening**

Key JLARC findings about year-round schools informing this innovative program include:

- In the “single track” year-round calendar model, intercessions are used to provide the opportunity for additional instruction, and student learning loss is reduced by having a shorter summer break.
- Black students were more likely to improve their Standards of Learning (SOL) test scores at a faster rate and were more likely to score higher than predicted on 2009 SOL tests than their peers at traditional calendar schools.
- Certain school divisions may want to consider year-round schools as one method to improve student achievement, particularly those with high percentages of the student groups that appear to benefit from year-round school: black, Hispanic, economically disadvantaged, and limited English proficient students.

PCPS has undertaken many reforms with the assistance of VDOE and other strategic partners, including implementing Division Corrective Action Plans in 2009-2010 and 2013, reconfiguring grades at the middle school in 2008-2009 (it now houses grades 6 and 7 only), restructuring both schools using the lead turnaround model (at the middle school in 2010 and A.P. Hill in 2011), installing new leadership at the school and division levels, participating in principal evaluation pilots and teacher evaluation training in 2013, and more. However, these efforts, within the traditional school year approach, have not yielded desired student achievement outcomes for the selected schools. The target schools were the only PCPS schools denied accreditation in the 2013-2014 school year and Peabody Middle has been denied accreditation in consecutive school years since 2009-2010. Both schools house subgroups of students noted to benefit from year-round schools.

Through the year-round approach, PCPS will use theme-based intercessions with integrated content instruction to provide extended learning opportunities for students needing acceleration as well as students needing remediation; the intercessions will also build family capacity to support their students' learning goals and progress. The innovative year-round program will reflect the school-level targets in the corrective action plan with a focus on several key areas: student achievement, student behavior and attendance, staff/teacher participation and parent/community involvement.

Petersburg City Public Schools indicates that the year-round calendar with planned intercessions necessitates a pre-Labor Day opening. The timing and placement of the intercessions is designed to prevent learning loss and provide additional and deeper instruction beyond the traditional school calendar. The two schools will start August 4, 2014 with 200 days including 20 additional intercession days with required student attendance. Teachers will be compensated for the additional time and commit to working at the year-round schools for a minimum of three years. The year-round calendar (attached) offers instructional days in every month except July and adds three intercession periods in October, January, and March.

The 2012 JLARC *Review of Year-Round Schools* also noted that educational best practices influence achievement as much as, if not more than, the school calendar. The review cited strong and stable principal leadership, data-driven assessment, and an effective teaching staff as at least equally important factors. To that end, the PCPS three-year Corrective Action Plan for 2013-2016 has seven priorities. The first priority is to ensure strong and consistent leadership, and other priorities feature data-driven decision making as well as professional development and instructional review to ensure quality instruction. Thus, the year-round school proposal reflects both the priorities of the Corrective Action Plan and the full scope of the JLARC findings.

Included in this packet are a copy of the complete package submitted by Petersburg City Public Schools, the proposed year-round calendar, and the JLARC Fact Sheet on its 2012 review.

**Impact on Resources:** The impact on resources at the state level 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 Petersburg City Public Schools that Peabody Middle School and A.P. Hill Elementary School are authorized to open prior to Labor Day for the 2014-2015 school year.

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

**Guidelines for Considering and Approving Requests  
for Pre-Labor Day Openings  
Approved by the Board of Education on March 28, 2013**

**Statutory Authority**

Section [22.1-79.1](#) of the *Code of Virginia* governs the conditions under which the Board of Education may grant a waiver to a local school board to open school prior to Labor Day.

§ [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 based on a school board certifying that it meets one of the good cause requirements of subsection B.

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 Virtual Virginia, 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;

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; or

4. A school division is entirely surrounded by a school division that has an opening date prior to Labor Day in the school year for which the waiver is sought. Such school division may open schools on the same opening date as the surrounding school division....

The Board of Education will consider the following guidelines in approving requests of local school boards to open one or more schools prior to Labor Day.

### **Waiver by Superintendent on Board's Behalf**

The Board of Education delegates to the Superintendent of Public Instruction the authority to approve, on its behalf, a local school board's request for a waiver to open all schools in the division prior to Labor Day if the school division meets one of the following good cause requirements of subsection § 22.1-79.1 B.

- The 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. (§ 22.1-79.1 B. 1)
- The school division is entirely surrounded by a school division that has an opening date prior to Labor Day in the school year for which the waiver is sought. Such school division may open schools on the same opening date as the surrounding school division. (§ 22.1-79.1 B. 4)

### **Waiver by Board of Education Action**

The Board of Education will consider a local school board's request for a waiver to open one or more schools in its division prior to Labor Day if one of the following good cause requirements of subsection § 22.1-79.1.B. are met. The Board will not provide advisory opinions or hypothetical waivers. The local school board must certify that if granted a waiver, the division intends to provide the program in the school year for which the waiver is being sought.

- The school division is providing an instructional program or programs in the schools for which the waiver is requested, excluding *Virtual Virginia*, which are dependent on and provided in one or more schools of another school division that qualifies for a waiver to open prior to Labor Day. Any waiver granted by the Board of Education pursuant to this provision shall *only* apply to the opening date for those schools where such dependent programs are provided. (§ 22.1-79.1 B. 2)
- The school division is providing its students with an experimental or innovative program, which *requires* the school to open prior to Labor Day. Any waiver granted by the Board of Education pursuant to this provision 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. (§ 22.1-79.1 B. 3)

### **Experimental and Innovative Program Considerations**

- In accordance with § 22.1-79.1 of the Code of Virginia, experimental or innovative programs shall include instructional programs which are offered on a year-round basis by a school division in one or more of its elementary, middle, or high schools.
- An *experimental program* is defined, for purposes of a waiver, as a program which is operated under controlled circumstances and which is designed to test and to establish, by objective

measures, the positive cognitive effect of an educational theory. The experimental program must be offered generally to the student body of the school.

- An *innovative program* is defined, for purposes of a waiver, as an educational program that implements creative, original, or new ideas or methods and are likely to result in better outcomes for student participants. The innovative program must be offered generally to the student body of the school.
- Any experimental or innovative program must ensure parental and community involvement.

### **Application for Waiver**

1. The initial request for a waiver to approve an experimental or innovative program, including a year-round school program, shall be submitted to the Board of Education for approval. Once the initial approval is granted by the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction is hereby delegated authority to continue to approve the waiver in subsequent years, unless the Board places conditions or time limits on its approval, or unless the Superintendent determines that the conditions under which the approval was granted to the local school board are changed.
2. The local school board shall submit annually to the Superintendent of Public Instruction certification of eligibility for a waiver of the “good cause” requirements of § 22.1-79.1, *Code of Virginia*. Such certification shall be made in a manner prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. School divisions must maintain evidence that such “good cause” conditions have been met.
3. To request approval of a waiver for weather-related or other emergency conditions, the local school board shall submit information annually indicating that the school division has been closed for an average of eight days per year in any five of the past ten years because of severe weather conditions, energy shortages, power failures, or other emergency conditions.
4. To request initial approval of a waiver to open before Labor Day by a school division that is completely surrounded by another school division that has been approved for a waiver, the school division shall submit the request to the Superintendent of Public Instruction by letter signed by the superintendent and the chairman of the local school board. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall determine that the school division is completely surrounded by another school division, and that the other school division has been granted a waiver to open before Labor Day. Once the initial waiver is granted, the local school board shall submit information annually to the Superintendent of Public Instruction indicating that the conditions under which a waiver was granted have not changed.
5. To request approval of a waiver for a dependent program, the local school board shall submit information annually indicating that each school for which a waiver is requested provides an instructional program, excluding Virtual Virginia, which is dependent upon a school in another division that qualifies for a waiver.
6. To request initial approval of a waiver for a pre-Labor Day opening for an experimental or innovative program, the local school division shall submit such request to the Board of Education on a form prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction at least 180 calendar days prior to the expected implementation date. Such a request shall set forth a thorough

explanation of the experimental or innovative program as well as the specific reasons that would compel a pre-Labor Day opening. The Department is available throughout the application process to provide technical assistance to the applicant. The following procedures apply to the initial application for experimental or innovative programs:

- a. The experimental or innovative program must be approved by the Board pursuant to its *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* at 8 VAC 20-131-290. The request must include:
  - 1) The names of the participating schools and the school division requesting the waiver.
  - 2) The purpose and objectives of the experimental/innovative/year-round program:  
Describe how the school meets the definition of experimental or innovative or year-round school and its goals and objectives. Include the title of the program or activity, a program description, the rationale for the program, the number and names of all schools involved, the names of any other organizations, including colleges, universities, and other postsecondary organizations and community organizations that are involved in the program, the grades served, the names of any other school divisions involved in the program, and other relevant information.
  - 3) An explanation of the necessity for opening prior to Labor Day, including the proposed school year calendar's opening and closing dates as well as a general description of the school calendar and duration of the waiver. This explanation must show that this request meets the "good cause" requirements of §22.1-79.1. B.3, *Code of Virginia*.
  - 4) Anticipated outcomes, including an explanation as to why it is believed the program will be a success.
  - 5) Number of students affected, including demographic information describing the students who will be attending and the community the school serves.
  - 6) Evaluation procedures including mechanisms for measuring goals and objectives, and analysis of data, to determine how this program will support an expected increase in proficiency in student academic achievement and any achievement gap.
  - 7) Other anticipated outcomes.
  - 8) Any other information that will support the request for a Pre-Labor Day waiver.

Each pre-Labor Day waiver request must be approved by the local school board and signed and dated by the chairman of the school board and the school superintendent and forwarded to Superintendent of Public Instruction.

- b. Any waiver or extension of the school year granted by the Board pursuant to the experimental or innovative program provisions contained in § 22.1-79.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, or the Board's *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* shall apply only to the opening date for those schools where such experimental or innovative programs are offered generally to the student body of the school.
- c. To request approval of a waiver for a pre-Labor Day opening for an experimental or innovative program subsequent to the Board of Education's initial approval, unless the Board of Education has specified conditions under which the waiver request must go back to the Board for approval, or the Superintendent determines that the conditions under which the initial approval was granted to the local school board have changed, the local school board shall submit information annually to the Superintendent of Public Instruction as part of the pre-Labor Day waiver self-certification process for public schools with pre-Labor Day



waivers. The submission shall include evidence of the results achieved throughout the experimental or innovative program in prior years.

### **Reports to the Board of Education**

- The Board of Education may request that the Superintendent of Public Instruction provide a report to the Board regarding the status of certifications submitted and waivers granted under the above-stated policies. Such report shall be provided in a manner and at a time as agreed to by the Superintendent and the President of the Board and shall include information deemed pertinent by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- Any information required to be submitted to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for a pre-Labor Day waiver shall be submitted to the:

Office of Policy  
Virginia Department of Education  
P.O. Box 2120  
Richmond, VA 23218-2120  
[Policy@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Policy@doe.virginia.gov)  
804-225-2092

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 Petersburg City Public Schools

TITLE OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY Peabody Middle School Grades 6-7 and A.P. Hill Elementary School  
Grades K-5 Year Round School (YRS)

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 (§ [22.1-79.1](#) of the *Code of Virginia* and [8 VAC 20-131-290.D](#))
- Approval of an Innovative Program (§ [22.1-79.1](#) of the *Code of Virginia* and [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 OR SCHOOLS INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED PROGRAM/ACTIVITY Peabody Middle School and A.P. Hill  
Elementary School

November 6, 2013 (approval to implement YRS); March 19, 2014 (approval of waiver application scheduled)

Date Approved  
by the Local School Board

March 19, 2014

Submission Date

Peabody Middle School and A.P. Hill  
Elementary School

Signature  
Chairman of the School Board

Signature  
Division Superintendent

SCHOOL DIVISION                      Petersburg City Public Schools

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TITLE OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY                      Year-Round Schools (YRS)

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IF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM IS EXPERIMENTAL OR INNOVATIVE, FOR EACH SCHOOL 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: Petersburg City Public schools is requesting a waiver from the Virginia Board of Education so that Peabody Middle School and A.P. Hill Elementary School may begin the school year prior to Labor Day. If this waiver is granted, both schools will open on August 4, 2014 and anticipates providing 180 days of regular classroom instruction and 20 additional intersession days of remediation and enrichment.

Background: Year Round Schools is an innovative program for Petersburg City Public Schools because of the emphasis on developing intersessions that focus on differentiated instruction for all students, including but not limited to, remediation and integrating project-based learning and real world applications. According to the JLARC Study (2012), YRS increased SOL test performance for specific groups of students, in particular African-American students. The study indicates that the increased student performance may be due to the intersessions. In addition, the JLARC Study found that implementing a year-round calendar is normally used to increase student achievement through reduced summer learning loss and additional instruction provided during intersessions (2012). Traditional methods have not yielded desired student outcomes in both schools. Intersessions will afford students additional opportunities to extend their learning by providing remediation and accelerated experiences. In addition, parent and community activities will be planned during each intersession period. These activities will focus on instructional practices for parents to assist their children, as well as other areas to improve student achievement. These intersessions will provide opportunities for remediation and enrichment in order to increase student achievement. Each intersession will involve a theme that integrates reading, writing, math and other content areas. Faculty and staff will incorporate a variety of research-based strategies and skills. The instructional lessons will be tiered to provide remediation and enrichment experiences that meet the specific needs of students. All instructional activities will be based on the grade level SOL objectives. School attendance during scheduled intersessions will be required for all students.

After receiving the Year Round School Planning grant award, funded by the 2013 General Assembly for the 2013-2014 school year, Petersburg City Public Schools were able to:

- Receive buy-in from all stakeholders
- Establish a YRS Advisory Committee, which consists of representatives from all stakeholders to plan for implementation
- Secure consultants to assist with the planning of YRS
- Conduct needs assessment for all stakeholders (parents, community leaders, staff, teachers, and principals)
- Provide staff professional development of the year-round calendar and intersession teacher training
- Implement parent informational sessions to provide feedback for planning process
- Revise curriculum pacing guides to align with YRS school calendar
- Develop YRS calendar
- Provide travel for teacher and administrative teams visits to successful YRS in Virginia and/or outside of Virginia
- Fund material development, marketing, and equipment costs
- Organize and plan YRS budget
- Develop opt-in and opt-out procedures for staff
- Conduct a feasibility study to determine costs for YRS
- Decide community partners involvement in intersessions
- Develop lesson plans for intersessions which include parent, community, and cross-curricular activities.

At its November 6, 2013 meeting, the Petersburg City School Board approved A.P. Hill Elementary School and Peabody Middle School to open in 2014-2015 as year-round schools. This application seeks a Board of Education waiver to open these schools prior to Labor Day, as permitted under the *Code of Virginia*, Section 22.1-79.1.

Rationale: A.P. Hill Elementary School is a Title I Priority School that currently has an Accreditation Denied status. Peabody Middle

School currently has an Accreditation Denied status. Both schools house subgroups of students that will impact meeting AMO and Accreditation targets if the students continue to underperform on the Standards of Learning assessments. The increased academic achievement of the high population of economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and African-American students is pivotal to achieve the Year-Round School programs' goals. Traditionally, these subgroups have not met federal annual measurable objectives (AMOs) or achievement targets. The JLARC Study (2012) concludes in its report that intersessions increased SOL test performance of specific subgroups and African-American students. Both targeted Petersburg schools serve populations that will benefit from the intersessions.

Please see demographic table below based on the fall record collection for the 2013-2014 school year for the percentage of students per subgroup in each school:

Student Subgroup	A.P. Hill Elementary	Peabody Middle
	Percentage of Students	
Economically Disadvantage	81	82
African-American	98	93
Special Education	7	11
Limited English Proficient (LEP)	2	3

Based on the SOL pass rate percentages for 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013, A.P. Hill Elementary School has consistently remained in school improvement status.

See table below:

Grade	Reading Pass Rates			Math Pass Rates			History Pass Rates			Science Pass Rates		
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Grade 3	58	67	57	67	22	40	63	64	80	76	78	72
Grade 4	58	71	27	47	47	30	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Grade 5	70	80	40	70	58	31	64	82	74	59	80	52
	Writing Pass Rates											
Grade 5	59	61	44									

In addition, there continues to be a decrease of the percentage of students at A.P. Hill meeting the Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening (PALS) benchmark in grades K-2 identified by the Spring PALS report. See table below:

Percentage of A.P. Hill Students Meeting PALS Spring Benchmark			
	2011	2012	2013
Grade K	70	90	74
Grade 1	81	70	70
Grade 2	90	76	73

Likewise, Peabody Middle School has never received the status of full accreditation and consistently remained in school improvement status. Although, Peabody is currently not a priority school, Petersburg continues to receive support from the Department of Education Office of School Improvement as warranted by the academic review results. Please see table below for SOL pass rates for 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013:

Grade	Reading Pass Rates			Math Pass Rates			US History I Pass Rates			US History II Pass Rates		
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Grade 6	73	78	37	39	53	33	68	64	65			
Grade 7	76	72	50	57	33	29				76	81	74
Grade 8	NA	NA	NA	94	92	82						

### Year-Round Schools (YRS) Goals:

The Petersburg City School Board is committed to implementing the division's corrective action plan, approved by the Virginia Board of Education on October 24, 2013, and required in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Board. The corrective action plan sets clear goals and targets for the division and schools. The school-level targets in the correction action plan will serve as the goals and measurable targets for A.P. Hill Elementary and Peabody Middle School as they implement year-round school calendars. These goals encompass the following components that are of particular importance in implementing year-round school calendars: (a) student achievement; (b) student behavior and attendance; (c) staff/teacher participation; and (d) parent/community involvement. Additionally, the corrective action plan states as a goal that all schools will meet the minimum benchmarks for accreditation and federal accountability.

The Petersburg corrective action plan with stated goals, targets, and strategies can be found in the Board of Education agenda item H, October 24, 2013:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2013/10\\_oct/agenda\\_items/item\\_h.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2013/10_oct/agenda_items/item_h.pdf)

### Evaluation Procedures:

Data will be collected and analyzed consistently throughout the year to evaluate student performance as measured by goals and targets in the corrective action plan. Year Round School Coordinators of each school will be assigned to monitor the progress by analyzing data and suggesting programmatic changes and professional development to increase proficiency in student academic achievement. The Division's Comprehensive Academic Plan encompasses the Corrective Action Plan and drives the instructional focus of the schools. The plan is the blueprint which provides action steps and research-based strategies to increase academic achievement of students. YRS program will provide more instructional time to implement current and new research-based strategies to accomplish the goals and increase the proficiency in student achievement. Strategies will continue to be reviewed and monitored by the YRS Oversight Committee during the planning and implementation phases.

#### **Research-Based Strategies**

- Students who are not meeting PALS and DRA grade level benchmarks will receive intervention and tutoring support. Intersession activities will focus on reading across the curriculum with a focus on vocabulary, fluency, spelling, and comprehension. Teachers will receive professional development that focus on early literacy.
- Use interactive, graphically-rich animations that visually represent mathematical concepts to improve conceptual understanding and problem-solving skills. Incorporate STEM activities during intersessions to make real world connections. Teachers will receive professional development that includes how to utilize math manipulatives and develop lessons with increased rigor.
- Classroom libraries will be incorporated in each class that consists of guided readers, independent readers, and Accelerated Reader books that focus on nonfiction concepts. Teachers will receive staff development that focus on the writing process, modeling writing in the classroom, writing across the curriculum, using data to inform writing instruction, effective use of writing portfolios, and teacher and student use of writing rubrics. Develop a hierarchy of support that addresses the needs of each tier level of students.
- Research revealed a number of techniques to increase parental involvement, which included empowerment programs (Abdul-Adil and Farmer, 2006). The goal of empowerment programs is to educate the parents to increase their ability to become involved in their child's academics. In connection with Title I and other school-based programs, the YRS program will provide parents with resources, information sessions, and packets to work with their child at home. The instructions will need to be explicit and detailed to ensure parents are able to work with their child to complete the activities.
- Peabody and A.P. Hill were accepted in the Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) of Virginia cohort 2013-2014. PBIS of Virginia works collaboratively with the Virginia Department of Education Training and Technical Assistance Center to provide ongoing professional development and to ensure a successful implementation for the 2014-2015 school year. With PBIS, school personnel spend less time on discipline and more time on instruction. With PBIS of Virginia, schools throughout VA are able to incorporate a Response-to-Intervention approach so that education personnel are highly qualified to respond positively to every student by matching the level and intensity of intervention to each student's academic and social skills needs.

#### **Data**

##### **Student Achievement**

YRS Oversight Committee will compile, review, and monitor student achievement data which will include quarterly benchmark assessments, PALS, SOLs, writing portfolios, STAR Reading reports, and DRA assessments to measure progress

towards goals.

### **Parental Involvement**

YRS Oversight Committee will compile, review, and monitor parental involvement data which will include sign-in sheets from parent sessions, surveys, and questionnaires to measure progress towards goals.

### **Safe and Disciplined Environment**

YRS Oversight Committee will compile, review, and monitor student discipline data which will include discipline referral information and progress towards meeting Positive Behavior Intervention Support Benchmarks of Quality to measure progress towards goals.

**DOES THE PROGRAM REQUIRE THE SCHOOL OR SCHOOLS REFERENCED IN THIS APPLICATION TO OPEN PRIOR TO LABOR DAY?**

YES  NO.

**IF YES, EXPLAIN WHY.**

The Division is seeking to implement a Year Round School Program because traditional methods have not yielded desired student outcomes in A.P. Hill Elementary and Peabody Middle Schools. Starting before Labor Day will allow for more instructional time to prepare students for SOLs and provide more opportunities for acceleration and remediation. Data from both schools indicate that there is a need for more increased learning time. The twenty additional days and intersession periods will aid in the learning retention usually lost over summer months. The calendar also allows for remediation and enrichment activities to occur throughout the academic school year rather than waiting until summer time to address areas where students need help. The YRS calendar is attached for review.

**IF THE PROGRAM IS EXPERIMENTAL, FOR THE SCHOOL OR SCHOOLS REFERENCED IN THIS APPLICATION INCLUDE INFORMATION THAT EXPLAINS WHY THERE IS REASON TO EXPECT THAT THE PROGRAM WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.**

According to the JLARC Study (2012), YRS increased SOL test performance for specific groups of students, in particular African-American students. The study indicates that the increased student performance may be due to the intersessions. In addition, the JLARC Study found that implementing a year-round calendar using a single-track calendar is normally used to increase student achievement through reduced summer learning loss and additional instruction provided during intersessions (2012).

To ensure success, Petersburg seeks the following commitment from students and staff:

- Faculty and staff will work the 200-day contract with twenty additional days for intersessions. Teachers will be compensated for the additional time.
- Faculty and staff will commit to work at the participating schools for a minimum of three years. Opt in and opt out procedures will be established during the planning phase with the Human Resource Department.
- Students at year-round schools will attend all intersessions.

**DESCRIBE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAM FOR EACH SCHOOL.**

The anticipated outcome is to increase student performance to meet state accreditation benchmarks and federal annual measurable objectives (AMO). Specific targets can be found in the division's Corrective Action Plan approved by the Board of Education on October 24, 2013:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2013/10\\_oct/agenda\\_items/item\\_h.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2013/10_oct/agenda_items/item_h.pdf)

Corrective Action Plan: Superintendent's seven-point priority plan to move the school district forward.

- The first priority is to ensure that strong and consistent leadership is provided for every school and department throughout the school division.
- The second priority is to increase student achievement at all levels and grades. This will happen with a detailed focus on professional development for staff with assistance from division partners and thorough review of instructional programs.

- The third priority is to meet state accreditation and all federal mandates. This can only occur through instructional excellence and a focus on data decision making.
- The fourth priority is an intense focus on early literacy in grades pre-k through grade 5.
- The fifth priority is building a 21st century technology environment.
- The sixth priority is to ensure that our schools are safe.
- The seventh priority is to improve communication among all division stakeholders.

SCHOOL DIVISION

Petersburg City Public Schools

TITLE OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY

Year Round Schools (YRS)

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.)

Year Round Schools Oversight Committee (inclusive of stakeholders) will monthly monitor the progress towards the goals and objectives to determine if the YRS calendar has a positive effect on student achievement. The YRS Oversight Committee will use a variety of data sources to measure progress towards YRS goals and to address the needs of the students. Year Round Schools will adhere to a School Improvement Plan developed in Indistar with leading and lagging indicators that are modeled in accordance with Petersburg City Public Schools' Comprehensive Three Year Corrective Action Plan which is aligned to the goals established in the Memorandum of Understanding with the State Board.

The Division's Comprehensive Academic Plan encompasses the Corrective Action Plan and drives the instructional focus of the YRS. The plan is the blueprint which provides action steps and research-based strategies to increase academic achievement of students. YRS program will provide more instructional time to implement current and new research-based strategies to accomplish the goals and increase the proficiency in student achievement. Strategies will continue to be reviewed and monitored by the YRS Oversight Committee during the planning and implementation phases. Data will be collected and analyzed consistently throughout the year to evaluate student performance as measured by YRS program goals. Year Round School Coordinators of each school will be assigned to monitor the progress by analyzing data and suggesting programmatic changes and professional development to increase proficiency in student academic achievement.

Number of students involved in the program

A.P. Hill Elementary (522 students) Peabody Middle School (571 students)

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

3 years July 2014-June 2017

Questions should be directed to the Division of Policy and Communications at (804) 225-2092, or by e-mail to [policydata@doe.virginia.gov](mailto: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



# Draft

## Petersburg City Public Schools

### 2014-2015 Year Round School Calendar-A. P. Hill Elementary and Peabody Middle

July 2014						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	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		

August 2014						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	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						

September 2014						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	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				

October 2014						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	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	

November 2014						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	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						

December 2014						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	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			

January 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	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 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	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

March 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	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				

April 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	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		

May 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	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						

June 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	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				

-  School Closed /Holiday
-  New Teacher In-Service Week
-  School Board Work Session
-  Intersession
-  Staff Development
-  Early Release
-  School Board Meeting
-  Teacher Work Day
-  End of Marking Period

# Draft

## July

4 Holiday  
23-25 New Teachers In-Service Week  
28-30 All Teachers Return—Staff Development

## August

4 First Day of Year Round School  
25 Student Holiday/Teacher Work Day

## September

1 Labor Day Holiday

## October

3 Early Release/Teacher Work Day  
End of First Nine Weeks (43Days)  
6 Student Holiday/Staff Development  
7-10 INTERSESSION

## November

4 Morning Teacher Workday/Afternoon Staff Development/Student Holiday  
  
26-28 Fall Break

## December

19 End of Second Nine Weeks (46 Days)  
22-31 Winter Break

## January

1-2 Winter Break  
12-16 INTERSESSION  
19 MLK, Jr. Holiday  
30 Student Holiday/Teacher Workday

## February

16 President's Day Holiday

## March

13 Early Release/Teacher Work Day  
End of Third Nine Weeks (42 Days)  
16 Early Release/Staff Development  
16-27 INTERSESSION

## April

6-10 Spring Break

## May

25 Memorial Day Holiday

## June

12 Last Day of School/End of fourth nine weeks (49 Days)  
15 Last Day for Teachers/School Staff

## Instructional Days Per Month (180 Student Days)

August 19	September 21	October 18
November 16	December 15	January 13
February 19	March 12	April 17
May 20	June 10	

## Intercession Days Per Month (20 Days)

October 5	January 5
March 10	

## Grading Periods

First Nine Weeks	Aug. 4- Oct. 3
Second Nine Weeks	Oct. 13- Dec. 19
Third Nine Weeks	Jan. 12- Mar. 13
Fourth Nine Weeks	Mar. 30- June 12

## Interim Reports

September 5  
November 14  
February 13  
May 8

## Report Cards

October 13  
January 12  
March 23  
June 19

## Holidays

September 1	November 26-28
December 22-31	January 1-2, 19
February 16	April 6-10
May 25	

## Holidays for 12-month employees

July 4	September 1	November 26-28
December 24-25	December 31	January 1, 19
February 16	April 6-7	May 25

## School Hours

Schools	Student Hours	Staff Hours
PHS, Blandford Academy	7:20 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	7:05 a.m.-2:25 p.m.
Vernon Johns	7:25 a.m.-2:05 p.m.	7:10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Peabody	8:05 a.m.- 2:45 p.m.	7:40 a.m. -3:00 p.m.
A.P. Hill, J.E.B. Stuart, Walnut Hill	8:35 a.m.- 3:15 p.m.	8:10 a.m. -3:30 p.m.
Westview, R.E. Lee	9:10 a.m. – 3:50 p.m.	8:40 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## Emergency Codes:

**Code Red:** Entire School division is closed/only maintenance and custodial staffs are to report

**Code Blue:** Schools are closed for students and/staff/12-month employees are to report

**Code Yellow:** Schools are closed for students/all employees are to report except hourly workers and aides

**Code Green:** Entire school division is closed/no employees report

## Graduation

June 6, 2015