



**For Immediate Release:** July 21, 2015

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## **VDOE Surveying Parents & Public on Redesign of School Performance Report Cards**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is surveying parents and other members of the public to find out what information and features should be added to the online performance report cards the department publishes for schools, school divisions and the state.

“The current report cards provide a wealth of data, but the static format limits the usefulness of the information and can be confusing,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Steven R. Staples said. “The results of this survey will help the department and the state Board of Education identify additional indicators to provide the public with a fuller understanding of a school’s or division’s performance.”

The 16-item survey may be accessed from the VDOE homepage ([www.doe.virginia.gov](http://www.doe.virginia.gov)) or directly at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/schoolreportcards>. The survey takes 15-20 minutes to complete and will remain active until Friday, August 14, 2015. Responses are anonymous.

Information from the survey will be presented later this year to the Board of Education, which was directed by the 2015 General Assembly to unveil redesigned report cards to the public by October 1, 2016.

“School and division performance report cards will continue to provide accountability ratings and detailed state assessment results,” said Diane T. Atkinson, chairman of the Board of Education’s Committee on School and Division Accountability. “But the new report cards will include contextual information to help the public understand the challenges schools face and tools that parents and others can use to zero in on the information that most interests them.”

The 2015 legislation — House Bill 1672, sponsored by Del. Thomas A. “Tag” Greason (R-Loudoun) and Senate Bill 727, sponsored by Sen. Richard H. Black (R-Loudoun) — directed the board to develop report cards that are “more effective in communicating to parents and the public the status and achievements of the public schools and local school divisions in the Commonwealth.”

The identical bills also repealed 2013 legislation that required the state board to develop and implement an A-F school grading system.

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