

# **Summary: Public Comment on the Proposed Revisions to the Standards of Accreditation**

***Board of Education***

***Committee on School and Division Accountability***

***Division of Policy, Communications, and Board Relations***

***September 27, 2017***



# Public Hearings and Public Comment

## **Five statewide public hearings:**

Fairfax, Wytheville, Harrisonburg, Virginia Beach, and Mecklenburg County

About 360 attended, about 115 provided comment

Participants: parents, teachers, school administrators, business leaders, stakeholder organization representatives, and students

**Additional comments received via emails and letters**



# Public Comment: Profile of a Graduate

## In support:

5Cs – development of important life skills

Consideration of needs of employers and higher education

Expansion of work-based learning opportunities

Expansion of career exposure into elementary school

Reduction in number of verified credits required

Allows time for opportunities in civic engagement and career exposure

Increased focus on performance-based assessments

Allows students to be engaged in innovative learning experiences and support growth



# Public Comment: Profile of a Graduate

## Concerns/Suggestions:

Professional development and capacity-building needed to implement the 5Cs into curriculum

Consider eliminating more assessments – science and history/social science across all grades

Consider additional alternative assessments

Implementation of alternative assessments may be an equity and consistency issue

Concern that pass rates in high school may be impacted negatively because end-of-course tests will not be further required in an academic area after a verified credit is earned in that subject area

Concern that rural school divisions may have limited opportunities to provide work-based learning opportunities



# Public Comment: Profile of a Graduate

## Concerns/Suggestions (continued):

### School Counselors:

Roles have shifted to non-counseling duties; however will be critical for academic and career planning

### Parents of Students with Disabilities:

Inclusion will be critical to help develop the 5Cs

### Fine Arts Advocates:

Impact of middle school career investigations course (or alternative) requirement on fine arts and elective course opportunities

Concern that fine arts course should be a separate requirement for graduation



# Public Comment: Profile of a Graduate

## Organizations:

### Virginia School Boards Association:

Supports the proposed reduction in number of verified credits required

Allows time for opportunities in civic engagement and career exposure

### Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals:

Supports flexibility provided for the Career Investigation Course that will be required in middle school

Concern that professional development opportunities for school divisions and middle school teachers are needed to implement course content



# Public Comment: Accreditation

## In support:

Multiple indicators should be encouraged

Recognizes achievement gaps

Encourages school-level improvement

Recognizes student growth

Acknowledgment of differences in school situations



# Public Comment: Accreditation

## Concerns/Suggestions:

### School division administrators:

Chronic absenteeism may overly impact schools with high-poverty

Proposed system may only sort schools by demographics

Schools in need of improvement should have the option to learn best practices from successful schools rather than only VDOE staff



# Public Comment: Accreditation

## Virginia School Boards Association:

Supports implementation of the revised accreditation system

### Concerns/Suggestions:

Additional growth indicators beyond assessments should be considered

Additional flexibility should be provided in how growth is assessed

Schools with Level Two indicators should be able to self-evaluate, plan, and implement rather than follow specific Board requirements

A single Level Three indicator will trigger state intervention

VDOE may not have resources to support improving Level Two or Level Three school quality indicators



# Public Comment: Accreditation

## Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals:

Supports recognition of student growth

Administrators will need to understand how growth is measured so proper remediation is provided

Supports recognition of school-level growth in performance indicators

Should improve staff morale, school culture and school climate

Concerns/Suggestions:

2016-17 School quality indicators for each school should be provided to school administrators to inform understanding of indicators and data points.

Expectations of schools with Level Two and Level Three indicators need to be clearly articulated



# Public Comment: Recess

## 55 comments received regarding recess:

Flexibility needed for use of recess because it improves attentiveness and focus in the classroom

Recess should be included in the definitions for “instructional hours” and “standard school day” rather than explicitly excluded

