

MINUTES
Virginia Board of Education
School and Division Accountability Committee
January 11, 2012
3:00 p.m.
Jefferson Conference Room, James Monroe Building

Welcome and Opening Comments - Dr. Virginia McLaughlin, Chairman, convened the meeting with the following members present: Mrs. Sears, Mr. Foster, Dr. Cannaday, Mrs. Saslaw, Mrs. Castro, Mr. Krupicka, Mrs. Beamer, and Mr. Braunlich. Dr. Wright, superintendent of public instruction, was also present.

Dr. McLaughlin opened the meeting and Department staff provided an overview of Virginia's proposed application for flexibility from certain requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Department staff indicated that the ESEA flexibility application would come before the Board for first review in January and for final review in February. Virginia would meet the federal application deadline by providing its application in draft form to the U.S. Department of Education following the January Board review and would submit the final application later in February after final Board review.

Application Overview - Department staff provided an overview (see Powerpoint) of the three principles addressed in the flexibility application.

Principle 1: College and Career Ready Standards and Assessments- Virginia has satisfied this principle. It has adopted college and career ready standards in reading/language arts and in mathematics and agreements have been entered into with institutions of higher education regarding performance expectations in English and mathematics that students must reach to be prepared for success in freshman-level courses.

Principle 2: Differentiated Supports and Interventions for Underperforming Schools - The proposed application would permit Virginia to implement a revised federal accountability system with the Board's *Standards of Accreditation* as the core. Recognition will be provided to reward schools and supports and interventions will be provided to priority and focus schools, as required under the federal application standards. Annual report cards will contain performance indicators for three unduplicated groups of students:

- Group 1, which will be students with disabilities, English Language Learners, and Economically Disadvantaged;
- Group 2, which will be Black students, not of Hispanic origin and not in Group 1; and
- Group 3, which will be Hispanic students, of one or more races, not included in Group 1.

Principle 3: Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems – With an emphasis on teacher and principal evaluation and effectiveness, Virginia proposes to discontinue collecting and reporting highly qualified teacher and paraprofessional data.

Questions - Mr. Foster asked about how economically disadvantaged students would be defined in the flexibility package. Mrs. Sears asked about how gaps in student education would be identified. Dr. Wright responded that measures (Lexiles and Quantiles) would be in place to provide assistance in identifying student growth. Dr. Wright also indicated that multiple growth measures could be used to track student performance/achievement.

Department staff also indicated that three groups identified in the proposed application would be unduplicated counts, which assists in measuring student performance.

Mr. Krupicka asked if the new subgroup data would be displayed on the School Report Card. He also asked if there were any unintended consequences from changing group definitions.

Dr. Cannaday inquired as to how information regarding the flexibility package would be provided to the public in a manner that is easy to understand. Mr. Foster offered some suggestions to simplify the information. Mrs. Beamer indicated that broad statements and simplification are important.

Dr. Wright indicated that subgroup reporting would continue. Mr. Krupicka commented that not all accredited schools are the same and that some may be performing better than others. Dr. McLaughlin commented that differentiated accreditation is helpful and there are different ways of approaching it. Mrs. Sears asked if funding would be diverted under this standard and Dr. Wright indicated that schools currently receiving improvement funds will continue to receive them.

Mr. Braunlich indicated that it would be helpful to see a prototype data report on the new requirements related to the flexibility package. Mr. Foster asked if data for other academic areas such as history and science would be reported. Dr. Wright indicated that these data would continue to be reported.

Dr. McLaughlin commented that there will be ESEA reauthorization at some point. Mr. Foster asked about how the state Graduation and Completion Index information would be used. He asked about the rationale for not using the federal graduation indicator for state accreditation.

Dr. McLaughlin asked about the identification of the five percent lowest performing schools in the federal application.

Mrs. Sears asked about paperwork reduction resulting from this application. Dr. Wright indicated that this package would have a positive impact on data collection and reporting.

Public Comment - There was a period for public comment but none was made.

Adjournment - The committee meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.