



# Criteria to Recognize Schools and School Divisions

**Virginia Board of Education  
Committee on School and Division Accountability**

**November 15, 2017**

# Recognition of Exemplar Performance

## Proposed *Standards of Accreditation* 8VAC20-131-410.B:

*...B. Schools and divisions may be designated and recognized by the board for exemplar performance in accordance with criteria and guidelines it shall establish for **top achievement in one or more school quality indicators**, and the board may include recognition for high performing schools in specific peer categories, such as schools with high levels of poverty.*

# Recognition of Exemplar Performance

- **Developed during SOA Part VIII revisions as an alternative to the exemplar “blue” performance level**
- **Aligns with new school quality indicators**
- **Recognizes growth and improvement in high-poverty schools**

# Recognition of Exemplar Performance

## Category 1: High overall achievement

- Schools that are designated Accredited
- Performing at or above the 95th percentile of all schools in any individual school quality indicator (except Achievement Gaps)
- Demonstrating academic achievement above the state average in all Academic Achievement Gap reporting groups

# Recognition of Exemplar Performance

## Category 2: Performance and growth among high-poverty schools

- At least 70 percent of enrolled students are identified as economically disadvantaged
- Performing at or above the 90th percentile of all high-poverty schools in any individual school quality indicator (except Achievement Gaps)
- Demonstrating Level One academic achievement in all Academic Achievement Gap reporting groups
- Meeting the growth or improvement criteria for two consecutive years in any school quality indicator (except Achievement Gaps)
- Demonstrating reductions in the failure rate on state assessments in all Academic Achievement Gap reporting groups for two consecutive years

# Virginia Index of Performance

**§ 22.1-253.13:9 – Schools and local school divisions shall be recognized by the Board of Education in accordance with guidelines it shall establish for the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) incentive program. The VIP incentive program shall be designed to recognize and reward fully accredited schools and school divisions that **make significant progress toward achieving advanced proficiency levels** in reading, mathematics, science, and history and social science, and on other indicators of school and student performance that are aligned with the Commonwealth's goals for public education...**

# Virginia Index of Performance

## Three awards:

- Governor's Award for Educational Excellence
- Board of Education Excellence Award
- Board of Education Distinguished Achievement Award

**Awards are earned by assigning base points and bonus points to established criteria**

# Virginia Index of Performance

## Earning base points

- Weighted average of proficiency levels on statewide assessments for each of four content areas

## Earning bonus points

- 3 criteria for elementary schools (e.g., foreign language instruction)
- 2 criteria for middle schools (e.g., Algebra I by 8<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 9 criteria for high schools (e.g., advanced course enrollment)
- 6 other criteria (e.g., participation in Virginia Preschool Initiative)

# Virginia Index of Performance

## Benefits

- Provides schools incentive for continuous improvement
- Criteria go beyond traditional accreditation indicators

## Challenges

- Only recognizes schools that are fully accredited, regardless of growth or improvement
- Multi-layered formula limits understanding of how schools qualify and are awarded
- Complex award structure minimizes schools' ability to set goals around award criteria

# Points of Consideration

## Possible components of school and school division recognition program

- Tiered approach?
- Alignment with accreditation indicators?
- Eligibility based on accreditation rating?
- Focus on performance and growth in high-poverty schools?

# Recommendation: Moving Forward with Recognition

- **Revise “Exemplar Performance” to align with *Code of Virginia*-required VIP criteria:**
  - Better aligns criteria with proposed school quality indicators
  - Provides opportunity to recognize “Accredited with Conditions” schools that are showing significant improvement
  - Recognizes high-poverty schools that are demonstrating growth
- **Bring forward revised criteria in January for BOE review**