DATE: July 25, 2024

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Statement of Administrative Impact and Projected Costs of Implementation for the Revisions to the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia

Pursuant to § [22.1-17](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter2/section22.1-17/) of the *Code of Virginia*, the Board of Education is required to develop a statement of the administrative impact on school divisions and the projected cost of implementation and compliance with newly promulgated regulations.

The Board is in the process of repealing 8VAC20-131 (*Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*) and replacing it with a new chapter, 8VAC20-132. The existing current chapter (8VAC20-131) created an accreditation system that did not transparently communicate information to the public about the quality performance of schools or student learning outcomes due to the complicated nature of the system and the inability of the system to meaningfully identify schools needing additional support. The existing chapter also used the process for accrediting schools as an accountability system to foster school improvement, rather than deploying accreditation to ensure the establishment of effective school-level educational programs. The new, proposed chapter (8VAC20-132) will separate accountability from accreditation, creating two separate but inter-related systems. The proposed school performance and support framework will measure student outcomes and identify schools for supports, and the school accreditation system will determine full compliance with each of the inputs described in 8VAC20-132. The proposed chapter would also allow for flexibility in the future for the Board to continue to refine the school performance and support framework and align to federal requirements, so Virginia would one system of supports for divisions and schools.

The [Agency Background Document for the proposed stage](https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=93\6308\10286\AgencyStatement_DOE_10286_v2.pdf) includes a crosswalk between 8VAC20-131 and 8VAC20-132. The [proposed text](https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/ViewXML.cfm?textid=18444) is available on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall.

**Administrative Impact and Projected Costs**

The Board does not anticipate significant administrative impact or costs related to the promulgation of 8VAC20-132. Almost all changes between 8VAC20-131 and 8VAC20-132 concern the accreditation and accountability components. Included is a list of changes that will have an administrative impact:

* 8VAC20-132-270(C) adjusts the requirements for EL and transfer student performance calculations to align with federal requirements.
* 8VAC20-132-280(B) describes actions required by schools identified for targeted or additional support. The requirements are similar to those in 8VAC20-131-400(C). However, the new section modifies existing requirements that school divisions and school staff (1) use the results of the comprehensive needs assessment to develop and revise a multi-year school support plan to include goals, measurable objectives, at least two evidence-based strategies, and actions that address the factors identified in the needs assessment that are related to the school’s performance on the school quality indicators and (2) review available resources and needs. These changes align the Board’s regulations with federal requirements.
* 8VAC20-132-280(C) describes actions required by schools identified for comprehensive support. The requirements are similar to those in 8VAC20-131-400(D). However, the new section modifies existing requirements that school divisions and school staff (1) use the results of the comprehensive needs assessment to develop and revise a multi-year school support plan to include goals, measurable objectives, at least two evidence-based strategies, and actions that address the factors identified in the needs assessment that are related to the school’s performance on the school quality indicators; (2) review available resources and needs; and (3) publish the multi-year plan on the website for the school and the school division. These changes align the Board’s regulations with federal requirements.
* 8VAC20-132-280(D) requires school divisions with schools identified for additional targeted and comprehensive support to create a division support plan to improve student outcomes in such schools, which shall be incorporated into the long-range comprehensive plan for the division in 8VAC20-132-300(B)(9).
* 8VAC20-132-300(B) imposes upon the principal of each new or existing school and the division superintendent annual reporting requirements for purposes of accreditation. Each item identified in 8VAC20-132-300(B) will need to provide documentation that each requirement has been met.
* 8VAC20-132-300(G) requires division-level academic and resource allocation reviews and corrective action plans for divisions with at least 40% of their schools identified for comprehensive or additional targeted support or 10 or more schools identified for comprehensive support many underperforming schools, ensuring broader accountability and support.

For questions regarding the promulgation of 8VAC20-132, please contact Jim Chapman, Director of Board Relations, at jim.chapman@doe.virginia.gov. Questions regarding accountability and accreditation should be directed to Katie Carroll, Deputy Superintendent for School Performance and Support at katie.carroll@doe.virginia.gov.

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