| **Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item** | **Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia** |
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# Agenda Item: C

## Date: January 23, 2020

### Title: Final Review of Requests for Renewal of Alternative Accreditation

### Plans from Albemarle County Public Schools, Arlington County

### Public Schools, Chesterfield County Public Schools, and Fairfax

### County Public Schools

#### Presenter: Dr. Michelle Wallace, School Quality Coordinator, Office of School

#### Quality

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## Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by Board of Education regulation.

## Executive Summary:

The following school divisions request are seeking renewal of the alternative accreditation plans for the following special purpose schools:

| **Division** | **School** | **2016-2017****Accreditation Status Based on Assessment Data 2015-2016** | **2017-2018****Accreditation Status Based on Assessment Data 2016-2017** | **2018-2019****Accreditation Status Based on Assessment Data 2017-2018** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Albemarle County | Albemarle Community Public Charter School | Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application | Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application | Accredited based on SB368 |

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| Arlington County | Arlington Community High | Fully Accredited\* | Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application | Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application |
| Chesterfield County | Carver College and Career Academy | Fully Accredited\* | Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application | Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application |
| Fairfax County | Bryant High School | Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application | Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application | Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application |
| Fairfax County | Fairfax County Adult High School | Fully Accredited\* | Fully Accredited based on SB368 | Accredited based on SB368 |
| Fairfax County | Key Center School | Fully Accredited | Fully Accredited | Accredited based on SB368 and by meeting 2015 Standards of Accreditation |
| Fairfax County | Kilmer Center | Fully Accredited | Fully Accredited | Accredited based on SB368 and by meeting 2015 Standards of Accreditation |
| Fairfax County | Mountain View High School | Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application | Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application | Accredited based on SB368 and by meeting 2015 Standards of Accreditation |

\*Accreditation rating based on data submitted using a previous alternative accreditation plan.

The proposed school plans are included as Attachments A-H.

As part of their requests for the renewal of alternative accreditation plans for these schools, the school divisions are requesting waivers of the following sections of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (SOA) so that adjustments may be made to accreditation calculations. These waivers are outlined in the background information section.

| **Division** | **School** | **SOA Waivers Requested** | **Attachment** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Albemarle County | Albemarle Community Public Charter School | 8 VAC 20-131-380 Expectations for school accountability. (B.1 Core areas and B.2 Achievement Gaps) | Attachment A |
| Arlington County | Arlington Community High  | 8 VAC 20-131-380 Expectations for school accountability. (B.1 Core areas, B.2 Achievement Gaps, B.3. Graduation Completion Index, B.4 Dropout Rate, B.5 Chronic Absenteeism, B.6 College, Career and Civic Readiness) | Attachment B |
| Chesterfield County | Carver College and Career Academy | 8 VAC 20-131-380 Expectations for school accountability. (B.1 Core areas, B.2 Achievement Gaps, B.3. Graduation Completion Index, B.4 Dropout Rate, B.5 Chronic Absenteeism, B.6 College, Career and Civic Readiness) | Attachment C |
| Fairfax County | Bryant Alternative High School | 8 VAC 20-131-380 Expectations for school accountability. (B.1 Core areas, B.2 Achievement Gaps, B.3. Graduation Completion Index, B.4 Dropout Rate, B.5 Chronic Absenteeism, B.6 College, Career and Civic Readiness) | Attachment D |
| Fairfax County | Fairfax County Adult High School | 8 VAC 20-131-380 Expectations for school accountability. (B.1 Core areas, B.2 Achievement Gaps, B.3. Graduation Completion Index, B.4 Dropout Rate, B.5 Chronic Absenteeism, B.6 College, Career and Civic Readiness) | Attachment E |
| Fairfax County | Key Center School | 8 VAC 20-131-380 Expectations for school accountability. (B.1 Core areas, B.2 Achievement Gaps, B.3. Graduation Completion Index, B.4 Dropout Rate, B.5 Chronic Absenteeism, B.6 College, Career and Civic Readiness) | Attachment F |
| Fairfax County | Kilmer Center | 8 VAC 20-131-380 Expectations for school accountability. (B.1 Core areas, B.2 Achievement Gaps, B.3. Graduation Completion Index, B.4 Dropout Rate, B.5 Chronic Absenteeism, B.6 College, Career and Civic Readiness) | Attachment G |

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| Fairfax County | Mountain View High School | 8 VAC 20-131-380 Expectations for school accountability. (B.1 Core areas, B.2 Achievement Gaps, B.3. Graduation Completion Index, B.4 Dropout Rate, B.5 Chronic Absenteeism, B.6 College, Career and Civic Readiness) | Attachment H |

The current requests for renewal of alternative accreditation plans address specific indicators designated by the Board for accreditation purposes in the *Standards of Accreditation.* Plans must include the following criteria:

1. Explain why the purpose and rationale of the individual accreditation plan justifies the need for an individual alternative accreditation plan.
2. Describe the characteristics of the student population.
3. Describe how the program of instruction provides all students with opportunities to study a comprehensive curriculum to ensure success in achieving the Standards of Learning.
4. Describe the strategies used to evaluate student progress, including standards-based academic achievement measures.
5. Describe how students will be taught by teachers who meet the Board of Education’s licensure requirements for instructional personnel.
6. For each of the following categories, describe measures that are objective, measurable, and directly related to the mission and purpose of the school:
	1. Academic achievement measures for all students;
	2. Academic achievement gap measures for prevalent student groups; and
	3. Student engagement and outcome measures related to absenteeism for all schools and dropouts and graduation for high schools. Alternative accreditation plans for high schools that extend through 2021-2022 should also include measures related to college and career readiness.
7. Describe how statewide assessment student achievement results of English and mathematics will be used to support instruction.
8. Describe how the plan meets the testing requirements of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*.
9. Describe how the plan meets the testing requirements in federal law.
10. Describe how the plan provides convincing evidence that all pre-accreditation eligibility criteria ([8 VAC 20-131-390.A](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter131/section390/)) are met for standards in which waivers have not been requested.
11. Indicate the waivers requested for accrediting standards that are not being met, and the rationale for these waivers.

This aligns with the following Board of Education Goal from the 2018-2023 Comprehensive Plan: Priority 3: Ensure successful implementation of the *Profile of a Virginia Graduate* and the accountability system for school quality as embodied in the revisions to the *Standards of Accreditation.*

## Action Requested:

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

Superintendent’s Recommendation:
The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education approve the requests for renewal of alternative accreditation plans from Arlington County Public Schools, Chesterfield County Public Schools, and Fairfax County Public Schools. The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education approve the request for renewal of alternative accreditation plans from Albemarle County Public Schools for a period of one accreditation year (2019-2020).

## Rationale for Action:

The alternative accreditation plans from Arlington County Public Schools, Chesterfield County Public Schools, and Fairfax County Public Schools clearly reflect the special purpose of the schools and include alternative calculations to accreditation which address most the recent updates to the School Quality Indicators as outlined in the *Standards of Accreditation.*

The alternative accreditation plan for Albemarle County Public Schools application will be applied to the 2019-2020 accreditation year with the opportunity to revise the application to more clearly reflect the special purpose of the school and address the most the recent updates to the School Quality Indicators as outline in the *Standards of Accreditation.*

Upon approval of alternative accreditation applications, the final performance of School Quality Indicators and accreditation status may change for the 2019-2020 accreditation year pending review of data.

## Previous Review or Action:

Previous review and action. Specify date and action taken below:

Date: March 27, 2014: Action: Approval of Alternative Accreditation Plan for Albemarle County Public Schools: Albemarle Community Public Charter School

Date: March 27, 2014: Action: Approval of Alternative Accreditation Plan for Chesterfield County Public Schools: Chesterfield Community High School (Note: School name change to Carver College and Career Academy in 2015-2016)

Date: March 27, 2014: Action: Approval of Alternative Accreditation Plans for Fairfax County Public Schools: Bryant Alternative High School, Fairfax County Adult High School, Key Center School, Kilmer Center, Mountain View High School

Date: May 28, 2015: Action: Approval of Alternative Accreditation Plan for Arlington County Public Schools: Arlington Community High School

Date: May 25, 2017: Action: Approval of Alternative Accreditation Plan for Albemarle County Public Schools: Albemarle Community Public Charter School

Date: May 25, 2017: Action: Approval of Alternative Accreditation Plan for Chesterfield County Public Schools: Carver College and Career Academy

Date: May 25, 2017: Action: Approval of Alternative Accreditation Plans for Fairfax County Public Schools: Bryant Alternative High School, Fairfax County Adult High School, Key Center School, Kilmer Center, Mountain View High School

Background Information and Statutory Authority:
8VAC20-131-380. Measurement of school quality for accreditation.

A. School quality for the purposes of accreditation shall be measured for each school using multiple indicators as provided for in this part. School quality indicators include student academic outcomes and other factors that are associated with student learning.

Designation of school quality indicators for accreditation purposes by the board is based on the following criteria:

1. Research demonstrates that the indicator is related to academic performance;

2. Standardized procedures exist across schools and school divisions for collection of data used for the indicator;

3. The data about the indicator is reliable and valid;

4. Performance in the indicator can be positively impacted through division and school level policies and procedures;

5. The measure meaningfully differentiates among schools based on progress of all students and student reporting groups;

6. The indicator does not unfairly impact one type or group of schools or students; and

7. The indicator is moderately to strongly correlated with school-level pass rates on state assessments.

B. Specific indicators designated by the board for accreditation purposes and defined in subsection F of this section include the following:

1. Academic achievement for all students in English (reading and writing), mathematics, and science as measured through board-approved assessments, including measures of student growth in English (reading and writing), mathematics, and English learner (EL) progress;

2. Academic achievement gaps in English (reading and writing) and mathematics for designated reporting groups, as determined through the performance of each reporting group against the state standard;

3. Graduation and school progress for schools with a graduating class as measured by the

Graduation Completion Index;

4. Dropout rates in schools with a graduating class;

5. Student participation and engagement as measured by chronic absenteeism in schools; and

6. College, career, and civic readiness in schools with a graduating class.

8VAC20-131-420. Waivers and alternative accreditation plans.

D. Alternative accreditation plans. Subject to the provisions of subsection B of this section, the governing school board of special purpose schools such as those provided for in § 22.1-26 of the Code of Virginia, Governor's schools, special education schools, alternative schools, or career and technical schools that serve as the student's school of principal enrollment may seek approval of an alternative accreditation plan from the board. Schools offering alternative education programs, schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students as defined by the graduation rate formula adopted by the board may request that the board approve an alternative accreditation plan to meet the graduation and completion index benchmark. Special purpose schools with alternative accreditation plans shall be evaluated on standards appropriate to the programs offered in the school and approved by the board prior to August 1 of the school year for which approval is requested. Any student graduating from a special purpose school with a Standard Diploma or an Advanced Studies Diploma must meet the requirements prescribed in 8VAC20-131-50 or 8VAC20-131-51.

As set forth in the Standards of Quality and according to department procedures, any school board may request the Board for release from state regulations or, on behalf of one or more of its schools, for approval of an Individual School Accreditation Plan for the evaluation of the performance of one or more of its schools as authorized for schools enumerated in this subsection, based on special circumstances.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:
Alternative Accreditation Plan applications will be up for renewal again in 2021-2022 with the exception of the application for Albemarle County Public Schools which may submit a renewal in the spring of 2020.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

None