# Agenda Item: I

## Date: June 15, 2023

**Title:** **Report on Schools Recognized for Exemplar Performance as Required by the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (SOA)**

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## Presenter: Amy Siepka, Director, Office of Accountability

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## Purpose of Presentation

For information only: No action required.

## Executive Summary

## This report identifies schools, divisions, or school boards meeting the criteria for exemplar performance under the Board of Education’s authority prescribed in [*Regulations Establishing the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter131/section410/#:~:text=email-,8VAC20%2D131%2D410.%20Recognitions%20and%20rewards%20for%20school%20and%20division%20accountability.,-Schools%20and%20divisions)*.*

In April 2018, the Board approved final guidelines(pages 95 through 97 of the [Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia](https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=C:\TownHall\docroot\GuidanceDocs\201\GDoc_DOE_6732_v4.pdf)) establishing the criteria for three types of recognition: (1) highest achievement, (2) continuous improvement, and (3) innovative practices.

Recognition for highest achievement and continuous improvement are awarded annually based on the most current data and accreditation status. Recognition for innovative practice is awarded every two years.

For the 2022-2023 award year, 48 schools met the criteria for the Highest Achievement Award. These schools are listed in Appendix A. Schools identified for this recognition must meet all of these criteria using 2021-2022 school year data:

* The school must be Accredited.
* The school meets state benchmark in reading, math and science (75 percent for reading and 70 percent for math and science) based on the current year pass rate on state assessments (not including growth or English Learner progress);
* All student groups within the school meet state benchmarks in reading and math (75 percent for reading and 70 percent for math) based on the current year pass rate on state assessments (not including growth or English Learner progress), and
* For schools with two student groups, there is no more than five percentage points between the lowest performing group and all other students in the school; or
* For schools with three or more student groups, there is no more than ten percentage points between the lowest performing group and all other students in the school.

There are 93 schools being recognized for the Continuous Improvement Award. These schools are listed in Appendix B. To receive this recognition the school can be *Accredited* or *Accredited with Conditions* and must meet at least one of the following criteria:

* The school demonstrates an increase in the combined rate for math, reading and science for each of the past three years (for 2022-2023 only, the three years are 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2021-2022), with a total increase across the three years of ten points or more.
* The school demonstrates an increase in the combined rate for two or more student groups in reading and math for each of the past three years (for 2022-2023 only, the three years are 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2021-2022), with a total increase across the three years of ten points or more.
* The school demonstrates an increase in the Graduation and Completion Index (GCI) for each of the past three years (for 2022-2023 only, the three years are 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2021-2022), with a total increase across the three years of four percent or more; and school demonstrates a decrease in the dropout rate for each of the past three years (for 2022-2023 only, the three years are 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2021-2022), with the total reduction across three years of 15 percent or more of the first year’s dropout rate.

Note: Both the highest achieving and continuous improvement awards criteria were amended for 2022-2023 awards (based on 2021-2022 school year data) to remove chronic absenteeism criteria since 2021-2022 school year chronic absenteeism data was not used in accreditation calculations for 2021-2022.

There are seven school divisions and one school being recognized with the Innovative Practice Award. The divisions and school, along with a summary of the innovations, are listed in Appendix C. Eligibility for recognition of an innovative practice is open to all accreditation-eligible schools, any school division, and any local school board. Schools, divisions, and school boards are recognized every two years for innovative practices based upon the following criteria:

* School- or division-wide implementation of a new or creative evidence-based alternative to existing instructional or administrative practices in a defined student population
* Practice must be implemented for at least two full academic years.
* Goals and objectives for practice must align with one of the following priority areas:
  + Developing an integrated STEM approach to learning;
  + Building genuine relationships with families to support overall family well-being and children’s healthy development;
  + Elevating the quality and character of the school environment so that it the reflects the positive and support norms, goals, and values of the community;
  + Retaining high-quality teachers; and
  + Developing life-ready students through implementation of the Profile of a Virginia Graduate

An internal Virginia Department of Education committee met to review the Innovative Practice Awards applications. Twelve applications (representing thirteen school divisions) were received from regions 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7, and all were scored with the criteria of an established rubric. The committee members had expertise from multiple offices: Office of Student Assessment, Office of School Quality, Office of Student Services, Office of Strategic Analysis and Research, Office of CTE, Office of Communications, Office of STEM and Innovation, Office of ESEA Programs, the Office of Facilities and Family Engagement, Office of Humanities, Office of Licensure and School Leadership, and the Office of Accountability. Two Board members were part of the committee as executive reviewers of the scoring process and results.

It should be noted that the last time any of these recognitions were given was in the 2019-2020 school year. Due to the pandemic, accreditation was waived in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 and therefore, there was not accreditation data available for selection of these awards. The recognition cycle began again with accreditation year 2022-2023, based on 2021-2022 school year data.

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## Action Requested

No action requested.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent for Public Instruction recommends the Virginia Board of Education accept this report.

## Previous Review or Action

No previous review or action.

## Background Information and Statutory Authority

Schools are identified for exemplar performance under the Board of Education’s authority prescribed in the *Regulations Establishing the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* ([8VAC20-131.410](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter131/section410/)),which states:

Recognitions and rewards for school and division accountability.

Schools and divisions shall be recognized by the board in accordance with guidelines the board shall establish for the Exemplar School Recognition Program to recognize (i) schools or school divisions that exceed board-established requirements or show continuous improvement on academic and school quality indicators and (ii) schools, school divisions, and school boards that implement effective, innovative practices. Such recognition may include:

1. Public announcements recognizing individual schools and divisions;

2. Tangible rewards;

3. Waivers of certain board regulations;

4. Exemptions from certain reporting requirements; or

5. Other commendations deemed appropriate to recognize high achievement.

In addition to board recognition, local school boards shall adopt policies to recognize individual schools through public announcements, media releases, and participation in community activities when setting policy relating to schools and budget development, as well as other appropriate recognition.

In April 2018, the Board approved final guidelines(pages 95–97 of the [Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia](https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=C:\TownHall\docroot\GuidanceDocs\201\GDoc_DOE_6732_v4.pdf)) establishing the criteria for three types of recognition: (1) highest achievement, (2) continuous improvement, and (3) innovative practices.

## Implementation and Communication

Schools will be officially notified of their recognition after the Board meeting. To recognize all the award winners in the 2022-2023 school year:

1. VDOE staff created a school-specific image with the award recognition that a school may post to their school/division website, social media accounts, etc.
2. An Exemplar Performance Awards page was created on the VDOE website which includes the award criteria and the division names, as per the *Guidance Document*.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

There is no significant fiscal or human resources impact on VDOE or school divisions.

**Appendix A**

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| **2022-2023 Highest Achievement Award** | |
| **Division** | **School** |
| Albemarle County | Virginia. L Murray Elementary |
| Appomattox County | Appomattox County High |
| Augusta County | Fort Defiance High School |
| Bedford County | Forest Elementary |
| Botetourt County | Cloverdale Elementary |
| Campbell County | Rustburg High |
| Campbell County | Brookville High |
| Chesapeake City | Hickory High |
| Colonial Heights City | Colonial Heights High |
| Fairfax County | Thomas Jefferson High for Science and Technology |
| Fairfax County | Westbriar Elementary |
| Fairfax County | Sangster Elementary |
| Fairfax County | Spring Hill Elementary |
| Fauquier County | P.B. Smith Elementary |
| Grayson County | Grayson County High |
| Grayson County | Independence Elementary |
| Henrico County | Rivers Edge Elementary |
| Loudoun County | Briar Woods High |
| Loudoun County | Emerick Elementary |
| Loudoun County | Waterford Elementary |
| Louisa County | Louisa County High |
| Middlesex County | Middlesex High |
| Montgomery County | Harding Avenue Elementary |
| Nelson County | Nelson County High |
| Norton City | J.I. Burton High |
| Pittsylvania County | Stony Mill Elementary |
| Pittsylvania County | Gretna Elementary |
| Prince William County | Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary |
| Roanoke County | Hidden Valley High |
| Roanoke County | Glenvar High |
| Russell County | Belfast Elementary |
| Spotsylvania County | Riverview Elementary |
| Tazewell County | Tazewell High |

**Appendix A (Continued)**

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| **2022-2023 Highest Achievement Award** | |
| **Division** | **School** |
| Virginia Beach City | Strawbridge Elementary |
| Virginia Beach City | Old Donation School |
| Virginia Beach City | Princess Anne Elementary |
| Virginia Beach City | Three Oaks Elementary |
| Virginia Beach City | Tallwood Elementary |
| Virginia Beach City | North Landing Elementary |
| Washington County | Greendale Elementary |
| Wise County | J.W. Adams Combined |
| Wise County | St. Paul Elementary |
| Wise County | Central High |
| Wythe County | Fort Chiswell High |
| Wythe County | Rural Retreat Middle |
| Wythe County | Sheffey Elementary |
| York County | Bethel Manor Elementary |
| York County | Seaford Elementary |

**Appendix B**

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| **2022-2023 Continuous Improvement Award: Increase in Graduation and Completion Index and Decrease in Dropout Rate** | |
| **Division** | **School** |
| Arlington County Public Schools | Arlington Community High |
| Charlotte County Public Schools | Randolph-Henry High |
| Chesterfield County Public Schools | Lloyd C. Bird High |
| Chesterfield County Public Schools | James River High |
| Danville City Public Schools | Galileo Magnet High |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Annandale High |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | West Potomac High |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Falls Church High |
| Floyd County Public Schools | Floyd County High |
| Hampton City Public Schools | Phoebus High |
| Hampton City Public Schools | Bethel High |
| Henry County Public Schools | Magna Vista High |
| King and Queen County | Central High |
| Lancaster County Public Schools | Lancaster High |
| Lee County Public Schools | Lee High |
| Loudoun County Public Schools | Loudoun County High |
| Montgomery County Public Schools | Christiansburg High |
| Richmond City Public Schools | Richmond Career Education and Employment Charter School |
| Smyth County Public Schools | Northwood High |
| Spotsylvania County Public Schools | Chancellor High |
| Tazewell County Public Schools | Richlands High |
| Virginia Beach City Public Schools | Green Run High |
| Virginia Beach City Public Schools | Bayside High |
| York County Public Schools | Bruton High |

**Appendix B (continued)**

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| **2022-2023 Continuous Improvement Award: Increase in Achievement Over Three Year Period: Mathematics, Reading and Science** | |
| **Division** | **School** |
| Charlottesville City Public Schools | Burnley-Moran Elementary |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Mount Vernon Woods Elementary |
| Greensville County Public Schools | Greensville Elementary |
| Hampton City Public Schools | Phoebus High |
| Newport News City Public Schools | Discovery STEM Academy |
| Prince Edward County Public Schools | Prince Edward Elementary |
| Prince William County Public Schools | Featherstone Elementary |
| Richmond City Public Schools | Richmond Career Education and Employment Charter School |
| Winchester City Public Schools | Frederick Douglass Elementary |

**Appendix B (continued)**

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| **2022-2023 Continuous Improvement Award: Increase in Achievement in Mathematics and Reading for Two or More Student Groups** | |
| **Division** | **School** |
| Bristol City Public Schools | Highland View Elementary |
| Buena Vista City Public Schools | Enderly Heights Elementary |
| Buena Vista City Public Schools | F.W. Kling Jr. Elementary |
| Campbell County Public Schools | Rustburg Elementary |
| Chesapeake City Public Schools | Camelot Elementary |
| Chesapeake City Public Schools | Greenbrier Intermediate |
| Chesapeake City Public Schools | Greenbrier Primary |
| Chesapeake City Public Schools | Rena B. Wright Primary |
| Chesapeake City Public Schools | Truitt Intermediate |
| Chesapeake City Public Schools | Western Branch Intermediate |
| Chesapeake City Public Schools | Western Branch Primary |
| Colonial Heights City Public Schools | Lakeview Elementary |
| Culpeper County Public Schools | Sycamore Park Elementary |
| Danville City Public Schools | Forest Hills Elementary |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Annandale Terrace Elementary |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Archer Elementary |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Belvedere Elementary |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Brookfield Elementary |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Centreville Elementary |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Cunningham Park Elementary |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Dranesville Elementary |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Fort Belvoir Elementary |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Herndon Elementary |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Johnson Middle |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Laurel Hill Elementary |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Mount Vernon Woods Elementary |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Orange Hunt Elementary |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Providence Elementary |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Rose Hill Elementary |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Silverbrook Elementary |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | South County Middle |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Virginia Run Elementary |
| Fauquier County Public Schools | Claude Thompson Elementary |
| **Division** | **School** |
| Frederick County Public Schools | Indian Hollow Elementary |
| Goochland County Public Schools | Goochland Elementary |
| Greensville County Public Schools | Belfield Elementary |
| Greensville County Public Schools | Greensville Elementary |
| Hampton City Public Schools | Barron Elementary |
| Hampton City Public Schools | Phoebus High |
| Henrico County Public Schools | Elizabeth Holladay Elementary |
| Lunenburg County Public Schools | Kenbridge Elementary |
| Lynchburg City Public Schools | Dearington Elementary/Innovation |
| Lynchburg City Public Schools | Sheffield Elementary |
| Lynchburg City Public Schools | William M. Bass Elementary |
| Newport News City Public Schools | Discovery STEM Academy |
| Newport News City Public Schools | Oliver C. Greenwood Elementary |
| Norfolk City Public Schools | Bay View Elementary |
| Patrick County Public Schools | Stuart Elementary |
| Prince Edward County Public Schools | Prince Edward Elementary |
| Prince William County Public Schools | Chris Yung Elementary |
| Prince William County Public Schools | Elizabeth Vaughan Elementary |
| Prince William County Public Schools | Montclair Elementary |
| Roanoke County Public Schools | Northside Middle |
| Roanoke County Public Schools | W.E. Cundiff Elementary |
| Salem City Public Schools | G.W. Carver Elementary |
| Stafford County Public Schools | Anne E. Moncure Elementary |
| Stafford County Public Schools | Anthony Burns Elementary |
| Stafford County Public Schools | North Stafford High |
| Stafford County Public Schools | Rocky Run Elementary |
| Stafford County Public Schools | Winding Creek Elementary |
| Staunton City Public Schools | Bessie Weller Elementary |
| Staunton City Public Schools | Shelburne Middle |
| Suffolk City Public Schools | Mack Benn Jr. Elementary |
| Virginia Beach City Public Schools | Parkway Elementary |
| Virginia Beach City Public Schools | White Oaks Elementary |
| Waynesboro City Public Schools | William Perry Elementary |
| York County Public Schools | Coventry Elementary |

**Appendix B (continued)**

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| **2022-2023 Continuous Improvement Award: Schools that Demonstrated Continuous Improvement in More than one Area** | | |
| **Division** | **School** | **Areas Identified** |
| Fairfax County Public Schools | Mount Vernon Woods Elementary | Increase in Achievement Over Three Years; Increase in Achievement for Two or More Student Groups |
| Greensville County Public Schools | Greensville Elementary | Increase in Achievement Over Three Years; Increase in Achievement for Two or More Student Groups |
| Hampton City Public Schools | Phoebus High | Increase in Achievement Over Three Years; Increase in Achievement for Two or More Student Groups; Increase in Graduation and Completion Index and Decrease in Dropout Rate |
| Newport News City Public Schools | Discovery STEM Academy | Increase in Achievement Over Three Years; Increase in Achievement for Two or More Student Groups |
| Prince Edward County Public Schools | Prince Edward Elementary | Increase in Achievement Over Three Years; Increase in Achievement for Two or More Student Groups |
| Richmond City Public Schools | Richmond Career Education and Employment Charter School | Increase in Achievement Over Three Years; Increase in Graduation and Completion Index and Decrease in Dropout Rate |

**Appendix C**

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| **Innovative Practice Award** | | |
| **Region** | **Division and School**  **(if applicable)** | **Innovative Practice** |
| Region 1 | Goochland County Public Schools | Increasing virtual reality experiences for students in the division by allowing students to create new content using virtual reality tools used by professionals in the field, and by incorporating strong curricular connections in multiple content areas. |
| Region 2 | Virginia Beach City Public Schools (Kempsville High School) | Creating a cohesive, multi-pronged, school-wide plan to align student experiences with the Virginia Beach City Public Graduate Profile. The plan ensures students are actively involved in setting post-high school goals, reflecting on relevant experiences, as well as building strong community members who serve the community through service-learning projects. |
| Region 2 | York County Public Schools | Implementing a SOAR with STEM program in fourteen elementary and middle schools. The program provides a STEM focused curriculum, maker spaces, summer enrichment camps, career exploration, STEM-related club activities, teacher professional learning, and access to STEM professionals. |
| Region 5 | Louisa County Public Schools | The successful development of innovative strategies to enhance teacher retention and recruitment. Louis has created a Little Lions Learning lab which provides daycare for division staff while also using a mentor approach to provide authentic teaching experiences for students. This program supports the Teacher Pipeline Program which has two components: a traditional higher education path with Louisa providing scholarship opportunities and assistance identifying scholarships; and a paraprofessional to teacher program that provides tuition assistance for a specifically designed online teacher preparation program. This program is for both graduating students as well as paraprofessionals who would like to earn a teaching license. |
| Region 6 | Roanoke County Public Schools, Roanoke City Public Schools, Salem City Public Schools | Development of a regional implementation of the Student Registered Apprenticeship Program between Roanoke County, Roanoke City, and Salem City Public Schools and regional businesses, to provide students with high-quality apprenticeship opportunities that could lead to industry-recognized credentials and/or full-time employment, as well as meeting local business needs. The three school divisions have come together to form one successful program with commonly shared goals, objectives, timelines, and processes. |
| Region 6 | Roanoke County Public Schools | Implementation of an innovative systems approach to produce successful student outcomes, as outlined in the RCPS C-Change Framework. Specifically, Roanoke highlights the creation of a school climate that cultivates the physical, emotional, and intellectual well-being of students. The climate is created, in part, by implementing Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) with fidelity, having a licensed health counselor in every secondary school, violence and suicide prevention programs, the Student Voices Initiative, and strong school safety and security. |
| Region 7 | Radford City Public Schools | Implementing and growing a STEM initiative in its K-12 academic programs by adding courses to the curriculum, incorporating STEM content into existing course curricula, creating STEM pathways at the high school level, and altering master scheduling to provide large blocks of time for labs, problem-based learning, and exploration. The current focus is on the creation of digital portfolios, exhibitions, and senior capstone projects to highlight student experiences and learning. |