

Virginia Department of Education

Accreditation Appeals Form 2023-2024

VDOE Note: This form was edited to indicate the correct accreditation year.

DATE: 7/25/2023

DIVISION INFORMATION

DIVISION NAME and NUMBER: Suffolk Public Schools (127)
2023-2024

PRELIMINARY ~~2022-2023~~ SCHOOL DATA

For each indicator, include the current or cumulative year rate that is used to determine the performance level. It is denoted with a * on the *Accreditation Detail Report*. If the appeal is for more than one school, please copy and paste the table, then insert it into this form. There should be one table for each school that is part of the appeal.

School Name and Number	John F. Kennedy Middle School (JFKMS)	
School Quality Indicator	Preliminary Rate	Preliminary Performance Level
Academic Achievement - English	71.00	Level 3
Achievement Gap - English	White 77.46	Level 1
	Black 67.92	Level 2
	Asian 100.00	Level 1
	Hispanic 84.68	Level 1
	Multiple Races 78.00	Level 1
	English Learners 33.33	TS
	Economically Disadvantaged 65.83	Level 1 (R10)
	Students with Disabilities 44.82	Level 3
Academic Achievement - Mathematics	78.42	Level 1
Achievement Gap - Mathematics	White 84.58	Level 1
	Black 76.42	Level 1
	Asian 100.00	Level 1
	Hispanic 83.51	Level 1
	Multiple Races 89.47	Level 1
	English Learners 78.26	Level 1
	Economically Disadvantaged 74.05	Level 1
	Students with Disabilities 54.65	Level 2 (R10)
Academic Achievement - Science	56.41	Level 2 (R10)
Chronic Absenteeism	24.58	Level 2
Graduation and Completion Index	NA	NA
Dropout Rate	NA	NA
College, Career, and Civic Readiness Index	N/A	N/A

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School Name and Number	John F. Kennedy Middle School (JFKMS)	
School Quality Indicator	Preliminary Rate	Preliminary Performance Level
PRELIMINARY ACCREDITATION STATUS	Accredited with Conditions	

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SCHOOL QUALITY INDICATOR (S)

State the specific School Quality Indicator(s) being appealed.

Academic Achievement – English Overall

Suffolk Public Schools is requesting that the 4-year accreditation rule be waived due to the impact of COVID-19, which prohibited JFKMS from reaching 75% or greater in the school year 2020 and 2021. We have met the requirements for full accreditation in all other areas within this Indicator. Currently, JFKMS is at 71% (level 2) in this indicator. Finally, the adjustments to growth calculations in 22-23 had a significant impact on the current year combined rate.

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REASON FOR APPEAL

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In the space provided, briefly state the reason for the appeal, any relevant context, and supporting details. The reason for the appeal must be data driven and written without personally identifiable information. If appropriate, include steps taken to mitigate the impact of the circumstance prior to submitting the appeal. The Reason for Appeal response may not exceed this page. Please do not send additional information in attachments. No attachments to the Accreditation Appeals Form will be considered.

John F. Kennedy Middle School is a high priority school within our school division. Several instructional supports were put in place during the 2018-2029 school year in order for JFKMS to finally be fully accredited. Even though we celebrated full accreditation, we sought to meet the minimum requirements without the aid of R10 or the 3-year average.

In 2019, the JFKMS staff made great strides to achieve a pass rate of 73% and was anticipating, not only reaching the target of 75% during the 2019-2020 school year, but excelling far beyond. Unfortunately the school year ended early due to COVID-19. This was a devastating blow for our teachers, students and our community.

Steps taken to mitigate:

Targeted support was provided to address the additional challenge of many of the learning gaps for JFKMS students who declined to return to school in person after school reopened in 2021. This lack of in-person instruction for the then 5th and 6th grade students greatly impacted the expected learning outcomes of this population. JFKMS implemented tiered support instruction targeting the multiple levels of learning needs. Class scheduling and teacher instruction selection was also adjusted to best support the learning needs of students. After-school tutoring and in-school remediation support was provided using the tiered system to target learning gaps identified from SDBQ and other data sources. Professional development was provided to staff, with additional modeling and co-teaching support facilitated by division content leaders, to build administrative and teacher capacity to further support student outcomes. Additionally, the recent Academic Review Process identified additional actions JFKMS can and will take to expand its improvement efforts and impact the continued growth and success of students and staff. JFKMS made great gains over the three year period to achieve the 71% earned.

As a result, we are requesting that the 4-year rule be waived due to the impact of COVID, which prohibited us from reaching 75% or greater in the school year 2020 and 2021.

We are in the process of building a new JFKMS which will be a great boost to this community of mostly low socio-economic students. We were so excited to bring the good news to the community that we have met all requirements to return to full accreditation status (Specifically, we earned level 2 (71%) in Academic Achievement - English Overall) only to find that our celebration is in jeopardy due to the 4-year accreditation rule (NOTE: Current students that are the most impacted by COVID-19 are now in our 7th and 8th grade cohorts).

In conclusion, JFKMS has met all requirements for full accreditation despite the challenges of COVID-19 and the impact it has had on this community and will continue to make great gains with the mitigation strategies outlined above. **We ask that the 4-year accreditation rule be waived** so that this school and its community can celebrate and enjoy the fruits of their hard work and for validation of our instructional support model.

REQUIRED SIGNATURES

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Tyron D. Biddick

School Board Chair Name (printed/typed)




School Board Chair Signature

7/27/23
Date

John B. GORDON III

Superintendent Name (printed/typed)



Superintendent Signature

7/27/23
Date