

# FIRST REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLANS

Presentation to the Virginia Board of  
Education at the March 28, 2024,  
Business Meeting



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

# PURPOSE

As set forth in the [Standards of Quality](#) and the [Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools \(SOA\)](#), any school board may request an Alternative Accreditation Plan for a **special purpose school** ([§22.1-26 of the Code of Virginia](#)) to provide flexibility to schools. This includes:

- Governor's schools
- Special education schools
- Alternative schools
- Career and technical schools that serve as the student's school of principal enrollment

# BACKGROUND-ALIGNMENT TO 2017 SOA

- **January 2020:** The Board requested the Department convene a working committee of Department staff members from the Offices of Student Assessment, Data Services, Research, Instructional Services, Career, Technical and Adult Education, and School Quality convened to outline new guidelines for Alternative Accreditation Plans that aligned with the 2017 SOA.
- **November 2021:** [VDOE staff discussed at the Board meeting](#) a realignment of the Alternative Accreditation Plans and sought the Board's guidance to ensure that the realignment efforts met their expectations.
- **April 2022:** The Board [approved](#) the first Alternative Accreditation Plans that aligned with the new guidelines for the 2022-2023 accreditation year.

# GUIDELINES

The guidelines allow flexibility to schools while also maintaining the integrity of the state's accreditation model.

- ❖ Keep the framework and indicators of the accreditation model, along with the established performance benchmarks, while allowing flexibility in attaining them.
- ❖ Schools also have the flexibility to add an indicator specific to programs if the measure showcases high quality foundational educational programs, demonstrates the school is raising student achievement, and is preparing students for real-life, authentic experiences

# APPLICATIONS

Eleven special purpose schools in Virginia are requesting approval of Alternative Accreditation Plans from the Virginia Board of Education (Board) for the 2024-2025 accountability year (based on 2023-2024 school year data). The schools submitting applications are:

- Arlington County Public Schools: Arlington Community High School.
- Chesterfield County Public Schools: Carver College and Career Academy;
- Fairfax County Public Schools: Bryant High School, Fairfax County Adult High School, Key Center School, Kilmer Center School, and Mountain View High School;
- Loudoun County Public Schools: William Obediah Robey High School;
- Richmond City Public Schools: Amelia Street School and Richmond Alternative School; and
- York County Public Schools: York River Academy.

# PROCESS

- Specific details surrounding the allowable flexibilities as well the process for the submission, approval, and implementation of the Alternative Accreditation Plans are available in Attachment B to the Board item.

# SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

- The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive for first review the applications for Alternative Accreditation Plans from eleven special purpose schools.
- Final review and approval will be requested at the April 25, 2024, business meeting.