VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item: BB

Date: April 25, 2024

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

Presenters: Katie Carroll, Deputy Superintendent, Division of School Performance and Support

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*.

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) 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 and was last awarded in 2022-2023.

For the 2023-2024 award year, **37** schools met the criteria for the Highest Achievement Award. These schools are listed in Appendix A. Schools identified for this recognition must meet all these criteria using 2022-2023 school year data:

- The school must be Accredited (includes triennial waivers).
- 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.
- School demonstrates a current year chronic absenteeism rate of 15 percent or lower.

For schools with a graduating class, two additional criteria apply:
- School demonstrates a current year Graduation and Completion Index of 88 points or higher; and
- School demonstrates a current year dropout rate of six percent or lower.

There were **27** schools 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 2023-2024 only, the three years are 2018-2019, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023), with a total increase across the three years of ten points or more;
- in the combined rate for two or more student groups in reading and math for each of the past three years (for 2023-2024 only, the three years are 2018-2019, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023), with a total increase across the three years of ten points or more; or
- in the Graduation and Completion Index (GCI) for each of the past three years (for 2023-2024 only, the three years are 2018-2019, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023), with a total

increase across the three years of four percent or more; *and* the school demonstrates a decrease in the dropout rate for each of the past three years (for 2023-2024 only, the three years are 2018-2019, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023), with the total reduction across three years of 15 percent or more of the first year's dropout rate.

Note: The Continuous Improvement Award criteria was amended for 2023-2024 to remove chronic absenteeism criteria since only one year of chronic absenteeism data was available (2022-2023).

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) which states, in part, the following:

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 through 97 of the [Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia](#)) 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 2023-2024 school year:

a) VDOE staff will create a school-specific image with the award recognition that a school may post to their school/division website, social media accounts, etc.
b) Superintendent Coons will deliver a message in specific videos congratulating schools. The videos include the names of the awardees in "rolling credits," and they will be posted to the VDOE website. Divisions and schools can link to this video share on social media platforms.
c) An Exemplar Performance Awards page will be created on the VDOE website which includes the award criteria, the videos and division names, as per the *Guidance Document*.
d) A press release will be issued in May 2024, and it will include the names of the divisions receiving recognition.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

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

Appendix A

2023-2024 Highest Achievement Award	
Division	**School**
Albemarle County	Community Lab School
Albemarle County	Ivy Elementary
Albemarle County	Virginia L. Murray Elementary
Arlington County	Arlington Traditional
Bedford County	Forest Elementary
Botetourt County	Breckinridge Elementary
Botetourt County	Buchanan Elementary
Botetourt County	Eagle Rock Elementary
Carroll County	Gladesboro Elementary
Danville City	Galileo Magnet High
Fairfax County	Sangster Elementary
Fairfax County	Thomas Jefferson High for Science and Technology
Fauquier County	Kettle Run High
Fauquier County	P.B. Smith Elementary
Grayson County	Fairview Elementary
Lee County	St. Charles Elementary
Loudoun County	Aldie Elementary
Loudoun County	Emerick Elementary
Loudoun County	Hamilton Elementary
Loudoun County	Hillsboro Charter Academy
Loudoun County	Waterford Elementary
Montgomery County	Harding Avenue Elementary
Patrick County	Woolwine Elementary
Pittsylvania County	Stony Mill Elementary
Richmond City	Mary Munford Elementary
Roanoke City	Crystal Spring Elementary
Roanoke County	Mason's Cove Elementary
Southampton County	Nottoway Elementary
Virginia Beach City	Green Run Collegiate
Virginia Beach City	Kingston Elementary
Virginia Beach City	North Landing Elementary
Virginia Beach City	Old Donation School

Virginia Beach City	Rosemont Forest Elementary
Wise County	J.W. Adams Combined
Wise County	St. Paul Elementary
Wythe County	Rural Retreat Elementary
York County	Seaford Elementary

Appendix B

2023-2024 Continuous Improvement Award Increase in Achievement Over Three Year Period: Mathematics, Reading and Science for All Students, or Two or More Student Groups	
Division	**School**
Chesapeake City	Norfolk Highlands Primary
Hampton City	Phoebus High
Loudoun County	Hutchison Farm Elementary
Norfolk City	St. Helena Elementary
Prince William County	Neabsco Elementary
Rockingham County	Ottobine Elementary
Spotsylvania County	Cedar Forest Elementary
Staunton City	Bessie Weller Elementary
Virginia Beach City	Tallwood High

2023-2024 Continuous Improvement Award Increase in Graduation and Completion Index and Decrease in Dropout Rate	
Division	**School**
Amherst County	Amherst County High
Arlington County	Wakefield High
Bath County	Bath County High
Brunswick County	Brunswick High
Buchanan County	Twin Valley High
Campbell County	Rustburg High
Carroll County	Carroll County High
Essex County	Essex High
Fairfax County	Lewis High
Fairfax County	South Lakes High
Fairfax County	West Potomac High
Manassas City	Osbourn High
Mathews County	Mathews High
Norton City	J.I. Burton High
Richmond City	Richmond Career Education and Employment Charter School

Rockingham County	Turner Ashby High
Virginia Beach City	Green Run High
York County	York River Academy