



#305-21

Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #305-21

DATE: November 5, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **SOQ Compliance Pilot Program - Verification of Certain Standards**

The General Assembly has directed the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to develop and implement a pilot program related to the [SOQ Compliance Data Collection](#). The goal of the SOQ Compliance pilot is to help VDOE more comprehensively understand and supervise school division compliance with the SOQ, and thereby provide more targeted and meaningful support and assistance to school divisions who are in varying states of compliance. The SOQ Compliance pilot is also an opportunity for divisions to reflect on and refine local practices related to SOQ compliance and monitoring.

The SOQ Compliance pilot began this past summer with some additional questions added to the 2020-2021 SOQ Compliance Data Collection, as noted in [Superintendent's Memo #173-21](#). In the next phase of the pilot, VDOE will be collecting documentation to verify reported SOQ compliance:

- In November 2021, VDOE will collect documentation to verify SOQ Compliance from one school division in each of the eight Superintendent's Regions.
- In January 2022, all other divisions will be required to provide documentation to verify SOQ Compliance. A superintendent's memo will be issued with instructions on submission and timeline.

Legislative Mandate

The SOQ Compliance pilot program was first recommended by the October 2020 Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) report titled [Operations and Performance of the Virginia Department of Education](#). The SOQ Compliance pilot program was then mandated by the General Assembly in [Item 143.J](#) of the 2021 Appropriation Act. The mandate requires VDOE to more comprehensively supervise school division compliance with a subset of key SOQ standards by requiring (i) the submission of more comprehensive compliance information, (ii) selective independent verification of compliance, (iii) monitoring of corrective action implementation, and (iv) analysis of compliance trends and issues.

For more information

Please direct questions regarding the pilot program, division responsibilities, and timelines to Scott Kizner, Scott.Kizner@doe.virginia.gov or 804-225-2092.

JFL/LMS