

**Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia
(8VAC20-131)
Response to Revised Economic Impact Analysis
November 21, 2017**

The agency has reviewed the Economic Impact Analysis, as revised on November 20, 2017, completed by the Department of Planning and Budget and submits the following corrections and clarifications:

The analysis notes that the regulation will have a fiscal impact because the School Quality Profile will be required to include elements of accountability, assessments, enrollment and demographics, college and career readiness, finance, learning environment, and teacher quality. This is not correct, as these elements are already incorporated into the School Quality Profile. Rather, the anticipated fiscal impact is caused by updates to the School Quality Profile system needed to display the multiple indicators in the proposed accreditation system, and to display new data elements as required by the federal *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, such as per-pupil expenditures at the school level, and reports of school performance compared to long-term goals and interim progress as provided in Virginia's *ESSA* plan.

The analysis also notes that the proposed changes to the accreditation system may result in an increased number of schools that qualify for the Virginia e-Learning Backpack Initiative. No fiscal impact to the Initiative is anticipated as a result of the new accreditation, until at least FY 2020-2021. No impact is anticipated in FY 2018-2019 because this is a transition period, and schools may achieve "full accreditation," or "Accredited" status using either the existing accreditation rules, or the new accreditation rules. In FY 2019-2020, the new accreditation rules will be applicable to all schools, but because the Initiative awards funds to schools that are not fully accredited for two consecutive years, any impact attributable to the proposed accreditation system should not be realized until FY 2020-2021. Further, the Appropriation Act language does not permit schools that have previously received these funds to access them again.