

**Draft**  
**Virginia Board of Education**  
**Standing Committee on School and Division Accountability**  
Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 2:45 p.m.  
Jefferson Conference Room, James Monroe Building  
101 North 14th Street, Richmond, Virginia

**Welcome and Opening Comments**

The following Board of Education (Board) members were present for the January 24, 2018 meeting of the Committee on School and Division Accountability: Kim Adkins; Diane Atkinson; Daniel Gecker; Anne Holton; Elizabeth Lodol; Sal Romero, Jr.; Dr. Tamara K. Wallace; and Dr. Jamelle Wilson. Dr. Steven Constantino, Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction, was also present.

Mrs. Atkinson, chair of this committee, convened the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

**Approval of the Minutes from the November 15, 2017 Committee Meeting**

Dr. Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2017 committee meeting. Mr. Romero seconded the motion, and the draft minutes were approved unanimously.

**Public Comment**

No one addressed the Board during public comment.

**Presentation: Update on Criteria to Recognize Schools and Divisions**

Link to presentation: [Revisions to the Proposed Standards of Accreditation from First Review](#)

Dr. Jennifer Piver-Renna, Senior Executive Director of Research, provided an update from the November meeting on criteria for recognizing schools and school divisions

Ms. Adkins asked if it would be possible to have one exemplar category versus an exemplar for school quality and for closing the achievement gap. Dr. Piver-Renna stated that this has been an on-going conversation for staff; wanted to balance recognition of schools for continued great performance and schools who are showing improvement, working hard to close the achievement gap and become accredited. Ms. Adkins followed-up that she believed an exemplar school should be a great performer and be accredited. Dr. Piver-Renna clarified that the great performer schools would need to have high performance across all indicators. Mrs. Atkinson stated that the Board is looking to recognize continuous improvement.

Dr. Wilson asked Dr. Piver-Renna to remind the Board of the current VIP awards. Currently, there are three different awards based on a series of bonus points.

Governor's Award for Educational Excellence

Board of Education's Excellence Award

Board of Education's Distinguished Achievement Award

Only schools and school divisions that have met all state and federal accountability requirements for two consecutive years – and have not experienced significant irregularities in the administration of state assessments – are eligible to earn VIP awards.

Ms. Holton asked for clarification on the exemplar status for closing the achievement gap. Dr. Piver-Renna stated that the reporting group categories were limited to the seven federally defined categories.

Dr. Wilson asked for clarification on all of the exemplar awards discussed today. She asked if the Board of Education awards and Governor's Award for Educational Excellence would go away once these new awards were implemented. Dr. Piver-Renna responded that the awards are outlined in guidance and can be changed if the Board desires.

Mrs. Lodal asked for the number of schools that could receive the awards as outlined in the presentation. Dr. Piver-Renna responded that 285 schools would be eligible for the exemplar award for school quality and 66 schools would be eligible for the exemplar award for closing achievement gaps. Mrs. Lodal followed up by asking if any of the 285 schools eligible for a school quality exemplar award were high-poverty schools. Dr. Piver-Renna responded that three schools were high-poverty schools.

Mrs. Lodal asked if the Board or Department had ever considered giving awards to local school boards for local commitment. Mrs. Lodal recommended that staff reach out to ECS to see if there is any research or examples of other states giving awards to local school boards. Mrs. Atkinson cautioned that local school boards do not control their own local funding as it's controlled by the local city council or board of supervisors.

Mrs. Lodal noted that Education Week recently came out with their Quality Counts report that ranked Virginia as #14 and gave a C grade in terms of school finance.

Mrs. Atkinson inquired about the anticipated timeline and if data collection will be available in the timeframe needed once a legislative change is made. Dr. Piver-Renna stated that data would be available once a *Code* change is made. For the innovative practice awards, there may be a delay to allow for an application process.

Ms. Adkins asked if the timeline could be met even with the need for a *Code* change. Dr. Piver-Renna responded that yes, the anticipated timeline could be met. Specific criteria would be

before the Board at the March and April meetings and staff could begin the process of requesting a *Code* change in the summer. The VIP awards would continue as usual.

Ms. Holton asked if staff had explored other options without a *Code* change. Dr. Piver-Renna stated that the Board could implement the exemplar criteria and awards without a *Code* change but that two different recognition systems would be in place with the VIP awards and some of the *Code* language regarding the VIP awards would be out-of-date.

Mrs. Lodal inquired about the innovative practice awards. Dr. Piver-Renna responded that divisions would apply for this award through a process and criteria that is to be determined.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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