

2009 Review of the Standards of Quality

**Presented to the Joint Subcommittee on
Elementary and Secondary Education Funding**

**Dr. Mark Emblidge, President
Virginia Board of Education**

September 14, 2009



SOQ Review: May - August

Major activities of the SOQ Committee included:

- **Conducting three public forums for educational organizations, school divisions, and the public to provide recommendations to the Board**
- **Holding a 90-day public comment period (May 1-July 31)**
- **Receiving the preliminary report from Augenblick, Palaich, and Associates, Inc. on staffing standards**
- **Receiving a presentation on the 2010-2012 rebenchmarking process**

SOQ Committee - May 27

Forum participants:

- **Virginia Association of School Superintendents**
- **Virginia School Boards Association**
- **Virginia Education Association**
- **Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals**
- **Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals**
- **Virginia Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development**
- **Virginia PTA**
- **Virginia Municipal League**
- **Virginia Association of Counties**

Public comment from:

- **Virginia First Cities Coalition**

SOQ Committee – June 24

Forum participants:

- **Virginia Council of Administrators of Special Education**
- **Virginia Association of School Nurses**
- **Virginia School Counselor Association**
- **Virginia Consortium of Administrators for Education of the Gifted**

Public comments from:

- **Virginia Friends of Mali**
- **JustChildren**
- **Virginia PTA Health and Safety Chair**
- **Petersburg Advocates for Children**
- **Parent, advocate for school nurses**
- **Parent, advocate for school counselors**
- **Professional school counselor**

SOQ Committee – July 22

Staff presentations:

- **Preliminary Report from Augenblick, Palaich, and Associates, Inc. on the Virginia Standards of Quality**
- **2010-2012 Rebenchmarking Presentation**

Public comment:

- **Student, University of Virginia**
- **Student, Chesterfield County Public Schools**
- **JustChildren**
- **FACES of Virginia Families (Foster, Adoption, and Kinship Association)**
- **Fairfax County Public Schools**
- **Teacher, Henrico County Public Schools**
- **Support Professional, Fairfax County Public Schools**
- **PLACE (Parent Leaders Advocating for Children’s Education)**

Comments from the Public Forums

- **By far, most of the comments were in opposition to any reductions to the Standards of Quality, and any cap on support positions.**
- **Several comments supported previous Board recommendations that have not been funded, especially:**
 - ✓ **One principal in every elementary school**
 - ✓ **One assistant principal for every 400 students**
 - ✓ **One reading specialist for every 1,000 students**

Comments from the Public Forums *(con't)*

- **Several comments recommended increased flexibility.**
- **There were recommendations to review the special education staffing and funding mechanism to ensure that access to the general education curriculum isn't hindered by funding incentives based on placement.**
- **Several comments made recommendations about school nurses, school counselors, and gifted education teachers.**

SOQ Committee – September 16

- **Final Report from Augenblick, Palaich, and Associates, Inc. on the Virginia Standards of Quality**
- **Results from the Survey of School Divisions for the 2009 Review of the Standards of Quality**
- **Summary of Public Comment**
- **Discussion of Options**

Next Steps

- **September 17 – First review of the Board’s recommendations to the General Assembly**
- **September 16 through October 2 – Public comment period**
- **September 30 – Public hearings in Chesapeake, Fairfax County, Pulaski County, and Richmond**
- **October 22 – Final review of the Board’s recommendations to the General Assembly**
- **November 1 – Due to the General Assembly**



SOQ Information

- **SOQ review materials posted on the Web**

www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/quality/index.shtml

- **SOQ e-mail**

SOQComments@doe.virginia.gov