



Senate Finance Education Sub-Committee Briefing

January 28, 2016

Main Topics

- 1. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and State level Accountability**
- 2. High School Innovation Grants**
- 3. Update from the Virginia Board of Education**

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)



Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

ESSA signed into law in December, 2015:

➤ Some improvements to Accountability System

- States set Standards and create Assessments
- States (not federal government) responsible for school improvement decisions
- States determine teacher evaluation systems
- English Language Learners (ELL) given more time
- Limited authority for U.S. Department of Education and Secretary of Education

➤ Some Items maintained

- Testing still mandated (civil rights action)
- MUST disaggregate data by “sub-groups”
- MUST intervene with “lowest 5%”

Virginia Accountability for ESSA

Virginia “ahead” of many other states:

- **Functioning accountability system for 20 years with 15 years of testing experience**
- **State Board work over next 6 months**
 - Focus on continuous improvement for ALL schools
 - Permit school divisions with capacity to craft own plans – focus state support on most needy divisions
 - Consider moving to a 3 year accreditation cycle
- **Target “closing gaps” by raising lowest performers**
- **Broaden types of assessments used to align with “best practice” instruction**

High School Innovation Grants



Innovation Planning Grants

- **Five high schools awarded planning grants:**
 - ✦ **Region 1** - *Richmond Regional School for Innovation – CodeRVA*
 - ✦ **Salem** - *Personalized Learning: Connecting Students to their Future*
 - ✦ **Newport News** - *Re-Imagining High School: Student-Centered College, Career, and Citizen Ready Micro Academies*
 - ✦ **Fairfax** - *Global STEM Challenges Program*
 - ✦ **Williamsburg-James City** - *High School by Design at Warhill*
- **Grants encouraged practices connected to individualized instruction, workforce development, alignment with higher education, and blended learning.**

Richmond Regional School for Innovation – CodeRVA

Goal: *Students will graduate with an associate's degree, industry certification, and guaranteed employment.*

- Creates a regional school in partnership with community colleges and area employers offering students accelerated learning while addressing a critical gap in the regional work force.
- Initial focus on increasing the number of computer science professionals in the region.
- Program will scale to include all 16 Career and Technical Education career clusters.

Counties included:

Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland,
Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan

Cities included:

Colonial Heights and Richmond

Update from the Virginia Board of Education



Board of Education Priorities

1. **Creating an accountability system that promotes continuous improvement, acknowledges progress, and measures quality across a broad spectrum of indicators.**
2. **Building capacity in schools and school divisions to support the unique needs of all students, teachers, and administrators.**
3. **Fostering positive, safe, and healthy school climates that promote high student achievement and social and emotional development.**

School Improvement

Currently the State Board of Education implements a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a school division when:

- A significant number of schools in the division are not fully accredited and there is evidence that the failure of the division to implement the Standards of Quality is the cause. Such divisions have a **DIVISION LEVEL MOU**.
- One or more schools in the division are denied accreditation because the requirements for full accreditation have not been met for four or more years. In this case the division has **SCHOOL LEVEL MOU(s)**.

School Improvement:

Current VBOE Authority

Virginia Board of Education currently uses two types of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU):

- Division Level MOU
- School Level MOU

14 MOUs are currently operating:

- 3 division level MOUs (Petersburg, Franklin City and Sussex)
- 11 school level MOUs (Alexandria, Henrico, Norfolk, Northampton, Newport News)

School Improvement:

Enhanced VBOE Authority

These bills cement and enhance the Board's ability to intervene when schools are not meeting the SOQ:

- **SB 368**
 - Codifies the Board's Authority in Statute
- **Appropriation Language**
 - Authorizes the Board to withhold funds when school divisions fail to implement required corrective actions.

School Improvement:

Enhanced VBOE Authority

Proposed Budget language and SB 368 would enhance the Board's capacity to provide assistance and guidance to local school divisions by:

- Adding language in the Code to define current Board action regarding division-level interventions (*instead of Board Guidelines or Regulations*).
- Provides the Board with alternatives to court action when a local school board fails to properly implement the CAP (*withholding of At Risk Add on funding*).

Challenged Schools Update

1. **Quality and Consistency of Leadership & Staff.**
2. **Capacity for Decision-making and Effective/Efficient allocation of Resources.**
3. **Wrap-around services/Community Supports.**

Challenged Schools Update

Focus on Petersburg

- Assisted local Board in securing experienced and high quality Interim.
- State Board President and Superintendent met with full School Board and Interim to identify key areas needing improvement and search for a long term superintendent.
- VDOE staff meet monthly with Interim for problem-solving.
- VDOE staff guide Inter-agency *City & Schools Partnership* team meetings.
- State Superintendent collaborating with search firm and local Board in identifying next superintendent.

Thank You

Dr. Billy Cannaday

President: State Board of Education

BOE@doe.virginia.gov

Dr. Steven R. Staples

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Steven.Staples@doe.virginia.gov

www.doe.virginia.gov