

October 27, 2015 – Gains Shown in Revised State and Federal Accountability Ratings

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GAINS SHOWN IN REVISED STATE AND FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS

Staunton, VA – Each school system is responsible for exceeding a certain percentage of pass rates per school in order to meet state and federal benchmarks and avoid sanctions from each. The two accountability systems measure accountability in two different ways:

- **State:** This system is calculated by the percentage of all students receiving passing scores on the SOL assessments (75% is the required benchmark on reading/writing; 70% is the benchmark for mathematics, science, and history) and the average of students meeting the state graduation index.
- **Federal:** This system is calculated by the percentage of students meeting benchmarks in reading and mathematics performance and participation (plus the federal graduation indicator at the high school and division level). Nine subgroups are included in calculations (all; gap group 1 - economically disadvantaged, limited English proficient, and students with disabilities; gap group 2 - Black; gap group 3 - Hispanic; white; Asian; students with disabilities; economically disadvantaged students; and limited English). In total, elementary and middle schools must meet 36 federal benchmarks, and high schools and divisions must meet 45 benchmarks.

The announcement of state and federal standings was slightly delayed this year, as state accreditation ratings were revised at the October Virginia Board of Education meeting, resulting in nine different possible ratings, including:

- 1) **Fully Accredited**
- 2) **Partially Accredited:** Approaching Benchmark – Pass Rate
- 3) **Partially Accredited:** Approaching Benchmark – Graduation
- 4) **Partially Accredited:** Improving School – Pass Rate
- 5) **Partially Accredited:** Improving School – Graduation
- 6) **Partially Accredited:** Warned School – Pass Rate
- 7) **Partially Accredited:** Warned School – Graduation
- 8) **Partially Accredited:** Reconstituted School
- 9) **Denied Accreditation**

Schools "approaching benchmark" fall within a narrow margin of meeting the required rate; "Improving schools" exceed expected rate of improvement, based on previous year's score; and "warned schools" fall short of the improving percentage (based on VDOE table).

Staunton City Schools experienced gains in multiple subject areas and student subgroups, based on 2014-2015 SOL testing scores. As a division, Staunton City Schools exceeded 44 of 45 federal benchmarks (98%) and had the most significant gain in reading with a division increase of 9 percentage points from the previous year's percentage and increasing performance in all student subgroups by 8 - 20 percentage points. The table below describes the state and federal standings and highlights from each of the schools.

<u>School</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Federal</u>	<u>Highlights</u>
<i>Bessie Weller Elementary</i>	TBD	Met 28 of 36 reading and mathematics benchmarks (78%); Focus School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased reading performance by 7%, with increases in all subgroups with economically disadvantaged having the highest increase of 11% 4th grade cohort performance increased by 17% from grade 3 to grade 4 math
<i>McSwain Elementary</i>	Fully Accredited	Met 36 of 36 reading and mathematics benchmarks (100%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School reading pass rate increased from 73% to 83%, with 34% of students achieving pass advanced; both pass rate and pass advanced rate exceeds state average at every grade - 3-5 Increased grade 5 science pass rate by 19% from previous year to a rate of 87%, exceeding state average
<i>Ware Elementary</i>	Fully Accredited	Met 36 of 36 reading and mathematics benchmarks (100%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School mathematics pass rate of 85%, exceeding the state average in every grade – 3-5 School reading pass rate increased by 18% with the total rate of 80% exceeding the state average
<i>Shelburne Middle</i>	Partially Accredited: Improving School - Pass Rate	Met 35 of 36 reading and mathematics benchmarks (97%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase of 13% in Reading schoolwide with every grade level making greater than 10% increase, now meeting federal benchmarks Increase of almost 10% in Math with an overall rate in mid-70s, now exceeding the state accreditation benchmarks 100% in Geometry and Algebra I, with a pass advanced rate of 92% in Algebra I
<i>Lee High</i>	Fully Accredited	Met 42 of 45 reading, mathematics, and graduation benchmarks (93%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High school writing results exceed the state average for the third consecutive year at 86% Pass advanced rate in Algebra II increased to a rate of 32% (exceeding the state average of 23%), a significant increase from 10% pass advanced rate the previous year Chemistry exceeded the state average for the fifth consecutive year, with an overall pass rate of 91%

Shelburne Middle School received one of the new state ratings, and Principal Jennifer Morris explains, "While our goal for this upcoming year remains full accreditation, we are pleased to be recognized by the state for the positive work of our teachers and students in improving student achievement. This past year, we exceeded the state benchmark in Mathematics, and we increased our English performance by 9% from the previous year. We have a school-wide focus on writing across content areas for this year that is intended to deepen student learning and accelerate student performance in English."

The status for Bessie Weller Elementary is listed as TBD. Because of the change in the accreditation ratings, this status will not be approved until the November Board of Education meeting. The school has applied for a rating of reconstituted school, based on a variety of changes that have occurred for this school year in the areas of governance, instructional program, and staff.

Superintendent Dr. Linda Reviea summarizes, "Staunton City Schools is committed to providing strong instructional programs for all students. The staff at our schools continue to reflect and refine their instructional practices, based on looking at data related to student performance. We will continue to work with families in examining student progress and achievement throughout the school year and providing a strong education matched with student needs."

School and division report cards with updated state and federal information may be accessed on the homepage of the Staunton City Schools website: <http://www.staunton.k12.va.us>. They may also be accessed by going directly to the Virginia Department of Education website.

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