



P. O. Box 900 • 116 W. Beverley Street
Staunton, Virginia 24402-0900
Phone 540-332-3920 • Fax 540-332-3924
www.staunton.k12.va.us

NEWS

August 14, 2012 – Preliminary SOL Scores and State Accreditation

CONTACT: Dr. Linda Reviea or Mrs. Stephanie Haskins

Phone: 332-3920 Fax: 332-3924

lreviea@staunton.k12.va.us; shaskins@staunton.k12.va.us

STAUNTON CITY SCHOOLS' PRELIMINARY SOL SCORES AND STATE ACCREDITATION

Staunton, VA, August 14, 2012 - This past year has brought much change in the accountability measures for school systems across the Commonwealth. The most visible change for students and staff during the 2011-2012 school year was the more rigorous Mathematics Standards of Learning Assessments. Dr. Patricia Wright, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, referred to the assessments as "challenging" and predicted that the change in mathematics assessments would have a "short-term impact on pass rates and the accountability ratings of schools and divisions." The 2011-2012 mathematics data starts a new "trend line" for the state, divisions, and schools. This new "trend line" will likely affect math accreditation ratings for many schools across the Commonwealth.

Based on a review of preliminary 2011-2012 data, all Staunton City Schools met the accreditation benchmarks in English, science and history. Staunton City Schools, like divisions across the Commonwealth, saw a decline in passing rates for mathematics. Bessie Weller Elementary will not meet the state accreditation benchmark for mathematics, but all other schools will meet the benchmark.

"I am encouraged by the strength of our scores overall," said Dr. Linda Reviea, Superintendent of Staunton City Schools. "While our scores dropped in math as predicted by Dr. Patricia Wright, teachers and central office staff are collaborating to ensure that our curriculum is aligned with the state standards. Staunton's history scores decreased in a similar manner when new standards were implemented and improved the next year, so I am confident we will see the same trend in mathematics."

Highlights of student performance include:

- English
 - Reading pass rates increased in one or more grade levels at all schools with pass rates as high as 94%
 - Writing pass rates were as high as 94%

- Math
 - Math passing rates declined in eight of nine tested grades/subjects due to the new standards and assessment
 - Algebra II pass rates remained at 80%

- Science
 - Five of six grade levels/subject areas had pass rates in the 90th percentile
 - Third grade science, eighth grade science and Earth Science had pass rates of 90%, 91% and 92% respectively

- History
 - History pass rates increased or remained the same in all grade levels/subject areas
 - Third grade overall pass rates increased by 10% from last year

- Division
 - English accreditation ratings for all schools exceed the 75% benchmark, with an overall division pass rate of 86%
 - Science accreditation ratings for all schools exceed the 70% benchmark, with an overall division pass rate of 89%
 - History accreditation ratings exceed the 70% benchmark, with an overall division pass rate of 80%

"We are pleased that many of our pass rates meet or exceed state benchmarks and averages," said Stephanie Haskins, Director of Assessment and School Improvement. "We have faced some challenges with the math assessments, and we will continue to face more as the state reading and science assessments change for the upcoming school year. We are embracing those challenges by using data to meet the specific needs of students."