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## **Staunton City Schools Sees Positive Trends in Accreditation Data**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 — Four Staunton City Schools remain accredited for the 2019-2020 school year, including Bessie Weller Elementary, T.C. McSwain Elementary, A.R. Ware Elementary, and Staunton High School. Shelburne Middle School is accredited with conditions.

Stephanie Haskins, Executive Director of Instruction commented, “We are seeing some positive trends in our 2018-2019 data that we definitely want to continue; we saw significant celebrations at *every* school. This year also marked the release of a new Mathematics assessment for all grades. The proactive work of our teachers in preparing for this new assessment and the hard work of our students really shows in the results.”

Examples include:

- Bessie Weller (who was not meeting accreditation as recently as 2016-17) is now exceeding the state average in Mathematics.
- McSwain was 100% in the “green” on the accreditation matrix, demonstrating the highest level of achievement to date and exceeding the state average in ALL areas.
- Ware virtually eliminated the achievement gap in reporting groups for Mathematics (with all groups falling in a range of 85-90%).
- Shelburne had the highest level of growth in Mathematics of any school in the division, with an overall increase of 15% points.
- Staunton High was 100% in the “green” on the accreditation matrix, increasing achievement in ALL areas of Mathematics; English students with disabilities; and attendance.

**[View a complete summary of the accreditation status for each school and data highlights.](#)**

Some of the key initiatives in Staunton City Schools contributing to achievement gains include an ongoing observation and feedback cycle for teachers; focus on educator recruitment, retention, and professional growth (i.e. SCS University); youth development (including the

Alternative to Suspension program); and inclusivity training (to ensure a welcoming environment for students, families, and staff).

Shelburne Middle School made significant gains in Mathematics, increasing by 15% points overall and meeting the benchmark in all reporting groups. Due to not meeting the benchmark in the area of English, the school will remain Accredited with Conditions and an Additional Targeted Assistance school for the 2019-2020 school year. The school has a school-wide focus on writing instruction and is incorporating reading strategies across the curriculum (such as note-taking and summarizing of nonfiction texts).

“We are pleased that our cycle of continuous school improvement is yielding positive results with student achievement,” said Dr. Garrett Smith, Superintendent of Staunton City Schools. “We have a very strong foundation in all three of our elementary schools and Staunton High School continues to move forward academically in the midst of an exciting new construction and renovation project.”

“Shelburne Middle School made tremendous gains in Math which allowed us to make accreditation in that area, but we still have some work to do in English, which is a combination of students’ reading and writing scores. Thanks to our School Board and City Council, we were able to add staff at Shelburne this year. That support, combined with a targeted, strategic plan for improvement, should ensure that all Staunton City Schools will meet full accreditation by the end of the 2019-20 school year.”

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