

# Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: J.

Date: July 28, 2011

**Topic:** First Review of Requests for Approval of Alternative Accreditation Plans from Bland County Public Schools, Colonial Beach Public Schools, Craig County Public Schools, Danville City Public Schools, Dickenson County Public Schools, Highland County Public Schools, Richmond City Public Schools, Scott County Public Schools and York County Public Schools for High Schools with a Graduation Cohort of Fifty (50) Students or Less

**Presenters:** Dr. Kathleen M. Smith, Director, Office of School Improvement, Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement

**Telephone Number:** (804) 225-2865

**E-Mail Address:** Kathleen.Smith@doe.virginia.gov

## Origin:

Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

Board review required by  
 State or federal law or regulation  
 Board of Education regulation  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Action requested at this meeting     Action requested at future meeting:

## Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action  
 Previous review/action  
date \_\_\_\_\_  
action \_\_\_\_\_

## Background Information:

Section 8 VAC 20-131.280.C. of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (SOA) states:

Subject to the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350, the governing school board of special purpose schools such as those provided for in § 22.1-26 of the Code of Virginia, Governor's schools, special education schools, alternative schools, or career and technical schools that serve as the student's school of principal enrollment may seek approval of an alternative accreditation plan from the Board of Education. Schools offering alternative education programs and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students as defined by the graduation rate formula adopted by the board may request that the board approve an alternative accreditation plan to meet the graduation and completion index benchmark. Special purpose schools with alternative accreditation plans shall be evaluated on standards appropriate to the programs offered in the school and approved by the board prior to August 1 of the school year for which approval is requested. Any student graduating from a special purpose school with a Standard, Advanced Studies, or Modified Standard Diploma must meet the requirements prescribed in 8 VAC 20-131-50.

## Summary of Major Elements:

The following school divisions request approval of an alternative accreditation plan for the high schools indicated below to meet the Graduation and Completion Index (GCI) benchmark for schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students. Only three of these schools (Colonial Beach High School, Ervington High School and York River Academy) had a GCI below 85 in 2010.

Name of School Division	Name of School(s) Submitting Alternative Accreditation Plan	2010 GCI Index
Bland County	Bland High	97
	Rocky Gap High	98
Colonial Beach City	Colonial Beach High	82
Craig County	Craig County High	89
Danville City	Galileo Magnet High	97
Dickenson County	Ervington High	83
Highland County	Highland High	98
Richmond City	Franklin Military Academy	94
	Open High	100
	Richmond Community High	99
	Amelia Street Special Education Center	100
Scott County	Twin Springs High	98
York County	York River Academy	81

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the GCI. For this reason, the GCI alone is not an appropriate measure for these schools; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation. Each school division is requesting a waiver to 8VAC 20-131-280 (as provided in the background information) of the SOA so that adjustments may be made to the accreditation calculations for accountability purposes. The following are being requested by each school division for the accreditation cycles for five years beginning in 2011:

1. The proposed alternative accreditation plan will be used only if the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation AND the cohort size for the graduating class is less than 50.
2. The maximum number of GCI bonus points allowable for alternative accreditation will be based upon the size of the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort as follows:
  - 0-14 students, no bonus points assigned: the school division will submit a written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
  - Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
  - Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
  - Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students
3. The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction will make the final determination if the school division appeals the GCI due to cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration.

Each school division has determined additional criteria and measurable thresholds for achieving bonus points based upon individual school data. Each school has submitted between three and six additional criteria, each of which is worth one bonus point if the benchmark is met. Descriptions of the additional criteria fall into the following categories:

- Advanced Diplomas earned by graduating cohort
- Advanced Placement course enrollment and/or Advanced Placement examination scores
- Completion of internships/mentorships
- Completion of service learning programs
- Career and Technical Education program completion, certification, and/or credential awards
- Dual Enrollment course enrollment
- Enrollment in higher level courses such as chemistry, calculus, and physics
- Post-High School status – postsecondary education, joining the military, full-time employment
- School earns Virginia Index of Performance points that qualify for an award
- SOL pass rates and/or SOL pass advanced pass rates

The proposed school plans are included as Attachments A-I.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Virginia Board of Education accept for first review the alternative accreditation plans from the nine (9) school divisions as presented.

**Impact on Resources:**

None

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION  
COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

*Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, (8 VAC 20-131-10 et. seq.) set the minimum standards public schools must meet to be accredited by the Board of Education. Accreditation of public schools is required by the Standards of Quality ( 22.1-253.13:1 et. seq.). The annual accrediting cycle for public schools is July 1 through June 30. This cover sheet, with the supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Department of Education for review and recommendation to the Board at least 90 days prior to August 1 of the school year in which the plan is to be implemented.*

8 VAC 20-131-280 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* states (in part):

*Subject to the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 . . . schools offering alternative education programs and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students as defined by the graduation rate formula adopted by the board may request that the board approve an alternative accreditation plan to meet the graduation and completion index benchmark. Special purpose schools with alternative accreditation plans shall be evaluated on standards appropriate to the programs offered in the school and approved by the board prior to August 1 of the school year for which approval is requested. Any student graduating from a special purpose school with a Standard, Advanced Studies, or Modified Standard Diploma must meet the requirements prescribed in 8 VAC 20-131-50.*

The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, states:

*Schools described in this section are those that serve as a student's school of principal enrollment and where students are reported in fall membership for the school. Fall membership determines whether or not these schools are subject to the provisions of the accrediting standards; therefore, schools reporting fall membership are subject to the provisions of the standards.*

*In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-330 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of these special purpose schools. Such requests may include an alternative accreditation plan. Applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least ninety days prior to August 1 of the school year. Requests for consideration must be accompanied by information that documents the need for approval of the request.*

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

*June 27, 2011*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved by the Local School Board

*Anthony Kennedy*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Chairman of the School Board

*June 28, 2011*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Submission Date

*John R. Rhodes*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Division Superintendent

**ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN  
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS**

**School Name: Bland High School**

**Division Name: Bland**

**School Address: 31 Rocket Drive**

**Contact Person: Temple Musser**

**Phone Number: (276) 688-3621**

**Email: [tmusser@bland.k12.va.us](mailto:tmusser@bland.k12.va.us)**

**Proposed Duration of Plan:** Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

**Grade Levels Served: 8 - 12**

**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade: Grade 8= 49, Grade 9= 27, Grade 10=40, Grade 11=35, Grade 12= 35**

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in 8 VAC 20-131-280 of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

**List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school's accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school's graduation rate.**

**(This will be different for each school. Use the sample indicators in the PowerPoint as a reference point. The Virginia Index of Performance may provide useful indicators that may be considered. This information can be found at:**

**[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics\\_reports/va\\_index\\_performance\\_awards/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/va_index_performance_awards/index.shtml))**

<b>Description of Additional Criteria</b>	<b>Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria</b>
GCI bonus for 80% pass rate for all of the EOC SOL's	+1
GCI bonus for when 75% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full-time job	+1
GCI bonus when 50% of the graduating students receive an industry certification or credential	+1
GCI bonus for increased attendance rate for graduating cohort	+1
GCI bonus for 30% of the graduating cohort receiving a pass advanced score on EOC reading or math	+1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

**III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.**

**Dr. Kyle Rhodes, Superintendent**  
**Nancy Bralley, Director of Instruction**  
**Temple Musser, Principal Bland High School**  
**Joe Makolandra, Principal Rocky Gap High School**  
**Shellie Hartley, Business Instructor**

**ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN  
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS**

**School Name:** Rocky Gap High School

**Division Name:** Bland County

**School Address:** P. O. Box 9 Rocky Gap, Virginia 24366

**Contact Person:** Joe Makolandra, Principal

**Phone Number:** (276) 928-1100

**Email:** jmakolandra@bland.k12.va.us

**Proposed Duration of Plan:** Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

**Grade Levels Served:** 8 - 12

**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:** Grade 8= 36, Grade 9= 42, Grade 10= 39, Grade 11= 38, Grade 12= 40

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in 8 VAC 20-131-280 of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

**List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school's accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school's graduation rate.**

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<b>Description of Additional Criteria</b>	<b>Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria</b>
GCI bonus for 80% pass rate for all of the EOC SOL's	+1
GCI bonus for when 75% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full-time job	+1
GCI bonus when 50 % of the graduating students receive an industry certification or credential	+1
GCI bonus for increased attendance rate for graduating cohort	+1
GCI bonus for 30% of the graduating cohort receiving a pass advanced score on EOC reading or math	+1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

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- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

**III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.**

**Dr. Kyle Rhodes, Superintendent**  
**Nancy Bralley, Director of Instruction/Asst. to Superintendent**  
**Joe Makolandra, Principal Rocky Gap High School**  
**Temple Musser, Principal, Bland High School**  
**Marlene Belcher, Counselor**

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION  
COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

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We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

June 30, 2011  
Date Approved by the Local School Board

July 6, 2011  
Submission Date

Timothy J. Jernett  
Signature, Chairman of the School Board

Dr. Edward M. Lauer  
Signature, Division Superintendent

**ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN  
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS**

**School Name: Colonial Beach High School**

**Division Name: Colonial Beach**

**School Address: 100 First Street, Colonial Beach, VA 22443**

**Contact Person: Dr. Donna M. Power**

**Phone Number: 804-224-0906**

**Email: dpower@cbschools.net**

**Proposed Duration of Plan: Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle**

**Grade Levels Served: 8-12**

**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – 47; 9<sup>th</sup> Grade – 57; 10<sup>th</sup> Grade – 34; 11<sup>th</sup> Grade - 46**

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in 8 VAC 20-131-280 of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

It is important to note that four-year cohort information was never recorded, as a dedicated data person was not hired until the 2010-2011 school year. Great efforts have been made to educate our technology department on the accurate input of data into PowerSchool, the student database, especially in the areas of special education, GED, and dropouts. With the hiring of a new superintendent in August of 2009, serious deficiencies in data entry were evidenced and a plan of corrective action was implemented in grades pre-k through 12. Over the last three years, the SAT reading scores went from 452 in 2009, to 482 in 2010, and 501 in 2011. The SAT writing scores went from 433 in 2009, to 437 in 2010, and 466 in 2011.

Additional Performance Criteria will be objective, measurable, and directly address the graduation rate. Data progress will be recorded quarterly and reported to the superintendent and the school board. Other changes that have been implemented to help raise the on-time graduation rate are listed below:

<b>Description of Additional Criteria</b>	<b>Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria</b>
GCI bonus when 50% or more of graduating students have taken chemistry, physics, and/or calculus	1
GCI bonus when 25% or more of graduating students have enrolled in AP and/or DE classes	1
GCI bonus when 25% or more of graduating students are CTE Completers	1
GCI bonus for increased percentage of students graduating with an Advanced Diploma	1
GCI bonus for increased percentage of students scoring advanced proficient on EOC reading, writing and/or math SOL assessments	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
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The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

**III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.**

**Dr. Donna M. Power, Kathleen F. Beane, and Clinton W. Runyan**

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION  
COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved by the Local School Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Chairman of the School Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Submission Date  
7/7/2011

*Rennie C. Gordon*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Division Superintendent

**ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN  
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS**

**School Name:** Craig County High School

**Division Name:** Craig County Public Schools

**School Address:** 25239 Craigs Creek Road, New Castle, Va. 24127

**Contact Person:** Dan Bowman

**Phone Number:** (540) 8645185

**Email:** dbowman@craig.K12.va.us

**Proposed Duration of Plan:** Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

**Grade Levels Served:** 6-12

**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:** 12<sup>th</sup> - 52, 11<sup>th</sup> - 53, 10<sup>th</sup> - 51, 9<sup>th</sup> - 51, 8<sup>th</sup> - 42, 7<sup>th</sup> - 59, 6<sup>th</sup> - 62

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in 8 VAC 20-131-280 of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

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Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
45% of students get a Pass Advance score on English, Math, or Science SOL	1
25% of enrolled students get a 3 or higher on AP exam	1
25% of CTE students have earned certification	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time

Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

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**III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.**

**Ron Gordon- Superintendent**

**Dan Bowman- High School Principal**

**Adele Morris- Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services**

**Scott Critzer- Director of Federal Programs and Testing**

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION  
COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

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We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

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Date Approved by the Local School Board

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Signature, Chairman of the School Board

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Submission Date

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Signature, Division Superintendent

**ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN  
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS**

**School Name:** Galileo Magnet High School

**Division Name:** Danville City

**School Address:** 230 South Ridge Street, Danville, VA 24541

**Contact Person:** Jay Lancaster

**Phone Number:** 434-773-8186

**Email:** jlancast@mail.dps.k12.va.us

**Proposed Duration of Plan:** Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

**Grade Levels Served:** 9-12

**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:**

Grade	Number of Students
9	58
10	61
11	78
12	59

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in 8 VAC 20-131-280 of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

**List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school's accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school's graduation rate.**

**(This will be different for each school. Use the sample indicators in the PowerPoint as a reference point. The Virginia Index of Performance may provide useful indicators that may be considered. This information can be found at:**

**[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics\\_reports/va\\_index\\_performance\\_awards/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/va_index_performance_awards/index.shtml)**)

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
Earn at least 80 VIP Achievement Index Points in English	1
Earn at least 80 VIP Achievement Index Points in Mathematics	1
At least 75% of graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full-time job	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

**III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.**

Dr. Sammy Shields, Director of Middle School Instruction and Accountability

Mr. Andrew Tyrrell, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Mr. Jay Lancaster, Principal of Galileo Magnet High School

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION  
COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

*Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, (8 VAC 20-131-10 et. seq.) set the minimum standards public schools must meet to be accredited by the Board of Education. Accreditation of public schools is required by the Standards of Quality ( 22.1-253.13:1 et. seq.). The annual accrediting cycle for public schools is July 1 through June 30. This cover sheet, with the supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Department of Education for review and recommendation to the Board at least 90 days prior to August 1 of the school year in which the plan is to be implemented.

8 VAC 20-131-280 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* states (in part):

*Subject to the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 . . . schools offering alternative education programs and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students as defined by the graduation rate formula adopted by the board may request that the board approve an alternative accreditation plan to meet the graduation and completion index benchmark. Special purpose schools with alternative accreditation plans shall be evaluated on standards appropriate to the programs offered in the school and approved by the board prior to August 1 of the school year for which approval is requested. Any student graduating from a special purpose school with a Standard, Advanced Studies, or Modified Standard Diploma must meet the requirements prescribed in 8 VAC 20-131-50.*

The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, states:

*Schools described in this section are those that serve as a student's school of principal enrollment and where students are reported in fall membership for the school. Fall membership determines whether or not these schools are subject to the provisions of the accrediting standards; therefore, schools reporting fall membership are subject to the provisions of the standards.*

*In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-330 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of these special purpose schools. Such requests may include an alternative accreditation plan. Applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least ninety days prior to August 1 of the school year. Requests for consideration must be accompanied by information that documents the need for approval of the request.*

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

7-13-11

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved by the Local School Board

*Juan B. Muller*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Chairman of the School Board

7-11-11

\_\_\_\_\_  
Submission Date

*Haydee L. Robinson*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Division Superintendent

**ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN  
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS**

**School Name:** Ervinton High School

**Division Name:** Dickenson County Public Schools

**School Address:** 123 Rebel Drive, Nora, VA 24272

**Contact Person:** Rodney Compton

**Phone Number:** 276-835-8604

**Email:** rlcompton@dickenson.k12.va.us

**Proposed Duration of Plan:** Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

**Grade Levels Served:** 8-12

**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:**

Grade 8-28
Grade 9-38
Grade 10-40
Grade 11-36
Grade 12-41

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in 8 VAC 20-131-280 of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
Have a combined percent of cohort students who dropped out or have unconfirmed status of 10 percent or less.	1
Percentage of high school students enrolled in one or more AP or dual enrollment courses meets or exceeds 25 percent.	1
GCI bonus when an 80% pass rate for all End of Course SOLs is achieved.	1
GCI bonus when 50% of students score advanced proficient on reading and math SOL assessments.	1
GCI bonus when 50% of cohort students receive CTE Industry Certification	1
Percentage of graduates earning an Advanced Studies diploma out of the total number of diplomas awarded meets or exceeds 50 percent	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted

- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

**III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.**

Haydee Robinson, Superintendent, [hrobinson@dickenson.k12.va.us](mailto:hrobinson@dickenson.k12.va.us), 276-926-4643  
Mike Setser, Supervisor of Compliance, [msetser@dickenson.k12.va.us](mailto:msetser@dickenson.k12.va.us), 276-926-4643  
Rodney Compton, Principal, [rcompton@dickenson.k12.va.us](mailto:rcompton@dickenson.k12.va.us), 276-835-8604

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN - GRADUATION  
COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

*Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, (8 VAC 20-131-10 et. seq.) set the minimum standards public schools must meet to be accredited by the Board of Education. Accreditation of public schools is required by the Standards of Quality (22.1-259.13:1 et. seq.). The annual accrediting cycle for public schools is July 1 through June 30. This cover sheet, with the supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Department of Education for review and recommendation to the Board at least 90 days prior to August 1 of the school year in which the plan is to be implemented.

8 VAC 20-131-280 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* states (in part):

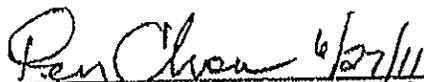
*Subject to the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 . . . schools offering alternative education programs and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students as defined by the graduation rate formula adopted by the board may request that the board approve an alternative accreditation plan to meet the graduation and completion index benchmark. Special purpose schools with alternative accreditation plans shall be evaluated on standards appropriate to the programs offered in the school and approved by the board prior to August 1 of the school year for which approval is requested. Any student graduating from a special purpose school with a Standard, Advanced Studies, or Modified Standard Diploma must meet the requirements prescribed in 8 VAC 20-131-50.*

The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, states:

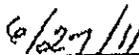
*Schools described in this section are those that serve as a student's school of principal enrollment and where students are reported in fall membership for the school. Fall membership determines whether or not these schools are subject to the provisions of the accrediting standards; therefore, schools reporting fall membership are subject to the provisions of the standards.*

*In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-330 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of these special purpose schools. Such requests may include an alternative accreditation plan. Applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least ninety days prior to August 1 of the school year. Requests for consideration must be accompanied by information that documents the need for approval of the request.*

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.



Date Approved by the Local School Board



Submission Date



Signature, Chairman of the School Board



Signature, Division Superintendent

**ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN  
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS**

**School Name:** Highland High School

**Division Name:** Highland County Public Schools

**School Address:** PO Box 430, Monterey, VA 24465

**Contact Person:** April Goff

**Phone Number:** 540-468-6322

**Email:** agoff@highland.k12.va.us

**Proposed Duration of Plan:** Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

**Grade Levels Served:** 6-12

**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:** Grade 6—18; Grade 7—19; Grade 8—17; Grade 9—22;

Grade 10—17; Grade 11—21; Grade 12--25

If Highland High School does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in 8 VAC 20-131-280 of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

**List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school's accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school's graduation rate.**

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
GCI bonus when 50 % or more of graduating students will have taken chemistry, anatomy/physiology, calculus, and/or physics.	1
GCI bonus when 50% or more of graduating students have scored advanced proficient on EOC reading, writing and/or math SOL assessments.	1
GCI bonus when 25% or more of graduating students have enrolled in AP and/or DE classes.	1
GCI bonus for increased percentage of graduating students receiving CTE certifications.	1
GCI bonus when Highland High School earns points for a VIP award.	1
GCI bonus when 75% or more of graduating students enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full time job.	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

**III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.**

**Mr. Percy C. Nowlin, retiring Superintendent**  
**Dr. William Crawford, incoming Superintendent**  
**Mrs. April Goff, Highland High School Principal**  
**Mrs. Mary G. Stephenson, Executive Director**

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION  
COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

*Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, (8 VAC 20-131-10 et. seq.) set the minimum standards public schools must meet to be accredited by the Board of Education. Accreditation of public schools is required by the Standards of Quality ( 22.1-253.13:1 et. seq.). The annual accrediting cycle for public schools is July 1 through June 30. This cover sheet, with the supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Department of Education for review and recommendation to the Board at least 90 days prior to August 1 of the school year in which the plan is to be implemented.

8 VAC 20-131-280 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* states (in part):

*Subject to the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 . . . schools offering alternative education programs and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students as defined by the graduation rate formula adopted by the board may request that the board approve an alternative accreditation plan to meet the graduation and completion index benchmark. Special purpose schools with alternative accreditation plans shall be evaluated on standards appropriate to the programs offered in the school and approved by the board prior to August 1 of the school year for which approval is requested. Any student graduating from a special purpose school with a Standard, Advanced Studies, or Modified Standard Diploma must meet the requirements prescribed in 8 VAC 20-131-50.*

The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, states:

*Schools described in this section are those that serve as a student's school of principal enrollment and where students are reported in fall membership for the school. Fall membership determines whether or not these schools are subject to the provisions of the accrediting standards; therefore, schools reporting fall membership are subject to the provisions of the standards.*

*In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-330 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of these special purpose schools. Such requests may include an alternative accreditation plan. Applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least ninety days prior to August 1 of the school year. Requests for consideration must be accompanied by information that documents the need for approval of the request.*

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

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Date Approved by the Local School Board

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Signature, Chairman of the School Board

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Submission Date

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Signature, Division Superintendent

**ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN  
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS**

**School Name:** Franklin Military Academy  
**Division Name:** Richmond Public Schools  
**School Address:** 701 North 37<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Richmond, VA 23223  
**Contact Person:** Victoria S. Oakley, Chief Academic Officer  
**Phone Number:** 804-780-7727  
**Email:** voakley@richmond.k12.va.us  
**Proposed Duration of Plan:** Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle  
**Grade Levels Served:** sixth, seventh, ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades  
 Eighth graders will start during the 2011-12 school year.

**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:**

Ninth Graders:	49	Sixth Graders	84
Tenth Graders:	58	Seventh Graders	79
Eleventh Graders:	36		
Twelfth Graders:	46		

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in 8 VAC 20-131-280 of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

**List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school’s accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school’s graduation rate.**

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
90% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full time job	1
Increase the percent of career and technical certifications, state licenses, or successful national occupational assessments	1
Increase the percent of students earning advanced studies diploma	1
Increase the percent of students scoring pass advanced on the English SOL assessments	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

**III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.**

Victoria S. Oakley	Chief Academic Officer
Thomas Beatty	Executive Director of Secondary Education
Maria Crenshaw	Director of Instruction
Sheron Carter-Gunter	Principal of Franklin Military Academy

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION  
COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

*Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, (8 VAC 20-131-10 et. seq.) set the minimum standards public schools must meet to be accredited by the Board of Education. Accreditation of public schools is required by the Standards of Quality ( 22.1-253.13:1 et. seq.). The annual accrediting cycle for public schools is July 1 through June 30. This cover sheet, with the supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Department of Education for review and recommendation to the Board at least 90 days prior to August 1 of the school year in which the plan is to be implemented.*

8 VAC 20-131-280 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* states (in part):

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The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, states:

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*In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-330 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of these special purpose schools. Such requests may include an alternative accreditation plan. Applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least ninety days prior to August 1 of the school year. Requests for consideration must be accompanied by information that documents the need for approval of the request.*

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

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Date Approved by the Local School Board

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Signature, Chairman of the School Board

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Submission Date

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Signature, Division Superintendent

**ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN  
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS**

**School Name:** Open High School  
**Division Name:** Richmond Public Schools  
**School Address:** 600 South Pine Street  
 Richmond, VA 23220  
**Contact Person:** Victoria S. Oakley, Chief Academic Officer  
**Phone Number:** 804-780-7727  
**Email:** voakley@richmond.k12.va.us  
**Proposed Duration of Plan:** Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle  
**Grade Levels Served:** ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades  
**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:**

Ninth Graders:	56
Tenth Graders:	40
Eleventh Graders:	53
Twelfth Graders:	40

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in 8 *VAC 20-131-280 of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.*

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

**List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school’s accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school’s graduation rate.**

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
90% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full time job	1
85% or more graduates earning Advanced Studies Diploma	1
60% or more graduates enrolled in advanced placement and/ or dual enrollment classes	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

**III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.**

Victoria S. Oakley	Chief Academic Officer
Thomas Beatty	Executive Director of Secondary Education
Maria Crenshaw	Director of Instruction
Candace Veney-Chaplin	Open High School

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION  
COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

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We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

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Date Approved by the Local School Board

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Signature, Chairman of the School Board

---

Submission Date

---

Signature, Division Superintendent

**ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN  
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS**

**School Name:** Richmond Community High School  
**Division Name:** Richmond Public Schools  
**School Address:** 201 E. Brookland Park Blvd.  
 Richmond, VA 23222  
**Contact Person:** Victoria S. Oakley, Chief Academic Officer  
**Phone Number:** 804-780-7727  
**Email:** voakley@richmond.k12.va.us  
**Proposed Duration of Plan:** Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle  
**Grade Levels Served:** ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades  
**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:**

Ninth Graders:	78
Tenth Graders:	70
Eleventh Graders:	56
Twelfth Graders:	62

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in 8 VAC 20-131-280 of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

**List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school's accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school's graduation rate.**

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
90% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full time job	1
60% or more graduates enrolled in advanced placement and/ or dual enrollment classes	1
50% of students having taken Calculus, Chemistry and Physics	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

**III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.**

Victoria S. Oakley  
Thomas Beatty  
Maria Crenshaw  
James Brown

Chief Academic Officer  
Executive Director of Secondary Education  
Director of Instruction  
Principal of Richmond Community High School

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION  
COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

*Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, (8 VAC 20-131-10 et. seq.) set the minimum standards public schools must meet to be accredited by the Board of Education. Accreditation of public schools is required by the Standards of Quality ( 22.1-253.13:1 et. seq.). The annual accrediting cycle for public schools is July 1 through June 30. This cover sheet, with the supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Department of Education for review and recommendation to the Board at least 90 days prior to August 1 of the school year in which the plan is to be implemented.

8 VAC 20-131-280 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* states (in part):

*Subject to the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 . . . schools offering alternative education programs and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students as defined by the graduation rate formula adopted by the board may request that the board approve an alternative accreditation plan to meet the graduation and completion index benchmark. Special purpose schools with alternative accreditation plans shall be evaluated on standards appropriate to the programs offered in the school and approved by the board prior to August 1 of the school year for which approval is requested. Any student graduating from a special purpose school with a Standard, Advanced Studies, or Modified Standard Diploma must meet the requirements prescribed in 8 VAC 20-131-50.*

The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, states:

*Schools described in this section are those that serve as a student's school of principal enrollment and where students are reported in fall membership for the school. Fall membership determines whether or not these schools are subject to the provisions of the accrediting standards; therefore, schools reporting fall membership are subject to the provisions of the standards.*

*In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-330 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of these special purpose schools. Such requests may include an alternative accreditation plan. Applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least ninety days prior to August 1 of the school year. Requests for consideration must be accompanied by information that documents the need for approval of the request.*

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

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Date Approved by the Local School Board

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Signature, Chairman of the School Board

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Submission Date

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Signature, Division Superintendent

**ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN  
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS**

**School Name:** Amelia Street School  
**Division Name:** Richmond Public Schools  
**School Address:** 1821 Amelia Street  
 Richmond, VA 23220  
**Contact Person:** Victoria S. Oakley, Chief Academic Officer  
**Phone Number:** 804-780-7727  
**Email:** voakley@richmond.k12.va.us  
**Proposed Duration of Plan:** Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle  
**Grade Levels Served:** PreK – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:**

Ninth Graders:	4
Tenth Graders:	2
Eleventh Graders:	4
Twelfth Graders:	11

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in 8 VAC 20-131-280 of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

**List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school’s accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school’s graduation rate.**

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria
No bonus points assigned due to cohort size. Amelia Street School will always have a cohort less than 15.	

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- 0-14 students: no bonus points assigned. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted
- Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
- Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
- Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

**III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.**

Victoria S. Oakley  
Maria Crenshaw  
Harley Tomey  
Evelyn Waddell

Chief Academic Officer  
Director of Instruction  
Director of Exceptional Education  
Principal of Amelia Street School

July 7, 2011

Dr. Patricia Wright  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Virginia Department of Education  
P.O. Box 2120  
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Dr. Wright:

Please consider this letter as an official appeal of the accreditation rating for graduation cohort sizes of less than fifteen students for Amelia Street School.

Amelia Street School is one of the continuum options for students with low incidence disabilities in Richmond City Public Schools. It is a center based program (Pre-K – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) that provides intensive services in a public day setting. Intensive services that are available for students include: Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech/Language Therapy, Adaptive Physical Education, Music Therapy, and Vision and Hearing Services. Students attending this public day setting have disabilities such as: Autism (AUT), Intellectual Disabilities (ID), Severe Disabilities and Multiple Disabilities (MD) with varying degrees of severity. Many of these students are medically fragile. These students may also be non-verbal, motorically involved and present with other disabilities including: hearing impairments, deafness, visual impairments and behavioral disorders. Due to the nature and severity of the disability, the student's IEP team has determined that the educational needs of the student can only be achieved in an intense and structured special education program in a public day school for students with disabilities.

Students attending this program stay in school through age 21 and graduate with either a certificate of completion or a special diploma. Therefore, these students do not complete high school within a four year period. All of the students in this program meet the criteria for participating in the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP).

Additionally, in calculating the Virginia Graduation and Completion Index (GCI), the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will "slide" the students with disabilities at Amelia Street School into the next year's cohort until they graduate with a certificate of completion or a special diploma.

Amelia Street School meets the criteria for accreditation rating for graduation cohort sizes of less than fifteen students with special circumstances. If you need additional information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Brandon  
Division Superintendent

Cc: Kathleen Smith, Director of School Improvement  
Virginia Department of Education

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

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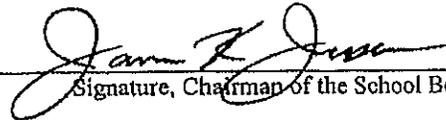
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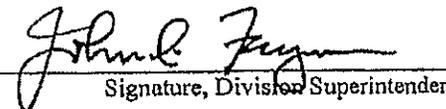
July 5, 2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved by the Local School Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Chairman of the School Board

July 7, 2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
Submission Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Division Superintendent

**ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN  
GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS**

**School Name: Twin Springs High School**

**Division Name: Scott**

**School Address: 273 Titan Lane**

**Contact Person: Sam Parks**

**Phone Number: 276 479 2185**

**Email: lori.flanary@scott.k12.va.us**

**Proposed Duration of Plan:** Three Years, including 2013-2014 accreditation cycle

**Grade Levels Served: 8-12**

**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade: 8<sup>th</sup> – 60; 9<sup>th</sup> – 66; 10<sup>th</sup>- 47; 11<sup>th</sup>-65; 12<sup>th</sup>-56**

If this school has a graduation cohort of fifty or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% GCI benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in 8 VAC 20-131-280 of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the Graduation and Completion Index alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

**List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school’s accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The Graduation and Completion Index cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school’s graduation rate.**

**(This will be different for each school. Use the sample indicators in the PowerPoint as a reference point. The Virginia Index of Performance may provide useful indicators that may be considered. This information can be found at:**

**[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics\\_reports/va\\_index\\_performance\\_awards/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/va_index_performance_awards/index.shtml)**)

<b>Description of Additional Criteria</b>	<b>Points Added to GCI for meeting criteria</b>
GCI bonus for 50% of students scoring advanced proficient on SOL assessments	1
GCI bonus for 25% of students enrolled in Dual Enrollment classes	1
GCI for 50% of graduates enrolling in post-secondary education, joining the military, or obtaining a full-time employment	1
GCI bonus for 25% of students receiving CTE certifications	1
GCI bonus for increasing the percentage of students graduating with an Advanced diploma	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the Graduation and Completion Index during one or more accreditation cycles over the next three years (through 2013-2014) only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students according to the On-Time

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**III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.**

**Sam Parks**  
**Lori Flanary**

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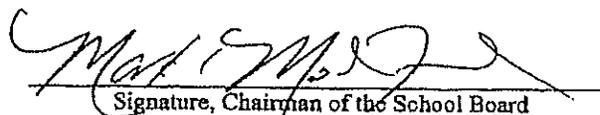
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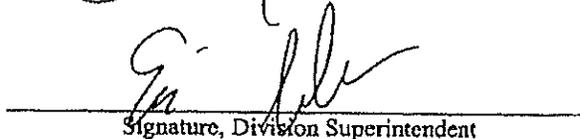
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6/27/11  
Date Approved by the Local School Board

  
Signature, Chairman of the School Board

June 30, 2011  
Submission Date

  
Signature, Division Superintendent



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**III. List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.**

- Mr. Walter Cross, York River Academy Principal
- Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, Director of Accountability and Instructional Services
- Dr. Kipp Rogers, Director of Secondary Instruction
- Dr. Stephanie Guy, Chief Academic Officer