

Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: I

Date: April 26, 2012

Title	Final Review of a Request from Carroll County Public Schools for Approval of an Alternative Accreditation Plan for Carroll County Public School's Virginia Virtual Academy (VAVA)		
Presenter	Ms. Anne D. Wescott, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communications Dr. James G. Smith, Superintendent, Carroll County Public Schools		
E-mail	Anne.Wescott@doe.virginia.gov	Phone	(804) 225-2403

Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

Previous Review or Action:

Previous review and action. Specify date and action taken below:

First review on November 17, 2011

Presentation to the Accountability Committee on March 21, 2012

Action Requested:

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

Alignment with Board of Education Goals: Please indicate (X) all that apply:

X	Goal 1: Expanded Opportunities to Learn
X	Goal 2: Accountability of Student Learning
	Goal 3: Nurturing Young Learners
	Goal 4: Strong Literacy and Mathematics Skills
	Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Teachers and Administrators
	Goal 6: Sound Policies for Student Success
	Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools
	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify:

Background Information and Statutory Authority:

This item addresses two of the Board of Education's goals. The request would expand the opportunities for Carroll County public school students to learn by establishing a full-time virtual school, while holding the school and the school division accountability for student learning.

Carroll County public schools serve approximately 400 students in grades K-8 through its Virginia Virtual Academy (VAVA). The students are currently enrolled in brick and mortar schools in the division, and the instruction is delivered to the students in their homes, through a contract that Carroll County has with a multidivision online provider that has been approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, pursuant to §§ 22.1-212.23 through 22.1-212.27 of the *Code of Virginia*.

The Carroll County school board proposes to create a separate school for students enrolled in VAVA. The school, like all other public schools in Virginia, must comply with the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (Standards of Accreditation) unless it is granted an alternative accreditation plan and waivers from the Board of Education, or it is exempt from specified provisions of the regulations by the *Code of Virginia*.

The Standards of Accreditation say, in 8 VAC 20-131-350:

8 VAC 20-131-350. Waivers.

Waivers of some of the requirements of these regulations may be granted by the Board of Education based on submission of a request from the division superintendent and chairman of the local school board. The request shall include documentation of the need for the waiver. In no event shall waivers be granted to the requirements of Part III ([8VAC20-131-30](#) et seq.) of these regulations except that the Board of Education may provide for the waiver of certain graduation requirements in [8VAC20-131-50](#) (i) upon the board's initiative or (ii) at the request of a local school board on a case-by-case basis. The board shall develop guidelines for implementing these requirements.

The Standards of Quality, in § 22.1-253.13:2 of the *Code of Virginia*, says: “When determining the assignment of instructional and other licensed personnel in subsections C through J, a local school board shall not be required to include full-time students of approved virtual school programs.”

Summary of Major Elements: Carroll County public schools requests waivers in the following areas:

- 8 VAC 20-131-150 – Standard instructional day of 5 ½ hours for grades 1-12 and three hours for kindergarten
- 8 VAC 20-131-90 – 140 hours of instruction in English, mathematics, science, and history/social science in the middle grades
- 8 VAC 20-131-190 – Library media, materials and equipment
- 8 VAC 20-131-200 – Extracurricular activities and recess
- 8 VAC 20-131-240 – Staffing requirements
- 8 VAC 20-131-260 – School facilities and safety

Standard Instructional Day of 5 ½ Hours for Grades 1-12 and Three Hours for Kindergarten

8 VAC 20-131-150. Standard school year and school day.

A. The standard school year shall be 180 instructional days. The standard school day for students in grades 1 through 12 shall average at least 5-1/2 instructional hours, excluding breaks for meals and recess, and a minimum of three hours for kindergarten.

B. All students in grades 1 through 12 shall maintain a full day schedule of classes (5-1/2 hours), unless a waiver is granted in accordance with policies defined by the local school board.

This provision of the Standards of Accreditation is based on § 22.1-98 of the *Code of Virginia* that requires: “The length of every school's term in every school division shall be at least 180 teaching days

or 990 teaching hours in any school year... unless there are severe weather conditions or other emergencies. The Carroll County waiver request states that the students enrolled in VAVA would meet the requirement for the 180 instructional days, as the instructional program would not be affected by school closures caused by severe weather conditions.

Carroll County public schools requests a waiver of the requirement for a 5 ½ hour day for students in grades 1-12, and three hours a day for students in kindergarten. Instead of the 5 ½ hour or three hour seat time requirement, the seat time for students enrolled in VAVA would be based on their mastery of the curriculum.

140 Hours of Instruction in English, Mathematics, Science, and History/Social Science in the Middle Grades

8 VAC 20-131-90. Instructional program in middle schools.

...D. To provide students a sufficient opportunity to learn, each student shall be provided 140 clock hours per year of instruction in each of the four disciplines of English, mathematics, science, and history/social science. Sixth grade students may receive an alternative schedule of instruction provided each student receives at least 560 total clock hours of instruction in the four academic disciplines

Carroll County requests a waiver of the requirement of 140 hours of instructional time in each of the four core academic disciplines of English, mathematics, science, and history/social science. Instead the seat time for students enrolled in VAVA would be based on their mastery of the curriculum.

Library Media, Materials and Equipment

8 VAC 20-131-190. Library media, materials and equipment.

A. Each school shall maintain an organized library media center as the resource center of the school and provide a unified program of media services and activities for students and teachers before, during, and after school. The library media center shall contain hard copy, electronic technological resources, materials, and equipment that are sufficient to meet research, inquiry, and reading requirements of the instructional program and general student interest

Carroll County public schools requests a waiver from the provision that the school have a library media center to serve as a resource to students in the school. Instead, it will provide a variety of online and hard copy materials and resources for the students.

Extracurricular Activities and Recess

8 VAC 20-131-200. Extracurricular and other school activities; recess.

A. School sponsored extracurricular activities shall be under the direct supervision of the staff and shall contribute to the educational objectives of the school. Extracurricular activities must be organized to avoid interrupting the instructional program. Extracurricular activities shall not be permitted to interfere with the student's required instructional activities.

Extracurricular activities and eligibility requirements shall be established and approved by the superintendent and the school board

C. Each elementary school shall provide students with a daily recess during the regular school year as determined appropriate by the school.

Carroll County requests a waiver from the requirement for daily recess in the elementary grades, and from the provision of traditional extracurricular activities. Instead, all students will be required to participate in 30 minutes of physical fitness activities, and will be able to participate in clubs and outings that are planned and supervised by the VAVA teachers.

Staffing Requirements

8 VAC 20-131-240. Administrative and support staff; staffing requirements.

...D. The counseling program for elementary, middle, and secondary schools shall provide a minimum of 60% of the time for each member of the guidance staff devoted to counseling of students

E. The middle school classroom teacher's standard load shall be based on teaching no more than 5/6 of the instructional day with no more than 150 student periods per day or 25 class periods per week

G. Middle or secondary school teachers shall teach no more than 750 student periods per week; however, physical education and music teachers may teach 1,000 student periods per week.

H. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections E, F, and G, each full-time middle and secondary classroom teacher shall be provided one planning period per day or the equivalent, unencumbered of any teaching or supervisory duties

J. Student services personnel as defined in the Standards of Quality shall be available as necessary to promote academic achievement and to provide support services to the school.

Carroll County requests a waiver of the requirement that 60 percent of the school counselor's time must be spent counseling students. It also requests a waiver of the requirements related to the teacher's standard load, which permits a planning period of one-sixth of the instructional day for teachers. It also requests a waiver of the staffing requirements for student services personnel. Carroll County has found that due to the nature of virtual education services, these requirements are not feasible. It should be noted that student services will be available for students enrolled in VAVA; only the staffing requirements for student services would be waived.

School Facilities and Safety

8 VAC 20-131-260. School facilities and safety.

A. Each school shall be maintained in a manner ensuring compliance with the Virginia Statewide Building Code ([13VAC5-63](#)). In addition, the school administration shall:

1. Maintain a physical plant that is accessible, barrier free, safe, and clean;
 2. Provide for the proper outdoor display of flags of the United States and of the Commonwealth of Virginia;
 3. Provide suitable space for classrooms, administrative staff, pupil personnel services, library and media services, and for the needs and safety of physical education;
 4. Provide adequate, safe, and properly-equipped laboratories to meet the needs of instruction in the sciences, technology, fine arts, and career and technical programs; and
 5. Provide facilities for the adequate and safe administration and storage of student medications.
- B. Each school shall maintain records of regular safety, health, and fire inspections that have been conducted and certified by local health and fire departments. The frequency of such inspections shall be determined by the local school board in consultation with the local health and fire departments. In addition, the school administration shall:
1. Equip all exit doors with panic hardware as required by the Virginia Statewide Building Code ([13VAC5-63](#)); and
 2. Conduct fire drills at least once a week during the first month of school and at least once each month for the remainder of the school term. Evacuation routes for students shall be posted in each room. Additionally, at least one simulated lock-down and crisis emergency evacuation activity should be conducted early in the school year.
- C. Each school shall have contingency plans for emergencies that include staff certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the Heimlich maneuver, and emergency first aid. In addition, the school administration shall ensure that the school has:
1. Written procedures to follow in emergencies such as fire, injury, illness, allergic reactions, and violent or threatening behavior. The plan shall be outlined in the student handbook and discussed with staff and students during the first week of each school year;
 2. Space for the proper care of students who become ill;
 3. A written procedure, in accordance with guidelines established by the local school board, for responding to violent, disruptive or illegal activities by students on school property or during a school sponsored activity; and
 4. Written procedures to follow for the safe evacuation of persons with special physical, medical, or language needs who may need assistance to exit a facility.

Carroll County requests a waiver of the provisions of the Standards of Accreditation related to school facilities and safety, as these requirements would not apply to a virtual school. Carroll County does have a student handbook that addresses topics such as the student code of conduct, immunization

requirements, guidelines for appropriate behavior, Internet safety, guidelines dealing with cyberbullying, and parent involvement.

Principal

Instead of a principal, Carroll County requests that the person in the leadership position be designated as “Head of School” in accordance with the provisions of § 22.1-212.26 of the *Code*, which says, in part: “The administrator of a virtual school program shall hold an advanced degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education with educational and work experience in administering educational programs.” The Head of School would assume all of the duties and responsibilities of the principal, as outlined in 8 VAC 20-131-210 of the Standards of Accreditation. This request is consistent with § 22.1-212.26 and would not appear to require a waiver of 8 VAC 20-131-210.

Timeline for Granting a Waiver Request

Waiver requests are usually made prior to the beginning of the school year in which the waiver would apply. However, the Standards of Accreditation do not specifically require that the waiver must be granted prior to the beginning of the school year. Therefore, it appears that the Board of Education would have the discretion to grant waivers to Carroll County for the 2011-2012 school year. This would require the waiver of all of the above regulations for school year 2011-2012. In addition, there are two standards that would need to be waived for 2011-2012 only. These are:

Instruction in Health and Physical Education in the Elementary and Middle Grades

8 VAC 20-131-80. Instructional program in elementary schools.

A. The elementary school shall provide each student a program of instruction that corresponds to the Standards of Learning for English, mathematics, science, and history/social science. In addition, each school shall provide instruction in art, music, and physical education and health and shall require students to participate in a program of physical fitness during the regular school year in accordance with guidelines established by the Board of Education....

8 VAC 20-131-90. Instructional program in middle schools.

A. The middle school shall provide each student a program of instruction which corresponds to the Standards of Learning for English, mathematics, science, and history/social science. In addition, each school shall provide instruction in art, music, foreign language, physical education and health, and career and technical exploration and shall require students to participate in a program of physical fitness during the regular school year in accordance with guidelines established by the Board of Education....

Carroll County plans to require students enrolled in VAVA to participate in 30 minutes of physical fitness activities every day, as logged and submitted by the student’s learning coach (typically the student’s parent), but does not provide a program of physical education and health through the virtual school. However, it plans to do so beginning in the 2012-2013 school year.

Instruction in Career and Technical Exploration in the Middle Grades

8 VAC 20-131-90. Instructional program in middle schools.

...B. The middle school shall provide a minimum of eight courses to students in the eighth grade. English, mathematics, science, and history/social science shall be required. Four elective courses shall be available: level one of a foreign language, one in health and physical education, one in fine arts, and one in career and technical exploration.

Carroll County does not currently offer an elective course in career and technical exploration to its middle school students enrolled in VAVA, but plans to do so beginning in the 2012-2013 school year.

A copy of the revised waiver request is attached, along with strike-out version that shows the changes that were made to the original waiver request. Also attached are the 2010-2011 test results of students enrolled in VAVA and students enrolled in a traditional instructional program.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education approve an alternative accreditation plan with the following waiver requests, beginning in school year 2011-2012 and continuing until such time as the regulations governing the standards for the accreditation of public virtual schools, pursuant to HB 1215 (2012), become effective:

- 8 VAC 20-131-150 – Standard instructional day of 5 ½ hours for grades 1-12 and three hours for kindergarten
- 8 VAC 20-131-90 – 140 hours of instruction in English, mathematics, science, and history/social science in the middle grades
- 8 VAC 20-131-190 – Library media, materials and equipment
- 8 VAC 20-131-200 – Extracurricular activities and recess
- 8 VAC 20-131-240 – Staffing requirements
- 8 VAC 20-131-260 – School facilities and safety

The Superintendent of Public Instruction also recommends that the Board of Education approve an alternative accreditation plan with the following waiver requests on a one-time only basis, for school year 2011-2012:

- 8 VAC 20-131-80 and 8 VAC 20-131-90 – Instruction in health and physical education in the elementary and middle grades
- 8 VAC 20-131-90 – Instruction in career and technical exploration in the middle grades

Approving the waiver requests for 2011-2012 will allow the separate reporting of the Standards of Learning tests administered in 2011-12 that will generate state accreditation ratings and federal adequate yearly progress (AYP) ratings for 2012-2013. This action will serve to ensure that the virtual school is held accountable to the same accreditation requirements as all other public schools.

Impact on Resources:

The impact on resources is not expected to be significant.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Following the April 26, 2012, meeting, Department of Education staff will notify the School Board and the Superintendent of Carroll County Public Schools of the decision of the Board of Education.



Carroll County Public Schools

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Office of the Superintendent

April 16, 2012

Dr. Anne D. Wescott, Assistant Superintendent
Division of Policy and Communications
Department of Education
P. O. Box 2120
Richmond, VA 23218-2120

Dear Dr. Wescott:

Please find enclosed the revised waiver packet, including the original cover sheet and revised supporting documentation for requesting Approval of an Alternative Accreditation Plan for Carroll County Public School's Virginia Virtual Academy (VAVA) and for requesting waivers of certain accrediting standards under the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8 VAC 20-131-05 et seq.). The original waiver packet has been revised, eliminating the request for waivers of Physical Education (PE), physical fitness, health, career/technical exploration, and the 140-clock hours per year in each of the core areas and the alternate requirement of 560 hours in the total core. These requirements will be met for our virtual students.

For your convenience, two versions are included: 1) a red-font, strike-out version that indicates additions in red and deletions in strike-out format, and 2) a print-ready copy of the revised request, with all additions and deletions finalized.

Respectfully, we are requesting that our application for the approval of an Alternative Accreditation Plan for Carroll County Public School's Virginia Virtual Academy (VAVA) and the designated waivers become retroactively effective for the 2011-12 school year. This action will serve to ensure that our virtual school is held accountable to the same accreditation requirements as all other public schools.

Thank you for the assistance you have provided during the development of this application packet.

Sincerely,

James G. Smith
Division Superintendent

Brian E. Spencer
Chairman of the School Board
Carroll County Public Schools Division

"Education for All... Success for Everyone"

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF CERTAIN ACCREDITING STANDARDS
AND/OR APPROVAL
OF AN INNOVATIVE OR EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM

The *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8 VAC 20-131-05 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 the beginning of an accrediting cycle or the proposed implementation of the program or activity that precipitates the request for the waiver. The types of waivers available and the corresponding section of the standards are indicated below. Please attach additional sheets or information deemed appropriate. (The Board will consider this request in its monthly meeting and the superintendent or his designee **is required to appear** before the Board **in person** or **respond electronically** to explain a waiver request.)

SCHOOL DIVISION: Carroll County Public Schools Division (018)

TITLE OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY: Establishment of Virginia Virtual Academy of Carroll County Public Schools as a School

TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED:

- Approval of an Alternative to the Standard School Year and School Day (8 VAC 20-131-150)
- Approval of an Alternative Accreditation Plan (8 VAC 20-131-280.D)
- Approval of an Experimental Program (8 VAC 20-131-290.D)
- Approval of an Innovative Program (8 VAC 20-131-290.D)
- Approval of a Waiver of Other Provision(s) of the Standards (8 VAC 20-131-350)

SCHOOL(S) PARTICIPATING IN THE PROPOSED
PROGRAM/ACTIVITY

Virginia Virtual Academy (VAVA): A Program of Carroll County Public
Schools Division

8/9/2011
Date Approved by the Local School Board

Franklin J. Jett
Signature - Chairman of the School Board

8/29/2011
Submission Date

[Signature]
Signature - Division Superintendent

SCHOOL DIVISION: Carroll County Public Schools Division (018)

TITLE OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY: Establishment of Virginia Virtual Academy of Carroll County Public Schools as a School

1. DESCRIBE THE WAIVER REQUESTED, INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF THE APPLICABLE PROGRAM, THE GRADES SERVED, DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION DESCRIBING THE STUDENTS WHO WILL BE PARTICIPATING, AND OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION.

The School Board of the Carroll County Public Schools Division is interested in the administrative designation of our Virginia Virtual Academy (VAVA) Program as a separate school, under the auspices of the Carroll County Public Schools Division, and is therefore requesting two types of waivers: Approval of an Alternative to the Standard (School Year and School Day (8 VAC 20-131-150) and Approval of a Waiver of Other Provisions of the Standards (8 VAC 20-131-350). Specific provisions of the Standards of Accreditation for which we are seeking waivers and a rationale for each are outlined in Section 2 below. Provisions of the Standards for which we are seeking waivers deal primarily with elements that are not consistent with virtual, online education such as length of the instructional day, staffing patterns, and facility requirements.

Waivers of provisions ensuring student achievement expectations, core program of instruction, and expectations for school accountability are not being requested. Establishing our Virginia Virtual Academy Program as a separate school ensures that this academy and the vendor providing online instructional services will be held to the same high level of expectations and accountability as a traditional brick and mortar school. As an online, virtual school, VAVA will be expected to meet all of the Standards outlined in the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* and the *Standards of Quality*, other than the ones for which we are requesting waivers.

The Virginia Virtual Academy (VAVA): A Program of Carroll County Public Schools Division serves approximately 400 students in grades kindergarten through grade eight from both within and outside the geographical boundaries of the school division. The student population represents a diverse range of students, including various ethnicities, economic levels, and special needs. This program offers a full-time program of grade level coursework through an online environment. It was approved as a multidivision online provider by the Virginia Board of Education in June 2011.

Currently, these 400 students are randomly distributed among the Carroll County brick and mortar schools based on a pro rated percentage of school membership. Test results for the VAVA students are embedded within each brick and mortar school and are not reported separately. Therefore, the SOL results and all accountability ratings of each brick and mortar school are skewed based upon VAVA students' results.

The program is designed as a public school alternative for students who were previously home schooled, attended private school, or who seek an alternative to the traditional brick and mortar learning environment but who want to receive a public school education in Virginia. Students are enrolled as full-time students in Carroll County Public Schools Division and pursue a rigorous curriculum aligned to the Virginia Standards of Learning. Instruction is delivered through an online, virtual environment. All of the VAVA students participate in the Virginia Assessment Program appropriate to their grade level.

2. IF YOU ARE SEEKING A WAIVER OF A PROVISION OF THE *STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION* OR ANOTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULATION, CITE THE SPECIFIC REGULATION TO BE WAIVED, AND EXPLAIN THE RATIONALE FOR SEEKING A WAIVER FROM THE REGULATION.

A. Waiver of Requirement of Timeline in Submitting Waivers for 2011-12 School Year.

We request that the waivers submitted in this application be retroactive to July 1, 2011 and be approved for the 2011-12 school year, along with the reclassification of the Virginia Virtual Academy of Carroll County Public Schools as a separate school entity. Since this is a virtual, online mode of instructional delivery, VAVA as a school entity of its own would not be hindered by structural or facility-based requirements that have to be met. Therefore, we are requesting a waiver of the timeline requiring submission of the application 90 days prior to the July 1, 2011 beginning of the accountability year 2011-12. This would ensure that accountability requirements and Standards of Accreditation are met for the Virginia Virtual Academy Program of Carroll County for 2011-12 and would ensure that the other 10 Carroll County Public Schools receive appropriate 2012-13 accountability and accreditation ratings based on the 2011-12 performance of their brick and mortar students, rather than on performance of virtual students to whom they do not provide direct or indirect services.

B. Waiver of Alternative to the Standard (School Year) and School Day (8 VAC 20-131-150).

We are not requesting a waiver to the standard school year of 180 instructional days. The Virginia Virtual Academy of Carroll County will operate on the traditional 180 instructional day calendar. However, we are requesting a waiver of the required 5.5 instructional hours per day for students in grades 1 through 12 and 3 instructional hours per day for kindergarten students due to the one-on-one instructional delivery and high time-on-task characteristic of virtual learning. Students who are receiving instruction in a virtual, online setting are able to progress through the daily lessons more quickly than the brick and mortar setting. They are not affected by time devoted to class change, disruptions to the learning environment due to non-instructional tasks or management of student behavior, and attendance and procedural routines included in the traditional brick and mortar classroom.

In addition, students in a virtual learning setting are not affected by school closures due to inclement weather. Carroll County Public Schools Division may miss, on the average, fifteen to twenty days of school due to bad weather. However, virtual students continue with their instruction during those days. Therefore, student progress of virtual students is based on mastery of content rather than daily seat time. Rather than an emphasis given to daily 5.5 instructional hours of seat time, emphasis will be given to monitoring coverage of the curriculum, percent mastery of the curriculum covered, results of ongoing assessments and benchmark testing consistent with brick and mortar requirements, and successful performance on the Virginia SOL Assessments. Students are still required to meet the total number of contact hours, as required in the brick and mortar setting.

The emphasis on mastery learning based on the Virginia Standards of Learning, results of formative assessments and benchmark testing, equivalent number of total contact hours required, and on-going monitoring of student progress rather than a focus on the 5.5 hours of daily seat time is expected to result in increased student achievement of the virtual students.

C. Waiver of Other Provision(s) of the Standards (8 VAC 20-131-350).

We are requesting waivers of certain provisions of the Standards based on the nature of virtual, online education in contrast with the traditional brick and mortar mode of schooling and instruction. These provisions of specific standards for which we are requesting waivers are identified below, along with a rationale for each.

C.1. Waiver of 8 VAC 20-131-190. Library Media, Materials, & Equipment.

We are requesting a waiver of the provision related to section A, "Maintaining an organized library media center," based on being non-applicable for online, virtual learning programs. VAVA students are provided online and hard-copy access to a variety of materials and resources that support the instructional program. In addition, they are provided access to online research and reference documents through the internet. All students and their parents also have access to their public libraries.

C.2. Waiver of 8 VAC 20-131-200. Extracurricular and Other School Activities, Recess.

We are requesting a waiver for the traditional provision related to daily recess for elementary schools and traditional provisions for extracurricular activities, based on the nature of online schooling. Due to a flexible schedule, students are able and encouraged to participate in daily physical activities. Parents log in hours of physical fitness completed by their students on a weekly basis. This can be sports, physical fitness, activities around the house, or other physically-based activities. VAVA students have clubs and bi-monthly outings that are available for all to attend and are organized, planned, and supervised by VAVA teachers, staff, and parents.

C. 3. Waiver of 8 VAC 20-131-240. Administrative and Support Staff & Staffing Requirements.

Currently, 100% of VAVA teachers are highly qualified, licensed by the Virginia Board of Education, and endorsed in the content area they will teach. All teachers meet the requirements set forth in the Code of Virginia with respect to background, fingerprint, and conviction checks. Therefore, a waiver of this provision is not requested.

However, we are requesting a waiver of the provisions related to other staffing requirements outlined in this Standard, including teacher-to-student ratio, number of student periods per day and per week, the 60% counseling requirement, the planning period requirement, and student services staffing requirements. Due to the nature of online, virtual education services, these requirements designed for traditional brick and mortar buildings, are not feasible and applicable to an online, virtual environment.

C. 4. Waiver of 8 VAC 20-131-260. School Facilities and Safety.

We are requesting a waiver of the facility-based provisions in this Standard due to being non-applicable to virtual, online education. The provisions for which we are requesting a waiver in this Standard are: maintenance of a school in compliance

with Virginia Statewide Building Code (13-VAC 5-63) and maintenance of inspections.

VAVA does meet Section C of the Standard. The Virginia Virtual Academy of Carroll County does have a student handbook, *Virginia Virtual Academy Parent/Student School Handbook*, outlining VAVA policies and procedures that include, but are not limited to, guidelines for appropriate behavior, student code of conduct, immunization requirements, internet safety, guidelines for dealing with cyber bullying, and parent involvement.

Request for "Head of School" to Assume Responsibilities of Role of Principal as outlined in 8 VAC 20-131-210. Role of the Principal

As allowed by recent Virginia legislation, the Virginia Virtual Academy of Carroll County has a "Head of School" rather than a principal designated as providing instructional leadership and school management. Pursuant to §22.1-212.26B of the *Code of Virginia*, "The administrator of a virtual school program shall hold an advanced degree from a regionally-accredited institution of higher education with educational and work experience in administering educational programs." However, in order to ensure appropriate accountability, it is requested that the "Head of School" assume all responsibilities and duties of a principal as outlined in 8 VAC 20-131-210. In this way, the Standard is met.

3. EXPLAIN HOW AND WHY APPROVAL OF THIS REQUEST WOULD BENEFIT STUDENTS.

Approval of this request for the establishment of VAVA as a school and the request for the waivers outlined above will place the appropriate level of responsibility for meeting the accountability measures and standards for a public school, as outlined in *Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* and the *Standards of Quality*, on the vendor providing virtual, online instructional services. This will ensure that the focus of the program is on providing a rigorous curriculum aligned to the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL); a program of instruction designed to ensure a high level of academic performance for all students; full participation in the Virginia Assessment Program; effective supervision and management of the virtual, online program; highly qualified personnel; ongoing monitoring of student progress; and effective parent and community communication. The inclusion of a biennial plan consistent with the division comprehensive plan will ensure strategic planning and continuous improvement.

Virtual, online students would be assured of receiving a well-balanced curriculum that is aligned to the Virginia SOL, instruction based on high expectations and designed to meet their individual needs, and assurance that they are receiving quality education consistent with Virginia Standards of Accreditation and Standards of Quality.

Results of the Spring 2011 SOL Assessments, as shown on the attachment, indicate that traditional brick and mortar students in Carroll County Public Schools Division are out-performing students in the Virginia Virtual Academy in the areas of middle school math and history/social sciences. Results for VAVA students in reading and science are consistent with Carroll County brick and mortar schools. Currently, since VAVA is not a separate school entity, VAVA student results from the Virginia Assessment Program are embedded within each brick and mortar Carroll County school, rather than assigned to the Virginia Virtual Academy Program.

If VAVA were set up as a separate school under the auspices of Carroll County Public Schools, VAVA student performance on the Virginia Assessment Program assessments would become a clear measure of the success of the online, virtual approach to education for the students involved in the program and would be used as one measure of determining areas for improvement. As one parent of two children in the VAVA Program stated, "It is not only a performance level indicator for my children; it is also a validation of the curriculum and the instruction they are receiving."

4. IF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM IS EXPERIMENTAL OR INNOVATIVE, EXPLAIN HOW THIS IS SO AND PROVIDE A PROGRAM DESCRIPTION, INCLUDING:

- 1) THE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM;
- 2) DESCRIPTION AND DURATION OF THE PROGRAM;
- 3) ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES;
- 4) NUMBER OF STUDENTS AFFECTED;
- 5) EVALUATION PROCEDURES; AND
- 6) MECHANISMS FOR MEASURING GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT THAT WILL BE EXPECTED AS A RESULT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM/ACTIVITY.

Not Applicable

5. DOES THE EXPERIMENTAL OR INNOVATIVE PROGRAM REQUIRE THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS TO OPEN

PRIOR TO LABOR DAY?

YES NO

IF YES, EXPLAIN WHY THE SCHOOLS ARE REQUIRED TO OPEN PRIOR TO LABOR DAY.

N/A

6. IF THE PROGRAM IS EXPERIMENTAL, INCLUDE INFORMATION THAT EXPLAINS WHY THERE IS REASON TO EXPECT THAT THE PROGRAM WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

N/A

7. DESCRIBE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF THE WAIVER.

The requested waivers will support the nature of virtual, online learning by adapting the Standards to reflect a better fit between the virtual, online environment and the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia. The Standards were developed originally for a traditional brick and mortar model of education. The waivers requested are only the ones necessary to reflect the nature of virtual, online teaching and learning, while still maintaining a rigorous curriculum, high expectations for students, accountability, and a quality educational system.

Establishing our Virginia Virtual Academy Program as a separate school with the requested waivers ensures that this academy and the vendor providing online instructional services will be held to the same high level of expectations and accountability as a traditional brick and mortar school. As an online, virtual school, VAVA will be expected to meet all of the Standards outlined in the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* and the *Standards of Quality*, other than the ones for which we are requesting waivers. VAVA student results from the Virginia Assessment Program will no longer be required to be embedded within each brick and mortar Carroll County school, but will be reported as a separate school under the name of Carroll County Virginia Virtual Academy.

8. DESCRIBE THE PROCESS THAT WILL BE USED TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WAIVER.

The effectiveness of the waivers will be based on the Carroll County Virginia Virtual Academy meeting all accountability standards outlined in the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* and the *Standards of Quality*.

Questions should be directed to the Division of Policy and Communications at (804) 225-2092, or by e-mail to policydata@doe.virginia.gov. This application and supporting documentation must be sent to:

Division of Policy and Communications
Department of Education
P. O. Box 2120
Richmond, VA 23218-2120

Carroll County Public Schools Division
Spring 2011 Non-Writing *Regular SOL Test Results
Comparison of CCPS Traditional ~ Virtual Academy and Impact

DIVISION LEVEL

Test/Grade	Virtual Academy (VAVA)			CCPS Brick & Mortar (*Does not include VAAP, VGLA, VSEP)			Combined (Virtual & CCPS)			
	# Tested	# Pass	% Pass	# Tested	# Pass	% Pass	# Tested	# Pass	% Pass	Impact on CCPS
Reading 3	33	25	76%	291	244	84%	324	269	83%	-1
Reading 4	39	33	85%	301	250	83%	340	283	83%	0
Reading 5	34	25	74%	292	256	88%	326	281	86%	-2
Reading 6	48	41	85%	306	269	88%	354	310	88%	0
Reading 7	36	29	81%	291	257	88%	327	286	87%	-1
Reading 8	42	37	88%	215	183	85%	257	220	86%	+1
Math 3	33	23	70%	295	264	89%	328	287	88%	-1
Math 4	38	30	79%	301	247	82%	339	277	82%	0
Math 5	35	20	57%	292	234	80%	327	254	78%	-2
Math 6	47	30	64%	293	244	83%	340	274	81%	-2
Math 7	34	12	35%	197	134	68%	231	146	63%	-5
Math 8	25	13	52%	268	215	80%	293	228	78%	-2
Science 3	33	23	70%	291	260	89%	324	283	87%	-2
Science 5	34	20	59%	295	242	82%	329	262	80%	-2
Science 8	42	37	88%	190	170	89%	232	207	89%	0
History 3 History/Social Science	33	14	42%	291	230	79%	324	244	75%	-4
History 4 VA Studies	39	24	62%	301	253	84%	340	277	81%	-3
History 5 US History I	35	11	31%	289	201	70%	324	212	64%	-6
History 6 US History II	47	32	68%	184	169	92%	231	201	87%	-5
History 7 Civics/Economics	40	25	63%	175	154	88%	215	179	83%	-5
Algebra I	30	20	67%	231	216	94%	261	236	90%	-4
Algebra II	1	1	100%	95	84	88%	96	85	89%	+1
Geometry	1	1	100%	239	200	84%	240	201	84%	0
Earth Science	10	7	70%	144	116	81%	154	123	80%	-1
World History I	40	25	63%	123	93	76%	163	118	72%	-4
World History II	10	4	40%	227	137	60%	237	141	59%	-1

*Results do not include alternative and alternate testing such as VAAP and VGLA and do not include transfer adjustments.

SCHOOL DIVISION: Carroll County Public Schools Division (018)

TITLE OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY: Establishment of Virginia Virtual Academy of Carroll County Public Schools as a School

1. DESCRIBE THE WAIVER REQUESTED, INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF THE APPLICABLE PROGRAM, THE GRADES SERVED, DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION DESCRIBING THE STUDENTS WHO WILL BE PARTICIPATING, AND OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION.

The School Board of the Carroll County Public Schools Division is interested in the administrative designation of our Virginia Virtual Academy (VAVA) Program as a separate school, under the auspices of the Carroll County Public Schools Division, and is therefore requesting two types of waivers: Approval of an Alternative to the Standard (School Year and School Day (8 VAC 20-131-150) and Approval of a Waiver of Other Provisions of the Standards (8 VAC 20-131-350). Specific provisions of the Standards of Accreditation for which we are seeking waivers and a rationale for each are outlined in Section 2 below. Provisions of the Standards for which we are seeking waivers deal primarily with elements that are not consistent with virtual, online education such as length of the instructional day, staffing patterns, and facility requirements.

Waivers of provisions ensuring student achievement expectations, core program of instruction, and expectations for school accountability are not being requested. Establishing our Virginia Virtual Academy Program as a separate school ensures that this academy and the vendor providing online instructional services will be held to the same high level of expectations and accountability as a traditional brick and mortar school. As an online, virtual school, VAVA will be expected to meet all of the Standards outlined in the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* and the *Standards of Quality*, other than the ones for which we are requesting waivers.

The Virginia Virtual Academy (VAVA): A Program of Carroll County Public Schools Division serves approximately 400 students in grades kindergarten through grade eight from both within and outside the geographical boundaries of the school division. The student population represents a diverse range of students, including various ethnicities, economic levels, and special needs. This program offers a full-time program of grade level coursework through an online environment. It was approved as a multidivision online provider by the Virginia Board of Education in June 2011.

Currently, these 400 students are randomly distributed among the Carroll County brick and mortar schools based on a pro rated percentage of school membership. Test results for the VAVA students are embedded within each brick and mortar school and are not reported separately. Therefore, the SOL results and all accountability ratings of each brick and mortar school are skewed based upon VAVA students' results.

The program is designed as a public school alternative for students who were previously home schooled, attended private school, or who seek an alternative to the traditional brick and mortar learning environment but who want to receive a public school education in Virginia. Students are enrolled as full-time students in Carroll County Public Schools Division and pursue a rigorous curriculum aligned to the Virginia Standards of Learning. Instruction is delivered through an online, virtual environment. All of the VAVA students participate in the Virginia Assessment Program appropriate to their grade level.

2. IF YOU ARE SEEKING A WAIVER OF A PROVISION OF THE *STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION* OR ANOTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULATION, CITE THE SPECIFIC REGULATION TO BE WAIVED, AND EXPLAIN THE RATIONALE FOR SEEKING A WAIVER FROM THE REGULATION.

A. Waiver of Requirement of Timeline in Submitting Waivers for 2011-12 School Year.

We request that the waivers submitted in this application be retroactive to July 1, 2011 and be approved for the 2011-12 school year, along with the reclassification of the Virginia Virtual Academy of Carroll County Public Schools as a separate school entity. Since this is a virtual, online mode of instructional delivery, VAVA as a school entity of its own would not be hindered by structural or facility-based requirements that have to be met. Therefore, we are requesting a waiver of the timeline requiring submission of the application 90 days prior to the July 1, 2011 beginning of the accountability year 2011-12. This would ensure that accountability requirements and Standards of Accreditation are met for the Virginia Virtual Academy Program of Carroll County for 2011-12 and would ensure that the other 10 Carroll County Public Schools receive appropriate 2012-13 accountability and accreditation ratings based on the 2011-12 performance of their brick and mortar students, rather than on performance of virtual students to whom they do not provide direct or indirect services.

B. Waiver of Alternative to the Standard (School Year) and School Day (8 VAC 20-131-150).

We are not requesting a waiver to the standard school year of 180 instructional days. The Virginia Virtual Academy of Carroll County will operate on the traditional 180 instructional day calendar. However, we are requesting a waiver of the required 5.5 instructional hours per day for students in grades 1 through 12 and 3 instructional hours per day for kindergarten students due to the one-on-one instructional delivery and high time-on-task characteristic of virtual learning. Students who are receiving instruction in a virtual, online setting are able to progress through the curriculum daily lessons more quickly than the brick and mortar setting. They are not affected by time devoted to class change, disruptions to the learning environment due to non-instructional tasks or management of student behavior, and attendance and procedural routines included in the traditional brick and mortar classroom.

In addition, students in a virtual learning setting are not affected by school closures due to inclement weather. Carroll County Public Schools Division may miss, on the average, fifteen to twenty days of school due to bad weather. However, virtual students continue with their instruction during those days. Therefore, student progress of virtual students is based on mastery of content rather than daily seat time. Rather than an emphasis given to daily 5.5 instructional hours of seat time, emphasis will be given to monitoring coverage of the curriculum, percent mastery of the curriculum covered, results of ongoing assessments and benchmark testing consistent with brick and mortar requirements, and successful performance on the Virginia SOL Assessments. Students are still required to meet the total number of contact hours, as required in the brick and mortar setting.

The emphasis on mastery learning based on the Virginia Standards of Learning, results of formative assessments and benchmark testing, equivalent number of total contact hours required, and on-going monitoring of student progress rather than a focus on the 5.5 hours of daily seat time is expected to result in increased student achievement of the virtual students.

C. Waiver of Other Provision(s) of the Standards (8 VAC 20-131-350).

We are requesting waivers of certain provisions of the Standards based on the nature of virtual, online education in contrast with the traditional brick and mortar mode of schooling and instruction. These provisions of specific standards for which we are requesting waivers are identified below, along with a rationale for each.

C.1. Waiver of 8 VAC 20-131-80. Instructional Program—Elementary Schools.

Physical Education, Physical Fitness, and Health

We are requesting a waiver of health/physical education and physical fitness based on the nature of virtual, online delivery mode of instruction and the emphasis on the four core areas of English, mathematics, history, and science. However, VAVA parents do log in hours of physical fitness activities completed by their students on a weekly basis. This 30-minute per day activity can be sports, physical fitness, activities around the house, or other physically-based activities. There is not a separate physical education or health course offered at this time. We are aware that the Code of Virginia requires that physical education and health be incorporated into the elementary program of instruction for students (§22.1-200, 22.1-207, 22.1-253.13:1 C & D13.) However, based on the nature of virtual, online education and the 30-minute per day requirement of physical fitness activities, logged and submitted by the Learning Coach, we are requesting that these requirements be considered met and that traditional instruction in PE and in health, as offered in the brick and mortar schools, be waived.

C.2. Waiver of 8 VAC 20-131-90. Instructional Program—Middle Schools.

Physical Education, Physical Fitness, and Career/Technical Exploration

We are requesting a waiver of certain provisions related to physical education, physical fitness, and career and technical exploration based on the nature of virtual, online delivery mode of instruction. For physical fitness, VAVA parents do log in hours of physical fitness activities completed by their students on a weekly basis. This 30-minute per day activity can be sports, physical fitness, activities around the house, or other physically-based activities. There is not a separate physical education or health course offered at this time. We are aware that the Code of Virginia requires that physical education and health be incorporated into the program of instruction for middle school students (22.1-207 and 22.1-253.13:1 C.) However, based on the nature of virtual, online education and the 30-minute per day requirement of physical fitness activities, logged and submitted by the Learning Coach, we are requesting that these requirements be considered met and that traditional instruction in PE and in health, as offered in the brick and mortar schools, be waived.

An Academic & Career Plan will be developed for each VAVA student in grade seven, to be completed by the fall of their eighth grade year. However, a career and technical exploration course is not provided by the virtual program at this time. The possibility of a course designed to meet this need is being discussed with the vendor providing the online program offerings.

Other Elective Areas

~~We are not requesting a waiver for art, music and foreign language. Art, music, and foreign languages (Spanish, German, French, and Latin) are available as electives to any student, free of charge.~~

~~We are requesting a waiver of the provision requiring 140 clock hours per year in each of the core areas and alternate 6th grade requirement of 560 hours in the total core due to the nature of virtual, online delivery mode of instruction. Students who are receiving instruction in a virtual, online setting are able to progress through the curriculum more quickly than the brick and mortar setting due to the one-on-one instructional delivery, lack of interruptions, and increased focus and time on-task. Instead, emphasis will be given to monitoring coverage of the curriculum, percent mastery of the curriculum covered, results of ongoing assessments and benchmark testing consistent with brick and mortar requirements, and successful performance on the Virginia SOL Assessments.~~

C.3.1. Waiver of 8 VAC 20-131-190. Library Media, Materials, & Equipment.

We are requesting a waiver of the provision related to section A, “Maintaining an organized library media center,” based on being non-applicable for online, virtual learning programs. VAVA students are provided online and hard-copy access to a variety of materials and resources that support the instructional program. In addition, they are provided access to online research and reference documents through the internet. All students and their parents also have access to their public libraries.

C.4.2. Waiver of 8 VAC 20-131-200. Extracurricular and Other School Activities, Recess.

We are requesting a waiver for the traditional provision related to daily recess for elementary schools and traditional provisions for extracurricular activities, based on the nature of online schooling. Due to a flexible schedule, students are able and encouraged to participate in daily physical activities. Parents log in hours of physical fitness completed by their students on a weekly basis. This can be sports, physical fitness, activities around the house, or other physically-based activities. VAVA students have clubs and bi-monthly outings that are available for all to attend and are organized, planned, and supervised by VAVA teachers, staff, and parents.

C.5.3. Waiver of 8 VAC 20-131-240. Administrative and Support Staff & Staffing Requirements.

Currently, 100% of VAVA teachers are highly qualified, licensed by the Virginia Board of Education, and endorsed in the content area they will teach. All teachers meet the requirements set forth in the Code of Virginia with respect to background, fingerprint, and conviction checks. Therefore, a waiver of this provision is not requested.

However, we are requesting a waiver of the provisions related to other staffing requirements outlined in this Standard, including teacher-to-student ratio, number of student periods per day and per week, the 60% counseling requirement, the planning period requirement, and student services staffing requirements. Due to the nature of online, virtual education services, these requirements designed for traditional brick and mortar buildings, are not feasible and applicable to an online, virtual environment.

C.6.4. Waiver of 8 VAC 20-131-260. School Facilities and Safety.

We are requesting a waiver of the facility-based provisions in this Standard due to being non-applicable to virtual, online education. The provisions for which we are requesting a waiver in this Standard are: maintenance of a school in compliance with Virginia Statewide Building Code (13-VAC 5-63) and maintenance of inspections.

VAVA does meet Section C of the Standard. The Virginia Virtual Academy of Carroll County does have a student handbook, *Virginia Virtual Academy Parent/Student School Handbook*, outlining VAVA policies and procedures that include, but are not limited to, guidelines for appropriate behavior, student code of conduct, immunization requirements, internet safety, guidelines for dealing with cyber bullying, and parent involvement.

Request for “Head of School” to Assume Responsibilities of Role of Principal as outlined in 8 VAC 20-131-210. Role of the Principal

As allowed by recent Virginia legislation, the Virginia Virtual Academy of Carroll County has a “Head of School” rather than a principal designated as providing instructional leadership and school management. Pursuant to §22.1-212.26B of the *Code of Virginia*, “The administrator of a virtual school program shall hold an advanced degree from a regionally-accredited institution of higher education with educational and work experience in administering educational programs.” However, in order to ensure appropriate accountability, it is requested that the “Head of School” assume all responsibilities and duties of a principal as outlined in 8 VAC 20-131-210. In this way, the Standard is met.

3. EXPLAIN HOW AND WHY APPROVAL OF THIS REQUEST WOULD BENEFIT STUDENTS.

Approval of this request for the establishment of VAVA as a school and the request for the waivers outlined above will place the appropriate level of responsibility for meeting the accountability measures and standards for a public school, as outlined in *Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* and the *Standards of Quality*, on the vendor providing virtual, online instructional services. This will ensure that the focus of the program is on providing a rigorous curriculum aligned to the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL); a program of instruction designed to ensure a high level of academic performance for all students; full participation in the Virginia Assessment Program; effective supervision and management of the virtual, online program; highly qualified personnel; ongoing monitoring of student progress; and effective parent and community communication. The inclusion of a biennial plan consistent with the division comprehensive plan will ensure strategic planning and continuous improvement.

Virtual, online students would be assured of receiving a well-balanced curriculum that is aligned to the Virginia SOL, instruction based on high expectations and designed to meet their individual needs, and assurance that they are receiving quality education consistent with Virginia Standards of Accreditation and Standards of Quality.

Results of the Spring 2011 SOL Assessments, as shown on the attachment, indicate that traditional brick and mortar students in Carroll County Public Schools Division are out-performing students in the Virginia Virtual Academy in the areas of middle school math and history/social sciences. Results for VAVA students in reading and science are consistent with Carroll County brick and mortar schools. Currently, since VAVA is not a separate school entity, VAVA student results from the Virginia Assessment Program are embedded within each brick and mortar Carroll County school, rather than assigned to the Virginia Virtual Academy Program.

If VAVA were set up as a separate school under the auspices of Carroll County Public Schools, VAVA student performance on the Virginia Assessment Program assessments would become a clear measure of the success of the online, virtual approach to education for the students involved in the program and would be used as one measure of determining areas for improvement. As one parent of two children in the VAVA Program stated, "It is not only a performance level indicator for my children; it is also a validation of the curriculum and the instruction they are receiving."

4. IF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM IS EXPERIMENTAL OR INNOVATIVE, EXPLAIN HOW THIS IS SO AND PROVIDE A PROGRAM DESCRIPTION, INCLUDING:
- 1) THE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM;
 - 2) DESCRIPTION AND DURATION OF THE PROGRAM;
 - 3) ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES;
 - 4) NUMBER OF STUDENTS AFFECTED;
 - 5) EVALUATION PROCEDURES; AND
 - 6) MECHANISMS FOR MEASURING GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT THAT WILL BE EXPECTED AS A RESULT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM/ACTIVITY.

Not Applicable

5. DOES THE EXPERIMENTAL OR INNOVATIVE PROGRAM REQUIRE THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS TO OPEN PRIOR TO LABOR DAY?

YES NO

IF YES, EXPLAIN WHY THE SCHOOLS ARE REQUIRED TO OPEN PRIOR TO LABOR DAY.

N/A

6. IF THE PROGRAM IS EXPERIMENTAL, INCLUDE INFORMATION THAT EXPLAINS WHY THERE IS REASON TO EXPECT THAT THE PROGRAM WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

N/A

7. DESCRIBE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF THE WAIVER.

The requested waivers will support the nature of virtual, online learning by adapting the Standards to reflect a better fit between the virtual, online environment and the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia. The Standards were developed originally for a traditional brick and mortar model of education. The waivers requested are only the ones necessary

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