

# Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: E

Date: March 27, 2014

<b>Title</b>	First Review of Requests for Renewal of Alternative Accreditation Plans from Bland County Public Schools, Town of Colonial Beach Public Schools, Craig County Public Schools, Danville City 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) or Fewer Students		
<b>Presenter</b>	Dr. Kathleen M. Smith, Director of the Office of School Improvement		
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:Kathleen.Smith@doe.virginia.gov">Kathleen.Smith@doe.virginia.gov</a>	<b>Phone</b>	(804) 225-2865

**Purpose of Presentation:**

Action required by Board of Education regulation.

**Previous Review or Action:**

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

Approved September 22, 2011

**Action Requested:**

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

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

X	Goal 1: Accountability for Student Learning
	Goal 2: Rigorous Standards to Promote College and Career Readiness
	Goal 3: Expanded Opportunities to Learn
	Goal 4: Nurturing Young Learners
	Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Educators
	Goal 6: Sound Policies for Student Success
	Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools
	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify:

**Background Information and Statutory Authority:**

Goal 1: Approving the alternative accreditation plans support accountability for all public schools through state policies that help schools increase the academic success of all students.

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

Section 8 VAC 20-131.280.C. of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* 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 renewal of the alternative accreditation plans 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. Below are the GCI indices for these schools.

<b>Name of School Division</b>	<b>Name of School(s) Submitting Alternative Accreditation Plan</b>	<b>GCI Index 2013</b>	<b>Attachment Reference</b>
Bland County	Bland High	92.3	Attachment A
Bland County	Rocky Gap High	91.9	Attachment B
Town of Colonial Beach	Colonial Beach High	88.7	Attachment C
Craig County	Craig County High	90.7	Attachment D
Danville City	Galileo Magnet High	99.1	Attachment E
Highland County	Highland High	100	Attachment F
Richmond City	Franklin Military Academy	100	Attachment G
Richmond City	Open High	100	Attachment H
Richmond City	Richmond Community High	100	Attachment I
Scott County	Twin Springs High	95.7	Attachment J
York County	York River Academy	95	Attachment K

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 continuation 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. None of the schools requesting a waiver have used the previous waiver in the past three accreditation cycles as all of the schools met the GCI without the waiver. The following are being requested by each school division for the accreditation cycles for three years beginning in 2014:

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:
  - 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 (15) 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. These bonus points are then added to the base Graduation and Completion Index (GCI). 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 following chart indicates the changes made in the proposed alternative accreditation plan for 2014-2015 and the previous plan.

Name of School Division	Name of School(s) Submitting Alternative Accreditation Plan	Changes in the Description of the Additional Criteria from the 2014 Proposed Waiver (One point each added to the base GCI)
Bland County	Bland High	<p><del>80% pass rate for all of the EOC SOL's.</del>  <del>75% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education.</del>  <del>50% of</del> <u>Increase in the percent of</u> graduating students receiving an industry certification, <u>state licenses,</u> or <u>successful national occupational assessment credentials.</u>  <del>Increased attendance rate for graduating cohort.</del>  <del>30% of the graduating cohort receiving a pass-advanced score on ECO reading or math.</del>  <u>Increase in the percent of students enrolled in one or more advanced placement or dual enrollment courses</u>  <u>Increase in the percent of students earning an Advanced Studies Diploma.</u>  <u>Increase in the percent of high school students earning advanced proficient scores in English reading, English writing, and Algebra II.</u>  <u>Increase in the percent of students who graduate from high school having taken calculus, chemistry, and physics.</u></p>
Bland County	Rocky Gap High	<p><del>80% pass rate for all of the EOC SOL's.</del>  <del>75% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education.</del>  <del>50% of</del> <u>Increase in the percent of</u> graduating students receiving an industry certification, <u>state licenses,</u> or <u>successful national occupational assessment credentials.</u></p>

Name of School Division	Name of School(s) Submitting Alternative Accreditation Plan	Changes in the Description of the Additional Criteria from the 2014 Proposed Waiver (One point each added to the base GCI)
		<p><del>Increased attendance rate for graduating cohort.</del></p> <p><del>30% of the graduating cohort receiving a pass advanced score on ECO reading or math.</del></p> <p><u>Increase in the percent of students enrolled in one or more advanced placement or dual enrollment courses.</u></p> <p><u>Increase in the percent of students earning an Advanced Studies Diploma.</u></p> <p><u>Increase in the percent of high school students earning advanced proficient scores in English reading, English writing, and Algebra II.</u></p> <p><u>Increase in the percent of students who graduate from high school having taken calculus, chemistry, and physics.</u></p>
Colonial Beach City	Colonial Beach High	No changes
Craig County	Craig County High	No changes
Danville City	Galileo Magnet High	No changes
Highland County	Highland High	No changes
Richmond City	Franklin Military Academy	<p><del>95%</del> <u>90%</u> or more graduates enroll in postsecondary education, join the military, or obtain a full time job.</p> <p>Increase <u>yearly</u> the percent of career and technical certifications, state licenses, or successful national occupational assessments.</p> <p>Increase <u>yearly</u> the percent of students earning advanced studies diplomas.</p> <p>Increase <u>yearly</u> the percent of students scoring pass advanced on the English SOL assessments.</p>
Richmond City	Open High	<p><del>95%</del> <u>90%</u> or more graduates enroll in postsecondary education, join the military, or obtain a full time job.</p>

Name of School Division	Name of School(s) Submitting Alternative Accreditation Plan	Changes in the Description of the Additional Criteria from the 2014 Proposed Waiver (One point each added to the base GCI)
		<del>90%</del> <del>85%</del> or more graduates earning Advanced Studies Diplomas. <del>70%</del> <del>60%</del> or more graduates enrolled in advanced placement and/or dual enrollment classes.
Richmond City	Richmond Community High	<del>95%</del> <del>90%</del> or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full time job. <del>65%</del> <del>60%</del> or more graduates enrolled in advanced placement and/ or dual enrollment classes. <del>65%</del> <del>50%</del> of graduates have taken Calculus, Chemistry and Physics.
Scott County	Twin Springs High	GCI bonus for <u>80%</u> <del>increasing the percentage</del> of students graduating with an Advanced <u>or Standard</u> diploma.
York County	York River Academy	No changes

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

**Impact on Resources:**

None

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

None

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Virginia Board of Education waive first review and approve the alternative accreditation plans from the eight (8) school divisions as presented for the accreditation cycles beginning in 2014-15 through 2016-2017.

**Attachment A - Bland County Public Schools (Bland 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**

The *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 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.*

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:

*In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of special purpose schools. Such requests must include documentation of the need for the waiver. Waiver requests for special purpose schools and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer student will be considered based upon specified criteria. All applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least 90 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. The chair of the local school board and the division superintendent are requested to be in attendance at the Board of Education meeting when the proposal is considered.*

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.

2/27/14

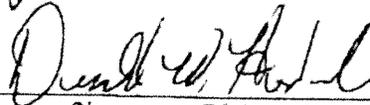
Date Approved by the Local School Board

2/28/14

Submission Date



Signature – Chairman of the School Board



Signature – Division Superintendent

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

**School Name:** Bland High School

**Division Name:** Bland County Public Schools

**School Address:** 31 Rocket Drive, Bland, VA 24315

**Contact Person:** Annie Whitaker, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

**Phone Number:** 276-688-3361 ex 36

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

**Proposed Duration of Plan:** 2014-2016

**Grade Levels Served:** 8-12

**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:** Grade 8- 27 Grade 9- 33, Grade 10- 27 Grade 11- 44 Grade 12- 29

**Rationale:**

If this school has a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% Graduation Completion Index (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 GCI 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 GCI 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. 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
GCI bonus for an increase in the percent of students enrolled in one or more advanced placement or dual enrollment course.	+1
GCI bonus for an increase in the percent of students earning an Advanced Studies Diploma.	+1
GCI bonus for an increase in the percent of high school students having earned advanced proficient scores in English reading, English writing, and Algebra II.	+1
GCI bonus for an increase in the percent of students who graduate from high school having taken Calculus, Chemistry, and Physics.	+1
GCI bonus for an increase in the percent of high school students earning career and technical industry certifications, state licenses, or successful national occupational assessment credentials.	+1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the GCI 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:

- No bonus points assigned for 0-14 students. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted.
- Maximum of five (5) points for cohorts of 15-20 students.
- Maximum of four (4) points for cohorts of 21-40 students.
- Maximum of three (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 15 students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

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

Don Hodock, Acting Superintendent- Bland County Public Schools  
Annie Whitaker, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Temple Musser, Principal, Bland High School  
Debra Hensley, Principal, Rocky Gap High School

**Attachment B - Bland County Public Schools (Rocky Gap High School)**

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN –  
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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:

*In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of special purpose schools. Such requests must include documentation of the need for the waiver. Waiver requests for special purpose schools and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer student will be considered based upon specified criteria. All applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least 90 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. The chair of the local school board and the division superintendent are requested to be in attendance at the Board of Education meeting when the proposal is considered.*

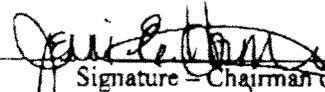
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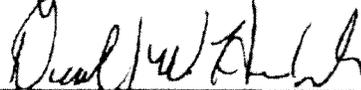
Date Approved by the Local School Board

2/28/14

Submission Date



Signature – Chairman of the School Board



Signature – Division Superintendent

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

**School Name:** Rocky Gap High School

**Division Name:** Bland County Public Schools

**School Address:** 176 Eagles Rd, Rocky Gap, VA 24366

**Contact Person:** Annie Whitaker, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

**Phone Number:** 276-688-3361 ex 36

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

**Proposed Duration of Plan:** 2014-2016

**Grade Levels Served:** 8-12

**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:** Grade 8-32 Grade 9- 36, Grade 10- 41 Grade 11- 38 Grade 12- 42

**Rationale:**

If this school has a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% Graduation Completion Index (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 GCI 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 GCI 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. 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))**

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GCI bonus for an increase in the percent of students earning an Advanced Studies Diploma.	+1
GCI bonus for an increase in the percent of high school students having earned advanced proficient scores in English reading, English writing, and Algebra II.	+1
GCI bonus for an increase in the percent of students who graduate from high school having taken Calculus, Chemistry, and Physics.	+1
GCI bonus for an increase in the percent of high school students earning career and technical industry certifications, state licenses, or successful national occupational assessment credentials.	+1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the GCI 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:

- No bonus points assigned for 0-14 students. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted.
- Maximum of five (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 15 students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

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

Don Hodock, Acting Superintendent- Bland County Public Schools  
Annie Whitaker, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Debra Hensley, Principal, Rocky Gap High School  
Temple Musser, Principal, Bland High School

**Attachment C - Colonial Beach Public Schools (Colonial Beach 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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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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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.

FEBRUARY 18, 2014  
Date Approved by the Local School Board

Jimmy J. Trivett  
Signature – Chairman of the School Board

Feb. 18, 2014  
Submission Date

Kathleen J. Beane  
Signature – Division Superintendent

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

**School Name:** Colonial Beach High School

**Division Name:** Colonial Beach Public Schools

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

**Contact Person:** Mrs. Kathleen Beane, Superintendent

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

**Email:** kbeane@cbschools.net

**Proposed Duration of Plan:** One year, the 2014-15 accreditation cycle

**Grade Levels Served:** 8-12

**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:** effective January 27, 2014

Grade 8 – 52; Grade 9 – 60; Grade 10 – 40; Grade 11 – 39; Grade 12 - 42

**Rationale:**

If this school has a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% Graduation Completion Index (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 GCI 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 GCI 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. 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
CGI bonus when 50% or more of students graduating have taken, chemistry, physics, and/or calculus	1
CGI bonus when 25% or more of graduating students have enrolled in AP or dual enrollment classes	1
CGI bonus when 25% or more of graduating students are CTE completers	1
CGI bonus for increased percentage of students are graduating with an advanced diploma	1
CGI bonus for increased percentage of students scored advanced proficient on EOC reading, writing, or math SOL assessments	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the GCI 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 three (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 15 students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

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

Mrs. Kathleen F. Beane, Superintendent  
Mr. Andrew S. Hipple, Principal

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

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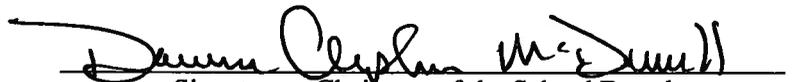
The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, states:

*In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of special purpose schools. Such requests must include documentation of the need for the waiver. Waiver requests for special purpose schools and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer student will be considered based upon specified criteria. All applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least 90 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. The chair of the local school board and the division superintendent are requested to be in attendance at the Board of Education meeting when the proposal is considered.*

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.

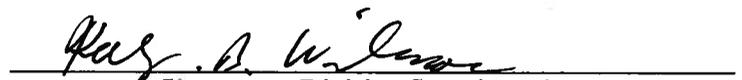
March 11, 2014

Date Approved by the Local School Board

  
Signature – Chairman of the School Board

March 12, 2014

Submission Date

  
Signature – Division Superintendent

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

**School Name:** Craig County High School

**Division Name:** Craig County

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

**Contact Person:** Robert Stump

**Phone Number:** 540-864-5185

**Email:** rstump@craig.k12.va.us

**Proposed Duration of Plan:** Three Years, including 2016-2017 accreditation cycle

**Grade Levels Served:** 6-12

**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:** 12<sup>th</sup> – 55, 11<sup>th</sup> – 49, 10<sup>th</sup> – 45, 9<sup>th</sup> – 53, 8<sup>th</sup> – 68, 7<sup>th</sup> – 62, 6<sup>th</sup> - 61

**Rationale:**

If this school has a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% Graduation Completion Index (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 GCI 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 GCI 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. 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
Percentage of graduates earning an Advanced Studies diploma out of the total number of diplomas awarded meets or exceeds 50 percent	1
25% of CTE students have earned certification	1
25% of students enrolled in Dual Enrollment classes	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the GCI 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:

- No bonus points assigned for 0-14 students. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted.
- Maximum of five (5) points for cohorts of 15-20 students.
- Maximum of four (4) points for cohorts of 21-40 students.
- Maximum of three (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 15 students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

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

**Mr. Kelly Wilmore, Superintendent**

**Samuel C. Foster II, Director of Testing, Data and Accountability**

**Robert Stump, High School Principal**

**Marion “Bo” Trumbo, High School Assistant Principal and CTE Coordinator**

**Attachment E - Danville City Public Schools (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**

The *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 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.*

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:

*In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of special purpose schools. Such requests must include documentation of the need for the waiver. Waiver requests for special purpose schools and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer student will be considered based upon specified criteria. All applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least 90 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. The chair of the local school board and the division superintendent are requested to be in attendance at the Board of Education meeting when the proposal is considered.*

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.

*Feb. 21, 2014*

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

*Edward C. Polhamus, Jr.*

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

*Feb. 24, 2014*

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

*Edward J. Newberry, Jr.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature – Division Superintendent

**ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN TEMPLATE**  
**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:** Mr. Jay Lancaster, Principal

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

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

**Proposed Duration of Plan:** Three years including the 2016-2017 accreditation cycle

**Grade Levels Served:** 9-12

**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:**

Grade	Number of Students
9	57
10	67
11	43
12	50

**Rationale:**

If this school has a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% Graduation Completion Index (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 GCI 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 criterion. The GCI 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. 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 GCI 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:

- No bonus points assigned for 0-14 students. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted.
- Maximum of five (5) points for cohorts of 15-20 students.
- Maximum of four (4) points for cohorts of 21-40 students.
- Maximum of three (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 15 students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

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

Ms. Yvette Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction/CAO  
Dr. Dave Cochran, Director of Accountability and Middle School Instruction  
Mr. Jay Lancaster, Principal, Galileo Magnet High School

**Attachment F - Highland County Public Schools (Highland 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.

2-25-14

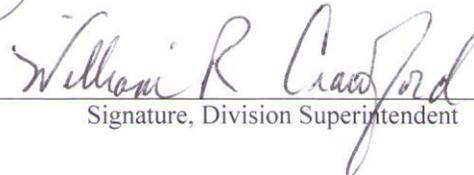
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved by the Local School Board

2-25-14

\_\_\_\_\_  
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](mailto: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—9; Grade 7—15; Grade 8—15; Grade 9—17;  
Grade 10—15; Grade 11—13; Grade 12--19**

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.**

**Dr. William Crawford, Superintendent**  
**Ms. Teresa Blum, Highland Elementary School Principal**  
**Mrs. April Goff, Highland High School Principal**  
**Dr. William Jenkins, Technology Director**

**Attachment G - Richmond City Public Schools (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**

The *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 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.*

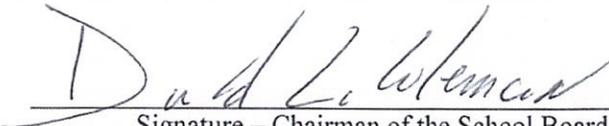
The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, states:

*In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of special purpose schools. Such requests must include documentation of the need for the waiver. Waiver requests for special purpose schools and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer student will be considered based upon specified criteria. All applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least 90 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. The chair of the local school board and the division superintendent are requested to be in attendance at the Board of Education meeting when the proposal is considered.*

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

*March 24, 2014*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Submission Date

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature – Division Superintendent

**ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN TEMPLATE**  
**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:** 2014-2017

**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:	40	Sixth Graders	85
Tenth Graders:	55	Seventh Graders	55
Eleventh Graders:	38	Eighth Graders	38
Twelfth Graders:	27		

**Rationale:**

If this school has a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% Graduation Completion Index (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 GCI 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 GCI 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. 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
Increase yearly the percent of graduates earning advanced studies diploma	1
95% or more graduates enrolled in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full time job	1

Increase yearly the percent of graduates earning career and technical certifications, state licenses, or successful national occupational assessments	1
Increase yearly the percent of graduates scoring pass advanced on the English SOL assessments	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the GCI 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:

- No bonus points assigned for 0-14 students. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted.
- Maximum of five (5) points for cohorts of 15-20 students.
- Maximum of four (4) points for cohorts of 21-40 students.
- Maximum of three (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 15 students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

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

Victoria S. Oakley  
Sheron Carter-Gunter

Chief Academic Officer  
Principal of Franklin Military Academy

**Attachment H - Richmond City Public Schools (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**

The *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 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.*

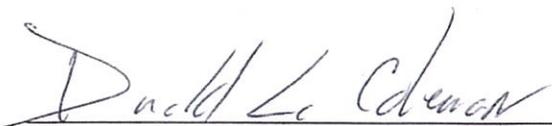
The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, states:

*In accordance with the provisions of [8 VAC 20-131-350](#) of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of special purpose schools. Such requests must include documentation of the need for the waiver. Waiver requests for special purpose schools and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer student will be considered based upon specified criteria. All applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least 90 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. The chair of the local school board and the division superintendent are requested to be in attendance at the Board of Education meeting when the proposal is considered.*

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

*March 24, 2014*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Submission Date

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature – Division Superintendent

**ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN TEMPLATE**  
**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:** 2014-2017

**Grade Levels Served:** ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades

**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:**

Ninth Graders: 50  
 Tenth Graders: 39  
 Eleventh Graders: 48  
 Twelfth Graders: 50

**Rationale:**

If this school has a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% Graduation Completion Index (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 GCI 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 GCI 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. 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
70% or more graduates enrolled in advanced placement and/ or dual enrollment classes	1
90% or more graduates earned Advanced Studies Diploma	1
95% or more graduates enrolled in post-secondary education, join the military,	1

or obtain a full time job	

The criteria listed above will be applied to the GCI 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:

- No bonus points assigned for 0-14 students. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted.
- Maximum of five (5) points for cohorts of 15-20 students.
- Maximum of four (4) points for cohorts of 21-40 students.
- Maximum of three (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 15 students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

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

Victoria S. Oakley  
Peter Glessman

Chief Academic Officer  
Principal of OpenHigh School

**Attachment I - Richmond City Public Schools (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**

The *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 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.*

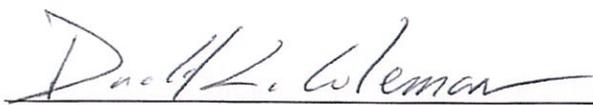
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*In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of special purpose schools. Such requests must include documentation of the need for the waiver. Waiver requests for special purpose schools and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer student will be considered based upon specified criteria. All applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least 90 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. The chair of the local school board and the division superintendent are requested to be in attendance at the Board of Education meeting when the proposal is considered.*

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

March 24, 2014  
Submission Date

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature – Division Superintendent

**ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN TEMPLATE**  
**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:** 2014 - 2017  
**Grade Levels Served:** ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades  
**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:**

Ninth Graders:	55
Tenth Graders:	65
Eleventh Graders:	38
Twelfth Graders:	60

**Rationale:**

If this school has a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% Graduation Completion Index (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 GCI 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 GCI 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. 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
95% or more graduates enrolled in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full time job	1
65% or more graduates enrolled in advanced placement and/ or dual enrollment classes	1
65% of graduates have taken Advanced Placement U. S. History or Advanced	1

Placement Government	

The criteria listed above will be applied to the GCI 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:

- No bonus points assigned for 0-14 students. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted.
- Maximum of five (5) points for cohorts of 15-20 students.
- Maximum of four (4) points for cohorts of 21-40 students.
- Maximum of three (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 15 students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

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

Victoria S. Oakley  
James Brown

Chief Academic Officer  
Principal of Richmond Community High School

**Attachment J - Scott County Public Schools (Twin Springs High School)**

Revised 8-7-12  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

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

The *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 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.*

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:

*In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of special purpose schools. Such requests must include documentation of the need for the waiver. Waiver requests for special purpose schools and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer student will be considered based upon specified criteria. All applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least 90 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. The chair of the local school board and the division superintendent are requested to be in attendance at the Board of Education meeting when the proposal is considered.*

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.

3-4-14

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



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

3-5-14

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



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature – Division Superintendent

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

**School Name:** Twin Springs High School

**Division Name:** Scott

**School Address:** 273 Titan Lane Nickelsville, VA 24271

**Contact Person:** Sam Parks

**Phone Number:** 276-479-2185

**Email:** sam.parks@scottsschools.com

**Proposed Duration of Plan:** Five Years, including 2015-2016 accreditation cycle

**Grade Levels Served:** 8-12

**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:** 8<sup>th</sup> -55; 9<sup>th</sup> -54; 10<sup>th</sup> -61; 11<sup>th</sup> -58; 12<sup>th</sup> -45

**Rationale:**

If this school has a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% Graduation Completion Index (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 GCI 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 GCI 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. 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
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 bonus for 50% of graduates enrolling in post-secondary education, joining the military, or obtaining full-time employment	1
GCI bonus for 25% of students receiving CTE certifications	1
GCI bonus for 80% of students graduating with an Advanced or Standard diploma	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the GCI 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:

- No bonus points assigned for 0-14 students. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted.
- Maximum of five (5) points for cohorts of 15-20 students.
- Maximum of four (4) points for cohorts of 21-40 students.
- Maximum of three (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 15 students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

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

**Sam Parks**

**Lori Flanary**

## Twin Springs High School

Grade Level	Standard Diploma	Advanced Diploma
Seniors	33%	55%
Juniors	50%	50%
Sophomores	36%	59%
Freshmen	51%	48%

Grade Level	Percent enrolling in post-secondary education	Percent obtaining a full time job
Seniors	71%	15%

Grade Level	Dual Enrollment Courses taken up to current school year
Seniors	44%
Juniors	40%

Grade Level	Percentage of students receiving Career and Technical Certification
Seniors	66%
Juniors	13%

Twin Springs High School  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Student Status	Point Value	# of Students	Point Value	GCI Rating
Board Recognized Diploma in SOA	100	53	5300	
Still Enrolled	70	0	0	
GED	75	0	0	
Certificate of Completion	25	2	50	
Drop out	0	0	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>		55	5350	
GCI bonus when 50% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full-time job	+1		1	
GCI bonus for 50% of students earning an advanced or standard diploma	+1		1	
GCI bonus when 25% of students receive CTE certification	+1		0	
<b>GCI BONUS POINT TOTAL</b>			2	
<b>FINAL GCI TOTAL</b>				99.2

**Twin Springs High School  
Freshmen**

<b>Student Status</b>	<b>Point Value</b>	<b># of Students</b>	<b>Point Value</b>	<b>GCI Rating</b>
Board Recognized Diploma in SOA	100	53	5300	
Still Enrolled	70	0	0	
GED	75	0	0	
Certificate of Completion	25	1	25	
Drop out	0	0	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>54</b>	<b>5325</b>	<b>98.6</b>
GCI bonus when 50% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full-time job	+1		1	
GCI bonus for 50% of students earning an advanced or standard diploma	+1		1	
GCI bonus when 25% of students receive CTE certification	+1		0	
<b>GCI BONUS POINT TOTAL</b>			<b>3</b>	
<b>FINAL GCI TOTAL</b>				<b>100.6</b>

Twin Springs High School  
Sophmores

<b>Student Status</b>	<b>Point Value</b>	<b># of Students</b>	<b>Point Value</b>	<b>GCI Rating</b>
Board Recognized Diploma in SOA	100	58	5800	
Still Enrolled	70	0	0	
GED	75	0	0	
Certificate of Completion	25	3	75	
Drop out	0	0	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>61</b>	<b>5875</b>	<b>96.3</b>
GCI bonus when 50% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full-time job	+1		1	
GCI bonus for 50% of students earning an advanced or standard diploma	+1		1	
GCI bonus when 25% of students receive CTE certification	+1		1	
<b>GCI BONUS POINT TOTAL</b>			<b>3</b>	
<b>FINAL GCI TOTAL</b>				<b>100.3</b>

**Twin Springs High School  
Juniors**

<b>Student Status</b>	<b>Point Value</b>	<b># of Students</b>	<b>Point Value</b>	<b>GCI Rating</b>
Board Recognized Diploma in SOA	100	58	5,800	
Still Enrolled	70	0	0	
GED	75	0	0	
Certificate of Completion	25	2	50	
Drop out	0	0	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>61</b>	<b>5850</b>	
GCI bonus when 50% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full-time job	+1		1	
GCI bonus for 50% of students earning an advanced or standard diploma	+1		1	
GCI bonus when 40% of students are enrolled in dual enrollment courses	+1		1	
<b>GCI BONUS POINT TOTAL</b>			<b>3</b>	
<b>FINAL GCI TOTAL</b>				<b>98.9</b>

**Twin Springs High School  
Seniors**

<b>Student Status</b>	<b>Point Value</b>	<b># of Students</b>	<b>Point Value</b>	<b>GCI Rating</b>
Board Recognized Diploma in SOA	100	44	4,400	
Still Enrolled	70	0	0	
GED	75	0	0	
Certificate of Completion	25	1	25	
Drop out	0	0	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>45</b>	<b>4,425</b>	
GCI bonus when 50% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full-time job	+1		1	
GCI bonus for 50% of students earn an advanced or standard diploma	+1		1	
GCI bonus when 40% of students are enrolled in a dual enrollment course	+1		1	
<b>GCI BONUS POINT TOTAL</b>			<b>3</b>	
<b>FINAL GCI TOTAL</b>				<b>101.3</b>

**Attachment K - York County Public Schools (York River Academy)**

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

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

The *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 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.*

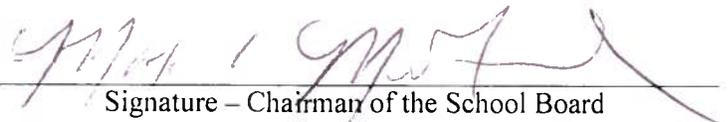
The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, states:

*In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of special purpose schools. Such requests must include documentation of the need for the waiver. Waiver requests for special purpose schools and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer student will be considered based upon specified criteria. All applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least 90 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. The chair of the local school board and the division superintendent are requested to be in attendance at the Board of Education meeting when the proposal is considered.*

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.

MARCH 6, 2014

Date Approved by the Local School Board

  
Signature – Chairman of the School Board

MARCH 11, 2014

Submission Date

  
Signature – Division Superintendent



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

**School Name:** York River Academy

**Division Name:** York County School Division

**School Address:** 11201 George Washington Highway

**Contact Person:** Dr. Kipp Rogers, Director of Secondary Instruction; Mr. Walter Cross, Principal, YRA

**Phone Number:** Dr. Rogers (757) 898-0409, Mr. Cross (757) 898-0516

**Email:** [kr Rogers@vcsd.york.va.us](mailto:kr Rogers@vcsd.york.va.us); [wcross@ycsd.york.va.us](mailto:wcross@ycsd.york.va.us)

**Proposed Duration of Plan:** Three years, including 2016-2017 accreditation cycle

**Grade Levels Served:** 9-12

**Number of Students Enrolled by Grade:**

9 <sup>th</sup> – 23
10 <sup>th</sup> – 19
11 <sup>th</sup> – 16
12 <sup>th</sup> - 14

**Rationale:**

If this school has a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% Graduation Completion Index (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 GCI alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

<b>Description of Additional Criteria</b>	<b>Points Added to GCI for Meeting Criteria</b>
<i>GCI bonus when 50% or more graduates obtain Career and Technical Education industry certification</i>	+ 1
<i>GCI bonus when 70% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military (includes students placed on waiting list), or obtain a full-time job</i>	+ 1
<i>GCI bonus when 50% or more graduates complete 40 hours of service learning</i>	+ 1
<i>GCI bonus when 80% of seniors are CTE completers</i>	+ 1
<i>GCI bonus when 70% or more graduates complete internships/mentorships during their senior year</i>	+ 1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the GCI 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:

- No bonus points assigned for 0-14 students. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted.
- Maximum of five (5) points for cohorts of 15-20 students.
- Maximum of four (4) points for cohorts of 21-40 students.
- Maximum of three (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 15 students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

**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 D. Rogers, Director of Secondary Instruction**

**Dr. Stephanie L. Guy, Chief Academic Officer**