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Board of Education Approves Reconstituted School Status for 31 Schools

RICHMOND, Va. — The Virginia Board of Education today granted “Partially Accredited: Reconstituted School” status to 31 schools that otherwise would have been denied state accreditation because of persistently low student achievement.

The board’s accreditation regulations define reconstitution as a process to improve instruction and raise student achievement by restructuring a school’s governance, faculty, instructional program and/or student population.

Under the regulations, a Partially Accredited: Reconstituted School rating may be granted for up to three years if a school is making progress toward full accreditation. A reconstituted school reverts to Accreditation Denied status if it fails to earn full accreditation within three years, or if its annual application for partial accreditation is not renewed.

The schools awarded Partially Accredited: Reconstituted School ratings, by division, are as follows:

- Bedford County — Staunton River Middle
- Buchanan County — Riverview Elementary/Middle
- Buena Vista — Enderly Heights Elementary, Parry McCluer Middle and F.W. Kling, Jr. Elementary
- Campbell County — Rustburg Middle
- Franklin — S.P. Morton Elementary and Joseph P. King Jr. Middle
- Frederick County — Frederick County Middle
- Hampton — John B. Cary Elementary and Luther W. Machen Elementary
- Henrico County — Fairfield Middle
- Lynchburg — Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle and Heritage Elementary
- Mecklenburg County — Bluestone Middle
- Newport News — Carver Elementary and Horace H. Epes Elementary
- Norfolk — James Monroe Elementary, Jacox Elementary, Richard Bowling Elementary, Norview Middle and Azalea Gardens Middle
- Petersburg — Walnut Hill Elementary
- Portsmouth — Cradock Middle
- Prince William County — Fred M. Lynn Middle
- Richmond — Binford Middle, Henderson Middle and Lucille M. Brown Middle
- Southampton County — Riverdale Elementary
- Suffolk — King’s Fork High
- Virginia Beach — Williams Elementary

“All of these schools are on a trajectory toward achieving full accreditation within three years,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Steven R. Staples said. “And they have made significant internal changes that represent a clear commitment to improved performance and substantive reform of practice.”

(more)

The Board of Education denied requests for reconstituted status from eight schools. These schools, which now have ratings of Accreditation Denied, by division, are as follows:

- Danville — Woodberry Hills Elementary
- Essex County — Essex High
- Hampton — A.W.E. Bassette Elementary and Hunter B. Andrews School
- Portsmouth — Churchland Middle
- Richmond — Martin Luther King Jr. Middle and Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts
- Staunton — Bessie Weller Elementary

When a school is denied state accreditation, the local school board must submit a corrective action plan to the Board of Education and enter into a binding memorandum of understanding with the state board detailing steps to be taken to raise student achievement to state standards. Schools denied accreditation, however, do not lose state funding, nor are they subject to state takeover.

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