

**Section 2-2.9. School Accreditation Required; Schools Awarded for Significant Progress; Approval of Individual School Accreditation Plan.** —

A. All Suffolk Public Schools shall be accredited according to standards developed by the Board of Education. The School Board will review the accreditation status of each school in the division annually in a public session of a board meeting.

B. The School Board ~~will~~ recognizes individual schools under the ~~Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) program~~ Exemplar School Recognition Program established by the Board of Education to recognize and reward ~~fully accredited schools that make significant progress toward achieving advanced proficiency levels in reading, mathematics, science, and history and social science, and other indicators of school and student performance~~ exceed requirements established by the Board of Education or show continuous improvement on academic and school quality indicators and schools that implement effective, innovative practices that are aligned with Virginia's goals for public education. The recognition may include public announcements, media releases, and other appropriate recognition.

C. The School Board may ask the Board of Education for release from state regulations ~~and for approval of an Individual School Accreditation Plan for the evaluation of the performance of one or more of its schools pursuant to~~ on behalf of one or more of its schools, for approval of an Individual School Accreditation Plan for the evaluation of the performance of one or more of its schools as authorized for schools enumerated in 8 VAC 20-131-420, based on special circumstances. A request for a waiver from state regulations that are not (i) mandated by state or federal law or (ii) designed to promote health or safety will be made by the superintendent and chairman of the School Board on behalf of the School Board. The waiver request will describe how release from state regulations is designed to increase the quality of instruction and improve the achievement of students in the affected school or schools.

The School Board, by the superintendent and chairman of the School Board, may also request that the Board of Education grant waivers of specific requirements in Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:2, permitting the School Board to assign instructional personnel to the schools with the greatest needs, so long as the school division employs a sufficient number of personnel division wide to meet the total number required by Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:2 and all pupil/teacher ratios and class size maximums set forth in Subsection C of Va. Code § 22.1-253.13:2 are met. In its request, the School Board will demonstrate that the waivers from specific Standards of Quality staffing standards will increase the quality of instruction and improve the achievement of students in the affected school or schools. (Adopted: March 14, 2013; Ordinance Number 12/13-11; Effective Date: July 1, 2013; Revised; September 8, 2016; Ordinance Number 16/17-2; Effective Date: July 1, 2017; Revised July 12, 2018; Ordinance Number 18/19-4; Effective Date: July 12, 2018)

**Legal Authority** – Virginia Code §§ ~~22.1-49~~, 22.1-253.13:3, 22.1-253.13:9, (1950), as amended.