

VBCPS FACT CHECKER

ACCREDITATION

School accreditation is the accountability system for Virginia's public schools. Performance on various School Quality Indicators is measured for "all students" at a school and its various demographic groups. For all "students" at a school, the indicators are Standards of Learning (SOL) test results in English, math and science as well as chronic absenteeism. High schools have two more indicators: graduation completion index and dropout rate. For demographic groups (Asian, Black, Hispanic, white, economically disadvantaged and students with disabilities), the indicators are only English and math SOL test results.

SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

is based on Final Performance Levels*:

- **Accredited** – all final performance levels are at one or two
- **Accredited with Conditions** – one or more final performance level is at three
- **Accreditation Denied** – awarded to schools that fail to adopt or fully implement required corrective actions to address level three school-quality indicators

**see reverse side for more detail*



School accreditation ratings are issued annually by the Virginia Department of Education.



SURPASSING STATE BENCHMARKS

Most Virginia Beach schools didn't just meet, but far surpassed state benchmarks in several areas:

- **59 schools** show combined rates for mathematics at 90 percent or higher, meaning that at least 90 percent or more of students at those schools passed SOLs or showed growth compared to the previous year;
- **35 schools** show combined rates for English at 90 percent or higher, again indicating that 90 percent or more of students at those schools passed or showed growth on SOL tests;
- **69 schools** showed an increase in math for the students with disabilities group;
- **63 schools** showed an increase in math for the African-American reporting group; and
- **71 schools** showed an increase in math for the economically disadvantaged reporting group.

100%

This 2019-2020 school year marked the third consecutive year that all Virginia Beach City Public Schools' 82 testing sites earned accreditation.

Does a school division receive accreditation?

No. Accreditation is awarded to individual schools.



State standards that schools must meet

Below are the minimum state standards that schools must achieve for each school quality indicator.

SOL Tests

- 75% in English (combined rate);
- 70% in mathematics (combined rate);
- 70% in science (pass rate)

Combined rates refer to students who passed SOLs by meeting the state benchmark and those who are showing growth. Pass rates refer strictly to the students who passed.

Absenteeism

- 15% or fewer students are chronically absent

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% or more of the school year, regardless of the reason. To be included in this metric, the student must have been enrolled for at least 50% or more of the school year.

Graduation and Completion Index

- 88 or higher

This index is based on a descending point-value scale with higher points given to a school with on-time graduates.

Learn more at <http://www.vbcpsblogs.com/factchecker/>

Dropout Rate

- 6% or lower

SOL Tests by Grade Level

Only students in grades 3-12 take SOL tests.

Subjects vary by grade level:

- Grade 3, 4 and 5 – reading and math
- Grade 5 – science and history
- Grade 6, 7 and 8 – reading and math
- Grade 7 and/or 8 – science
- Grade 8 – social studies and writing
- High school students take end-of-course tests needed to earn a verified credit for graduation and those required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which are: one in reading, one in math and biology.

PERFORMANCE LEVELS

Performance on school quality indicators is based on state standards.

- **Level One** - At or above state standard or improving from level two
- **Level Two** - At or above state standard or improving from level three
- **Level Three** – Below standard

The demographic groups combined and the “all students” group each receive a Final Performance Level rating. Each demographic group also receives a Performance Level rating, essentially a rating for that specific group.

The performance level rating can only remain at a level two or three for four consecutive years. By the fifth year, if that performance level rating does not reach a level one, the state must change it to a level three, which could affect a school’s final performance level and, eventually, a school’s accreditation status.

DID YOU KNOW

Although not a change, many schools across the state, including Virginia Beach, have reporting groups with performance levels of level two and/or three, which might affect school accreditation moving forward. For Virginia Beach, the level two and/or three performance levels are primarily for the students with disabilities reporting group. The state requirement is that all quality indicators for all reporting groups reach a level one. By the fifth year, these schools, like counterparts across the state with groups in level two and/or three, must reach level one or the school could be identified as accredited with conditions.

SUPPORTING ALL STUDENTS

Virginia Beach continues to focus on supports for students with disabilities. These supports start with making sure their Individualized Education Programs meet their learning needs. When students with disabilities enter classrooms, there is specially-designed instruction to meet their needs, and data are used to measure progress and inform instruction. Collaboration between special education and general education educators continues to be a priority to develop strategies that meet all student needs and create a classroom atmosphere to support all students.