VDOE Update: Accountability and Assessment

Senate Finance & Appropriations Committee

January 23, 2025

Today's Presentation

1. School Performance and Support Resource Hub

2. Governor's Proposed Budget of One-Time Supports

3. Recurring Funding for Regional School Support Teams

4. Statewide Assessment System Updates on Extension and RFP

5. Questions

Summary of Timeline for Development

Since 2022 the Board, alongside national experts, educators, community members, and business and industry leaders, has engaged in the development of the School Performance and Support Framework to ensure Virginia's education system is best-in-class.

Date	Action
Summer 2022	State Board work began
August 2023	Deep design work began
November 2023-April 2024	20 in-person engagements held across Virginia
April 2024	Public comment began
June 2024	•Public hearing held on proposed Standards of Accreditation •Board approved School Performance and Support Framework categories
July 2024	Board approved School Performance and Support Framework and final Standards of Accreditation
August 2024	Board approved revised ESSA State Plan
October 2024	Divisions received data, reports, and trainings
January 3, 2025	ESSA Federal Approval of School Performance and Support Framework

For full timeline, see: https://www.doe.virginia.gov/state-board-data-funding/accreditation-accountability/school-performance-and-support-framework

Road to Readiness School Performance and Support Framework Resource Hub

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Virginia's students, families, and educators have long deserved a system that prioritizes high expectations for every child and provides clarity on how each school is preparing students for success. Virginia's new accountability system, the School Performance and Support Framework, builds trust among schools, parents, and communities through transparent, easy-to-understand reporting on a school's performance. The Framework shows how students are mastering grade level content, whether each student is growing, and how the school is preparing students for their next phase of their education.

Equally important, the School Performance and Support Framework provides intentional and direct intensive support to schools that are most in need. With the Framework, schools will use actionable data and know where they need the most help, allowing parents, teachers, schools, and state leaders to work side by side on prioritized needs. Whether it's through attendance, staffing, mentorship support, learning resources or other training, Virginia's schools will be provided necessary and comprehensive supports to ensure every learner is successful. The Framework encourages and enables school communities to work together to implement changes that improve student and school performance - for every student in every school throughout the Commonwealth.

Framework Overview

School Data Toolkit

Supporting Virginia Learners

Family Supports

Educator Supports

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Proposed $50 Million One Time Funds

Note: Funds are governed by the State Board of Education.

Governor's Proposed Budget Allocation:
Key Areas of Focus

Leadership Development

Mastery and Growth School Support

Readiness School Support

Virginia IEP Upgrades

Capturing and Scaling Best Practices

"These funds will be expended by the Virginia Board of Education, in consultation with VDOE, and shall be used to support data-driven, evidence-based supports."

Note: $50M of one-time funds

1. Leadership Development

We know that principals are critical. Recent studies show that principals matter substantially, finding that moving a principal from below average to above average can lead to an additional 2.9 months of math learning and 2.7 months of reading progress each year for students in that school (Kraft 2020).

To illustrate, this year we invested in a partnership with VAESP and VASSP to mentor 24 early career principals in high needs schools to support their development. See some of their early feedback.

Leadership Development for high needs principals may include:

including principal training, mentorship, and coaching,

instructional leadership professional development, and

developing instructional leadership teams.

"Mentorship keeps me accountable for my leadership goals. Regular check-ins help me stay on track and provide a space to evaluate my progress, which is crucial for personal development. In summary, these mentoring efforts have been a constructive influence on my journey as a principal, helping me grow professionally and strengthening my leadership abilities."

"All meetings have been extremely beneficial, but the weekly check-ins and face to face meetings with my mentor have been invaluable. I have been able to not only talk about the importance of strategic thinking and instructional leadership but also the hidden things that leaders face like betrayal, false accusations, attempts to malign character, and burnout. My mentor approached these topics with vulnerability, compassion, and encouragement."

2. Mastery and Growth Support

These one-time funds will include short term grants for schools preliminarily identified as *Off Track* or *Needs Intensive Support*.

Note: We have started some of school and need specific support programs with our Special Education Literacy Network, EL Literacy Network and Elementary Literacy Improvement Network (Title I Schools).

The short-term grants will focus on partnerships with:

- non-profits specializing in school improvement techniques,
- piloting math competency model, and
- providing additional Virginia Literacy Act implementation support.

"This has given us the structures and tools to have a more a strategic focus in PLCs. It's no longer just sitting down and talking about planning. Instead, we ground our conversations in student work. This helps us see where we need to improve and how we can better shape lessons to hit standards. Ultimately, this makes our PLCs more effective for teachers."

"It has helped us apply research-based best practices to meet specific needs in our division. In a year of a lot of change – Virginia Literacy Act implementation, new English Standards, new math standards, new core curriculum, and more – they have provided the support needed to help us intentionally and strategically make these changes to raise achievement levels for all students."

3. "Readiness" School Support

These one-time funds will focus on building data **supporting Readiness infrastructure systems** to increase "real time" data access. This will help accelerate school support efforts in addressing challenges related to attendance and student preparedness initiatives.

These funds may focus on supports such as:

- an infrastructure platform for academic career plans, college and career readiness, and work-based learning;

- a statewide attendance and data dashboard;

- start-up grants for middle school advanced courses ;

- guidance counselor training and support; and

- seat time flexibility support.

4. Virginia IEP System

These one-time funds may be dedicated to **updating modules in the statewide IEP systems**.

The Commission on Youth recommended the following additional modules:
1. EDPlan Parent Connect Portal
2. Document Translation
3. Section 504 Module
4. Progress Track
5. Pre-Referral Module
6. ED Plan State Performance Plan Dashboard

These requests will be reviewed by the State Board of Education and determine how they can support at-risk schools.

Current Number of Divisions using the Virginia IEP system:

117

Current Vendor:

Public Consulting Group (PCG)

Contract ends June 30, 2027

RFP for bid:

July 2026

Virginia IEP Current Cost for LEAs:

$1,629,450

Virginia IEP System:
- Creates consistency and familiarity in processes and documentation ensuring ease of division-to-division transfer for students, teachers, and parents.
- Helps schools make processes and documentation more consistent and transparent for students, teachers, and families.
- Integrates seamlessly with all SIS systems in Virginia.
- Is the only IEP system vetted by the VDOE.

VDOE Supports Divisions By:
- Collaborating with divisions during onboarding, providing them with virtual professional development on using the system.
- Offering ongoing support to administrators and teachers through a reference library of VDOE guidance documents and online training modules.
- Granting administrators access to Federal Indicator reporting data and the ability to create tailored reports to meet division needs.

COHORT 1
COHORT 2
COHORT 3
COHORT 4
COHORT 5
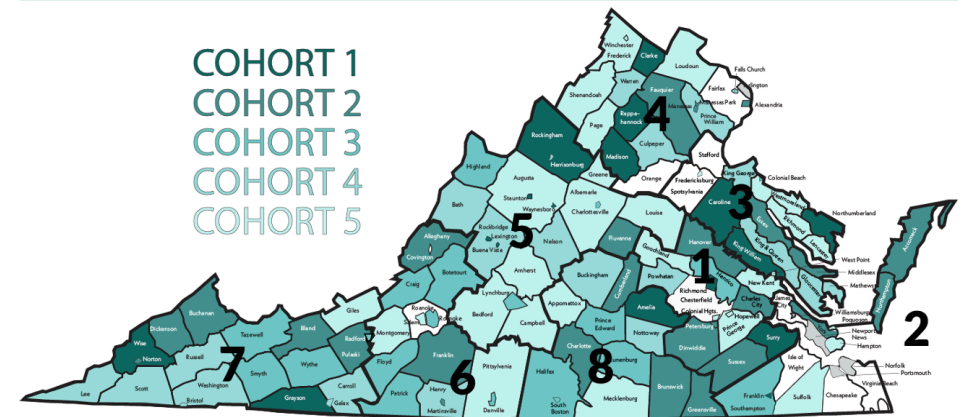
5. Capturing and Scaling Best Practices

This has been a key area of focus for the agency. We have focused on **spotlighting** schools and school divisions who are showing **strong practices**.

The goal is to study "what is working", learn and scale using an internal evaluation team or provider.

The State Board featured the following during the October 23 work session:

- Dupont Elementary in Hopewell (for improvements),
- Bath Co (ELA),
- Brunswick (Math),
- Norton City (Attendance), and
- Buckingham for overall improvements in 2024 SOL results.

These school divisions have been featured, and they have shared their work in several different convenings and professional development series.

Launch of Regional School Support Teams

- $1.25 million in ongoing funds dedicated to support the VDOE's Office of School Quality and Support

- $250,000 the first year and $1,000,000 the second year is provided for new Office of School Quality regional support specialists

- These will launch three regional support teams comprised of reading, math, and science specialists in East, Central, and West Regional Support Teams.

- Regional support teams will provide geographic regional support to school division leaders around professional learning in reading, math, and science.

    - Focusing on implement programs that support the state's Standards of Learning, student achievement in schools with the most need, and English learners and students with disabilities;

    - Using technical assistance, coaching, and trainings to support instructional best practices; and

    - Developing professional learning opportunities that support the implementation of evidence-based strategies to identify and address learning gaps.

Statewide Assessment System

Timeline for One-Year Extension with Current Vendor

The current vendor contract ends mid-year in December 2025, which does not allow a seamless testing system for the school year.

The one-year extension will not change current scope of work, and will ensure continuity in the assessments through the same year and alignment with the legislative high-risk contract provisions.

[Report on Plan to Implement a New Statewide Assessment System](#)

Action	Target Completion Date
Make Final Decision on Issuance of Contract Extension with the current vendor including High-Risk Contract review process as required (Va. Code § 2.2-4303.1 (C)	December 31, 2024
Execute Final Contract Extension with the current vendor including High-Risk Contract review process as required (Code of VA 2.2-4303.1 (C)	April 30, 2025
Selected Vendor Transition Period/Implementation to begin with System for the 2026-2027 School Year	December 2, 2025 – August 1, 2026
Final Contract Extension Expiration	**December 31, 2026**

Note: The one-year extension will focus on assessment delivery from January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Transition to new contract will occur from July 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

Key Areas of Focus for RFI and RFP

HB 585 Assessment Work group met five times between March and September 2023. They produced a key report with 5 Opportunities. These critical "5 Opportunity Recommendations" became the foundation for the categories in the RFI and RFP design.

Opportunity 1: Clear and More Rigorous Standards

Opportunity 2/Category 1: Rigorous Assessment Item Development

Opportunity 2/Category 2: Test Development

Opportunity 3 Reporting /Category 3: Timely, Clear, and Actionable Reporting

Opportunity 3 Reporting/Category 8: Teacher Training (specific request from stakeholders)

Opportunity 4/Category 4: System Coherence

Opportunity 5 Innovative Design/Category 5: Competency-based

Opportunity 5 Innovative Design/Category 6: Performance Tasks

 Category 7: Overall Budget Details

Breakdown of Potential Costs from RFI Reporting

Categories for Pricing as Reported in Preliminary RFI (Estimates submitted by vendors October 2024)

Pricing Categories	Low Range of RFI Estimates (5-Year)	High Range of RFI Estimates (5-Year)
Category 1: Item Development/Banking	$3 million	$28 million
Category 2: Test Development (Reminder VA has an adaptive test model)	$35 million	$64 million
Category 3: Timely, Clear and Actionable Reporting	$11 million	$69 million
Category 4: Improved System Coherence	$11 million	$11.2 million
Category 5: Innovative Assessments (Competency Based)	$1.2 million	$33.8 million
Category 6: Innovative Assessments (Performance Task)	$3.2 million	$56 million
Category 7: Teacher Training	$3.5 million	$3.9 million
Overall Budget Estimate*:	**$67.9 million**	**$265.9 million**

Note: Specifically, we know members have asked about item release for teachers. On average, the yearly item release cost for a 5-10% item bank release ranges from $1.25 - $1.5 million.

*Assumed on-going support of $5M in federal funds to support the assessment system is assumed based on pre-pandemic funding levels.

New Statewide Assessment System RFP Timeline

Action	Target Completion Date
Develop RFP, in collaboration with High-Risk Contract requirements	Underway – March 30, 2025
Release RFP	April 1, 2025
RFP Submission Deadline	June 2, 2025
Committee Pre-Evaluation	June 25, 2025 – June 27, 2025
Committee Interviews with Qualified Applicants	June 30, 2025 – July 2, 2025
Committee Evaluations	July 7, 2025 – July 31, 2025
Price Negotiations and negotiation of terms and conditions	August 14, 2025
Final VITA Approval and OAG review	October 24, 2025
Notice of Intent to Award Issued	November 14, 2025
Targeted Contract Award Date	December 1, 2025
Selected Vendor Transition Period/Implementation to begin with System for the 2026-2027 School Year	December 2, 2025 – August 1, 2026

Report on Plan to Implement a New Statewide Assessment System

Questions?

Virginia Department of Education

Appendices

School Performance and Support Framework Resources

Frequently Asked Questions

Framework Overview

Accountability Vs. Accreditation

Engagement & Timeline

What is the Mastery Index?

What is Growth?

What is Readiness?

What is the 3E Readiness Framework?

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School Performance and Framework Data

Evolution of Data

- At the request of the Board of Education, over the year long development of the School Support and Performance Framework performance results were modelled based on the most current data available from the previous school year.

- Once data for the 2023-2024 school year was finalized in September 2024, that finalized data was included in the final modelling for the Framework shown here.

Performance Level Categories

Below are the simulated performance level categories based on the 2023-2024 school performance data.

Category	Elementary Schools Total	Middle Schools Total	High Schools Total	Unique School Configurations Total
Distinguished	177	23	62	11
On Track	569	155	127	32
Off Track	248	60	89	12
Needs Intensive Support	117	81	7	3
Total	1111	319	285	58

Data Toolkit

Training Approach

- Training
  - 16 Regional Superintendent Trainings
  - 6 Division Level Leader Trainings
  - 3 School Counselor Trainings
  - 6 Partner Trainings

- Deep Dive Data Sets in Secure School Division Portal

- Weekly Technical Assistance Hours

School Data Toolkit Resources

Technical Assistance Office Hours

- **Next Webinar:** December 5 at 10:00 a.m. or December 6 at 2:00 p.m.
- **Office Hours:** Wednesdays from 9-10 a.m. (December 4, 11, 18; January 8, 15, 22, 29)

- Presentation of the Overview of the School Performance and Support Framework (PowerPoint)

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High School
The elementary school calculation guide and templates are designed for schools with grade configurations of K-3, K-4, K-5, K-6, and K-7. Additional guidance and resources are provided for a school with a missing indicator.	The middle school calculation guide and templates are designed for schools with grade configurations of 5-8, 6-8, and 7-8. Additional guidance and resources are provided for a school with a missing indicator.	The high school calculation guide and templates are designed for schools with a grade configuration of 9-12. Additional guidance and resources are provided for a school with a missing indicator.
Elementary School Framework Index Calculation Guide	**Middle School Framework Index Calculation Guide**	**High School Framework Index Calculation Guide**
Calculation Templates	Calculation Templates	Calculation Templates
- Elementary School Framework Template - Elementary -Missing ELP Indicator - Elementary-Missing Science Indicator - Elementary School-Missing ELP & Science - Elementary School-Missing ELP & Science, Growth	- Middle School Framework Template - Middle School -Missing ELP Indicator	- High School-Framework Template - High School-Missing ELP Indicator

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RFI vs RFP

A Request for Information (RFI) is:

- a request for general information to **gain an understanding** whether vendors have the capacity to meet the unique needs of company and organization,

- used at the **outset of a project** before the customer's detailed requirements and approach have been ascertained, with a view to subsequently issuing a request for proposal, and

- is **not** legally binding.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) is:

- used when closer to the idea of making a purchase,

- organization already knows what is needed and only needs a vendor to supply the correct tools, and

- is **a formal bid request** sought to be procured, specifying the factors that will be used in **evaluating the proposal,** indicating whether a numerical scoring system will be used in evaluation of the proposal, and containing or incorporating by reference the other applicable **contractual terms and conditions,** including any unique capabilities, specifications or qualifications that will be required.