

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-253.13:3 of the Code of Virginia, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, relating to Standard 3 of the Standards of Quality.

[H 2477]

Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-253.13:3 of the Code of Virginia, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-253.13:3. Standard 3. Accreditation, other standards and evaluation.

A. The General Assembly recognizes the need for the Board of Education to prescribe requirements to ensure that student progress is measured and that school boards and school personnel are accountable.

B. The Board of Education shall promulgate regulations establishing standards for accreditation pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq.) which shall include, but not be limited to, student outcome measures, requirements and guidelines for instructional programs, administrative and instructional staffing levels and positions, pupil personnel services, special education program standards, auxiliary education programs such as library and media services, course and credit requirements for graduation from high school, community relations, and the philosophy, goals, and objectives of public education in Virginia.

In establishing course and credit requirements for a high school diploma, the Board shall provide for the selection of integrated learning courses meeting the Standards of Learning and approved by the Board to satisfy graduation credit requirements which shall include Standards of Learning Testing, as necessary.

The Board shall include in the student outcome measures, which are required by the Standards for Accreditation, end-of-course or end-of-grade tests for various grade levels and classes, as determined by the Board, in accordance with the Standards of Learning. These Standards of Learning assessments shall include, but need not be limited to, end-of-course or end-of-grade tests for English, mathematics, science, and social studies.

In revising the standards for accreditation, the Board shall seek to set pupil/teacher ratios for educable mentally retarded (EMR) pupils that do not exceed the pupil/teacher ratios for self-contained classes for pupils with specific learning disabilities. The Board shall review annually the accreditation status of all schools in the Commonwealth.

The requirements for a standard or advanced studies high school diploma shall include one credit in fine, performing, or practical arts. The requirements for a standard high school diploma may include a concentration of courses selected from a variety of options. Such concentration may be planned to ensure the completion of a focused sequence of elective courses leading to further education or preparation for employment developed by the school division consistent with Board of Education guidelines and as approved by the local school board.

C. The Board shall also establish requirements for certification of teachers, principals, supervisors and other professional staff and determine eligibility for appointment as a local division superintendent.

D. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall develop and the Board of Education shall approve criteria for determining and recognizing educational performance in the Commonwealth's public school divisions and schools. Such criteria, when approved, shall become an integral part of the accreditation process and shall include student outcome measurements. One year following the approval by the Board of such criteria, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall annually identify to the Board those school divisions and schools that exceed or do not meet the approved criteria. Such identification shall include an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of public education programs in the various school divisions in Virginia and recommendations to the General Assembly for further enhancing student learning uniformly across the Commonwealth.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall assist local school boards in the implementation of action plans for increasing educational performance in those school divisions and schools that are identified as not meeting the approved criteria. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall monitor the implementation of and report to the Board of Education on the effectiveness of the corrective actions taken to improve the educational performance in such school divisions and schools.

The Department of Education shall conduct technical assistance visits for local school divisions. Schools accredited with a warning shall be given priority for such assistance, which shall include an analysis of relevant school data and the development and implementation of improvement plans to assist

57 such schools in improving their accreditation status.

58 E. In order to assess the educational progress of students, the Board of Education shall also (i)
 59 develop appropriate assessments, which may include criterion-referenced tests and alternative assessment
 60 instruments which may be used by classroom teachers ~~and~~; (ii) prescribe and provide measures, which
 61 may include nationally normed tests, to be designated as the Virginia State Assessment Program, which
 62 shall be used to identify students who score in the bottom quartile at selected grade levels; *and (iii)*
 63 *prescribe and provide literacy tests in reading, writing and mathematics which shall be administered to*
 64 *students in grade six and to students who have not successfully passed them in grades seven and eight.*
 65 *The Board of Education is authorized to pursue all available civil remedies for breaches in test security.*

66 F. Each local school board shall maintain schools which meet the standards of accreditation as
 67 prescribed by the Board of Education. The accreditation status of all schools in each local school
 68 division shall be reviewed annually in public session. Within the time specified by the Board of
 69 Education, each school board shall submit corrective action plans for any schools within its school
 70 division that have been designated as not meeting the criteria for determining effectiveness as approved
 71 by the Board.

72 G. Each local school board shall also provide teachers and principals with (i) periodic in-service
 73 training in preparing tests and other assessment measures and (ii) methods for assessing the progress of
 74 individual students, including Standards of Learning assessment materials or other criterion-referenced
 75 tests which match locally developed objectives.

76 H. In order to assess the educational progress of students as individuals and as groups, each local
 77 school board shall require the administration of appropriate assessments, which may include
 78 criterion-referenced tests, teacher-made tests and alternative assessment instruments and shall include the
 79 Virginia State Assessment Program, the Virginia State Literacy Testing Program, the Standards of
 80 Learning Assessments, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress state-by-state assessment.
 81 Each school board shall analyze and report annually, in compliance with any criteria which may be
 82 established by the Board of Education, the results from the Virginia State Assessment Program ~~and~~, the
 83 Standards of Learning Assessments, and the Virginia State Literacy Testing Program to the public.

84 I. To assist school divisions in implementing those programs and practices that will enhance pupil
 85 academic performance and improve family and community involvement in the public schools, and from
 86 such funds as may be appropriated for such purpose, there shall be established within the Department of
 87 Education a unit to conduct evaluative studies and to provide the resources and technical assistance to
 88 increase the capacity of school divisions to deliver quality instruction. Such unit shall identify and
 89 analyze effective instructional programs and practices and professional development initiatives; evaluate
 90 the success of programs encouraging parental and family involvement; assess changes in student
 91 outcomes prompted by family involvement; and collect and disseminate among school divisions
 92 information regarding effective instructional programs and practices, initiatives promoting family and
 93 community involvement, and potential funding and support sources. Such unit may also provide
 94 resources supporting professional development for administrators and teachers. In providing such
 95 information, resources, and other services to school divisions, the unit shall give priority to those
 96 divisions demonstrating a less than seventy percent passing rate on (i) all three Literacy Passport tests
 97 by students taking these tests for the first time or (ii) the Standards of Learning assessment tests.

98 § 22.1-253.13:3. (Effective July 1, 2003) Standard 3. Accreditation, other standards and evaluation.

99 A. The General Assembly recognizes the need for the Board of Education to prescribe requirements
 100 to ensure that student progress is measured and that school boards and school personnel are accountable.

101 B. The Board of Education shall promulgate regulations establishing standards for accreditation
 102 pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq.) which shall include, but not be limited
 103 to, student outcome measures, requirements and guidelines for instructional programs, administrative and
 104 instructional staffing levels and positions, pupil personnel services, special education program standards,
 105 auxiliary education programs such as library and media services, course and credit requirements for
 106 graduation from high school, community relations, and the philosophy, goals, and objectives of public
 107 education in Virginia.

108 In establishing course and credit requirements for a high school diploma, the Board shall provide for
 109 the selection of integrated learning courses meeting the Standards of Learning and approved by the
 110 Board to satisfy graduation credit requirements which shall include Standards of Learning Testing, as
 111 necessary.

112 The Board shall include in the student outcome measures, which are required by the Standards for
 113 Accreditation, end-of-course or end-of-grade tests for various grade levels and classes, as determined by
 114 the Board, in accordance with the Standards of Learning. These Standards of Learning assessments shall
 115 include, but need not be limited to, end-of-course or end-of-grade tests for English, mathematics,
 116 science, and social studies.

117 In revising the standards for accreditation, the Board shall seek to set pupil/teacher ratios for

educable mentally retarded (EMR) pupils that do not exceed the pupil/teacher ratios for self-contained classes for pupils with specific learning disabilities. The Board shall review annually the accreditation status of all schools in the Commonwealth.

The requirements for a standard or advanced studies high school diploma shall include one credit in fine, performing, or practical arts. The requirements for a standard high school diploma *shall, however, include at least two sequential electives and* may include a concentration of courses selected from a variety of options. Such concentration may be planned to ensure the completion of a focused sequence of elective courses leading to further education or preparation for employment developed by the school division consistent with Board of Education guidelines and as approved by the local school board.

C. The Board shall also establish requirements for certification of teachers, principals, supervisors and other professional staff and determine eligibility for appointment as a local division superintendent.

D. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall develop and the Board of Education shall approve criteria for determining and recognizing educational performance in the Commonwealth's public school divisions and schools. Such criteria, when approved, shall become an integral part of the accreditation process and shall include student outcome measurements. One year following the approval by the Board of such criteria, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall annually identify to the Board those school divisions and schools that exceed or do not meet the approved criteria. Such identification shall include an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of public education programs in the various school divisions in Virginia and recommendations to the General Assembly for further enhancing student learning uniformly across the Commonwealth.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall assist local school boards in the implementation of action plans for increasing educational performance in those school divisions and schools that are identified as not meeting the approved criteria. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall monitor the implementation of and report to the Board of Education on the effectiveness of the corrective actions taken to improve the educational performance in such school divisions and schools.

The Department of Education shall conduct technical assistance visits for local school divisions. Schools accredited with a warning shall be given priority for such assistance, which shall include an analysis of relevant school data and the development and implementation of improvement plans to assist such schools in improving their accreditation status.

E. In order to assess the educational progress of students, the Board of Education shall also (i) develop appropriate assessments which may include criterion-referenced tests and alternative assessment instruments which may be used by classroom teachers; and (ii) prescribe and provide measures, which may include nationally normed tests, to be designated as the Virginia State Assessment Program, which shall be used to identify students who score in the bottom quartile at selected grade levels; ~~and (iii) prescribe and provide literacy tests in reading, writing and mathematics which shall be administered to students in grade six and to students who have not successfully passed them in grades seven and eight. The Board of Education is authorized to pursue all available civil remedies for breaches in test security.~~

F. Each local school board shall maintain schools which meet the standards of accreditation as prescribed by the Board of Education. The accreditation status of all schools in each local school division shall be reviewed annually in public session. Within the time specified by the Board of Education, each school board shall submit corrective action plans for any schools within its school division that have been designated as not meeting the criteria for determining effectiveness as approved by the Board.

G. Each local school board shall also provide teachers and principals with (i) periodic in-service training in preparing tests and other assessment measures and (ii) methods for assessing the progress of individual students, including Standards of Learning assessment materials or other criterion-referenced tests which match locally developed objectives.

H. In order to assess the educational progress of students as individuals and as groups, each local school board shall require the administration of appropriate assessments, which may include criterion-referenced tests, teacher-made tests and alternative assessment instruments and shall include the Virginia State Assessment Program, the Virginia State Literacy Testing Program, the Standards of Learning Assessments, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress state-by-state assessment. Each school board shall analyze and report annually, in compliance with any criteria which may be established by the Board of Education, the results from the Virginia State Assessment Program, and the Standards of Learning Assessments ~~and the Virginia State Literacy Testing Program~~ to the public.

I. To assist school divisions in implementing those programs and practices that will enhance pupil academic performance and improve family and community involvement in the public schools, and from such funds as may be appropriated for such purpose, there shall be established within the Department of Education a unit to conduct evaluative studies and to provide the resources and technical assistance to increase the capacity of school divisions to deliver quality instruction. Such unit shall identify and analyze effective instructional programs and practices and professional development initiatives; evaluate

179 the success of programs encouraging parental and family involvement; assess changes in student
180 outcomes prompted by family involvement; and collect and disseminate among school divisions
181 information regarding effective instructional programs and practices, initiatives promoting family and
182 community involvement, and potential funding and support sources. Such unit may also provide
183 resources supporting professional development for administrators and teachers. In providing such
184 information, resources, and other services to school divisions, the unit shall give priority to those
185 divisions demonstrating a less than seventy percent passing rate on (i) all three Literacy Passport tests
186 by students taking these tests for the first time or (ii) the Standards of Learning assessment tests.