

RELATIONS WITH EDUCATIONAL ACCREDITATION AGENCIES

All Essex County Public Schools are accredited according to standards developed by the Board of Education. The Essex County School Board reports the accreditation status of each school in the division annually in a public session of a board meeting.

The Essex County School Board recognizes individual schools under the Exemplar School Recognition Program established by the Board of Education to recognize and reward schools that 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.

The Essex County School Board may ask the Board of Education for release from state regulations or, 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 certain other schools by the Standards for Accreditation. 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 chair of the School Board on behalf of the Essex County 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 Essex County School Board, by the superintendent and chair of the Essex County 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 Essex County School Board to assign instructional personnel to the schools with the greatest needs, so long as the Essex County Public Schools Division employs a sufficient number of personnel divisionwide 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 Essex County 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: April 9, 2012
Revised: April 3, 2017
May 8, 2023

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:3, 22.1-253.13:9.