

BATH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: INFORMATION { X } ACTION { } CLOSED MEETING { }

SUBJECT: SUPERINTENDENT’S PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

2014-2015 School Accreditation Update

Bath County Public Schools
2014-15 Accreditation Ratings

The Virginia Department of Education released the 2014-15 School Accreditation Ratings on September 16th. As a result of more rigorous English and Mathematics Standards of Learning and more complex associated test items over the last few years, one out of every three schools in the commonwealth did not make full accreditation. As anticipated and reported in early summer board meetings, Bath’s overall ratings mirrored the state average, with Bath County High School and Millboro Elementary School fully accredited, and Valley Elementary School accredited with warning in English.

While Valley Elementary did not meet the Mathematics accreditation benchmark last year, the entire school division recognized that work needed to be done at all grade levels to strengthen student skills. From the fall through the last teacher work day, teachers participated in professional development sessions with a focus in math, reworked curriculum and pacing guides, and concentrated remediation efforts with students. Grade level math pass rates across the division increased by an average of sixteen percent last year.

New English and Writing SOL tests created problems across Virginia this past school year, and were a concern for BCPS as well, although our English scores improved by nearly six percent over 2012-13 scores. We have already begun work on English curriculum revision, and will continue to focus attention on related professional development.

Overall SOL Pass Rate Across All Subjects

MES 89%
VES 69%
BCHS85%

Across all subjects division-wide, SOL test scores averaged an eight percent gain from 2012-13 to 2013-14. Of the 51 SOL tests administered between our three schools, the average pass rate was 80%--up from 73% the prior year. In 2012-13, there were eleven subject tests with a pass rate of 90% or higher; in 2013-14, this number increased to eighteen subjects. The percent of BCPS courses meeting the accreditation benchmark is 75%--below where it needs to be, and we are focused on improvement. That said, our performance on this metric exceeds that of all other K-12 school divisions in our region, and is higher than the state average.

In addition to satisfactory SOL test performance, Bath County High School’s successful accreditation status also included the Virginia Graduation Completion Index (GCI) that measures the extent to which secondary schools with a graduating class are able to lead students to successful completion of a program of study. The required GCI is 85 points; the score for BCHS was 90.