

***American Recovery and Reinvestment
Act of 2009 (ARRA): Race to the Top
and
Additional Requirements in 2009
Standards of Accreditation***

**Presented to the
House Appropriations Committee
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Race to the Top (RTTT)

- **November 12, 2009 – USED released the ARRA competitive RTTT application**
- **Intended to “reward states that have raised student performance in the past and have the capacity to accelerate achievement gains with innovative reforms”**

Race to the Top (RTTT)

- **Application required states to document their past success and outline their plans to extend their reforms in four areas by:**
 - **Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy;**
 - **Building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction;**
 - **Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most; and**
 - **Turning around our lowest-achieving schools.**

Race to the Top Funding

- **\$4 billion to be awarded in 2 phases: April and September 2010**
- **Estimated range of awards: \$20 - \$700 million**
- **Nonbinding budget range estimated for Virginia's award: \$150 - \$250 million**
- **50% of a state's award must be awarded to its "participating" LEAs**
- **An LEA's award is based on its share (percentage) of the state's Title I, Part A, allocation for FFY 09 (Regular Title I + ARRA Title I)**

Race to the Top Funding

- **“Participating” LEAs must sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the state to implement significant aspects of the state’s plan**
- **Only “participating” LEAs will receive a share of the 50% of RTTT funding reserved for LEAs**
- **Funding that would have gone to LEAs that do not participate will be redistributed among the “participating” LEAs**
- **At the state’s discretion, “involved” LEAs may receive a portion of the SEA’s 50% of funding to implement parts of the state’s plan**

Status of Virginia's RTTT Application

- Virginia was one of 40 states to submit a letter of intent to apply in Phase I
- Virginia's application was submitted on January 15, 2010
- Of Virginia's 132 school divisions
 - 117 signed a MOU to "participate"
 - 7 elected to be "involved"
 - 7 opted not to participate at all
 - 1 anticipates joining as a "participating" LEA following action by its school board in January
- Total funding request: \$350 million (\$175 million for the state, \$175 million for LEAs)

Federal Review Timeline

- **August 31, 2009 – USED issued a call for applications from potential peer reviewers , with the intent of selected 75 – 100 reviewers**
- **November 12, 2009 – Final RTTT application released**
- **January 19, 2010 – Phase I applications were due to USED**
- **Applications reviewed in a two-tier process**
 - **Initial review based on the written application**
 - **Around March 1 – Phase I applicants invited to participate in Tier 2 will be notified**
 - **Week of March 15 – Invited state teams present their proposals to USED**
- **April 2010 – Phase I winners announced; Feedback provided to applicants that did not win**
- **June 1, 2010 – RTTT Phase II applications due**
- **September 2010 – Phase II winners announced**
- **September 30, 2010 – All RTTT funds must be awarded**

Highlights of Virginia's RTTT Application

- **Commitment to Virginia's Standards of Learning adopted by the Board of Education through the 2010 calendar year while leaving open the possibility of joining an assessment consortium in the future to get specific items or item types that are aligned with Virginia's Standards of Learning.**
- **Use of Virginia's revised Standards of Learning to implement a college-ready initiative that defines the content, skills, and associated achievement that students require to be prepared for postsecondary education.**

Highlights of Virginia's RTTT Application

- **Expansion of Virginia's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), which supports children's increased readiness for school by enabling communities to improve the quality of early care and education programs;**
- **Initiatives that put more technology-based resources in the hands of classroom teachers and students while providing critical professional development required to maximize their instructional value;**
- **Completing Virginia's statewide longitudinal data system and developing an efficient, automated, and user-friendly Web portal that permits access to publically available data.**

Highlights of Virginia's RTTT Application

- **Providing support to school divisions to develop and implement rigorous, transparent, and fair teacher and principal performance evaluations;**
- **Providing incentives for developing and implementing performance pay models based on rigorous, transparent, and fair teacher and principal performance evaluations;**
- **Providing incentives for charter school start-up in lowest achieving schools;**

Highlights of Virginia's RTTT Application

- **Expanding the number of Governor's STEM Academies to 18, which will double the number of such academies in Virginia that directly support economic development; and**
- **Piloting one U-Teach program in a university to increase the pool of mathematics and science teachers in the Commonwealth.**

2009 Standards of Accreditation

**Additional requirements
beyond those in effect for
2008-2009**

Standards of Accreditation (SOA): Additional 2009 Revisions

In February 2009, the Board of Education adopted revisions to Virginia's accountability program by:

- prescribing requirements to establish two new technical diplomas— Standard and Advanced Technical (effective with 9th graders in 2010-2011);
- increasing the number of standard units of credit for the Advanced Studies diploma (effective with 9th graders in 2010-2011);
- requiring students to successfully complete a course in economics & personal finance for high school graduation (effective with 9th graders in 2010-2011);
- requiring middle and high school students to have an Academic and Career Plan (effective with 7th graders in 2010-2011); and
- incorporating a graduation and completion index into Virginia's accountability system for high school accreditation (effective with 2011-2012 accreditation ratings).

Graduation and Completion Index

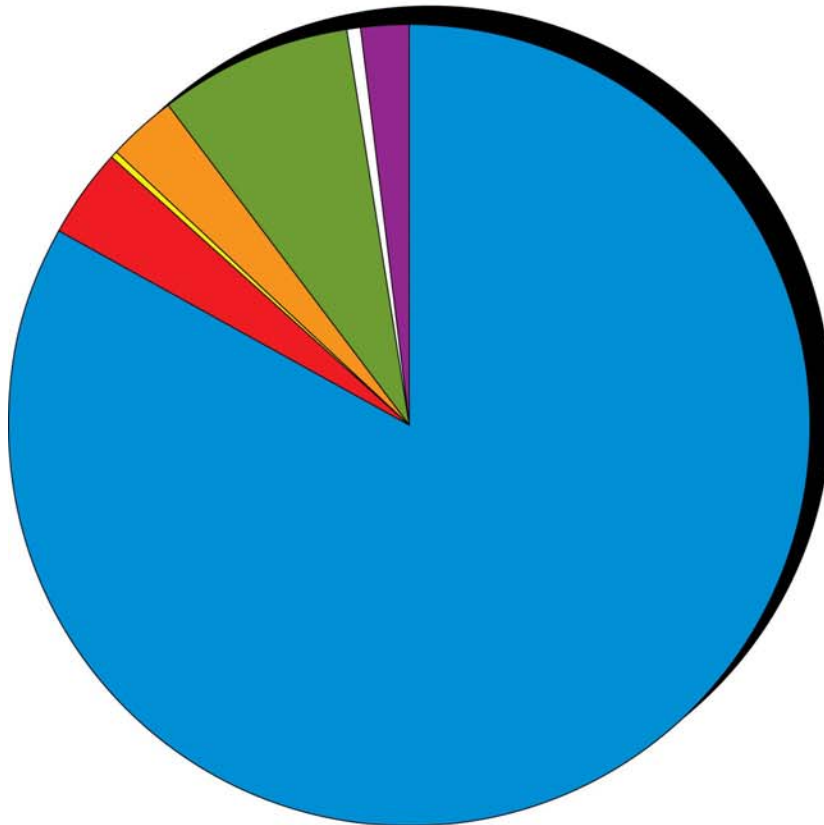
The Board revised Virginia's accreditation standards to create a "graduation & completion index" for high schools. The index awards:

- **100 points for students who graduate with a diploma**
- **75 points for students who earn a GED**
- **70 points for students who were in school for four or more years & remain enrolled while working on earning a diploma**
- **25 points for students who finish high school with a certificate of program completion**

Graduation and Completion Index Accreditation Ratings

- Beginning with accreditation ratings in 2011-2012 (based on 2010-2011 tests and graduates), high schools must earn a minimum of 85 points on the graduation & completion index — as well as achieve the required pass rates on state assessments for full accreditation.
- There is a five-year phase-in period, where schools can be rated provisionally accredited, by achieving interim graduation benchmarks (80 points to 85 points).
 - High schools that achieve the required pass rates on state assessments but do not meet the provisional benchmarks for graduation & completion will be rated as accredited with warning

Class of 2009 Cohort Report



83.2% Diploma Graduates

3.6% GED Earners

0.3% Certificate of Completion Earner

2.7% Still enrolled

7.9% Dropouts

0.5% Long Term Absences

1.8% Unconfirmed Status

Standards of Accreditation (SOA)

2006 SOA Requirements to Become Effective

- The 2009 SOA delayed for one year implementation of the 2006 SOA requirement that would have increased pass rates required in 2009-2010 for accreditation ratings in 2010-2011 from
 - 50 percent to 70 percent for 3rd grade science and history and social science, and
 - 70 percent to 75 percent for 8th and 11th grade English (grades 3 and 5 currently 75 percent)
- The 2006 SOA provision will become effective with assessments given in 2010-2011 for accreditation ratings in 2011-2012.