

# Eye cast on accountability in area schools

## Resource hub shows how institutions would perform under new system

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About 35% of Hampton Roads schools are poised to be labeled “Off Track” or needing intensive support under the Virginia Department of Education’s new school performance framework.

School-level data was released Friday as part of the Virginia Department of Education’s Road to Readiness online hub.

The hub, announced by Gov. Glenn Youngkin last week, will house school performance data and school and student support information.

Youngkin’s office said it will provide “transparent access” to parents, educators and the community.

The Virginia Board of Education overhauled the state’s accountability and accreditation system, approving the framework in August.

The system uses performance descriptors — Distinguished, On Track, Off Track and Needs Intensive Support — based on each school’s score. Scoring factors include student proficiency, growth and readiness and will be presented as a report card.

Officials had released 2023-2024 state-level data using the framework but this data set includes individual school information.

Schools won’t get their first report card until next summer but the scores show how schools would be labeled using last year’s results.

According to the data, 94 Hampton Roads schools would be Off Track. Only one — Norfolk’s Ruffner School — would be labeled as needing intensive support.

Nearly 150 schools in the area — or 54% — would be On Track. Thirty-two, or 11%, would be Distinguished.

Portsmouth fared worst; about 73% of its schools would be labeled Off Track.

Newport News and Norfolk followed, each at 67%. York County fared best; none of its schools would be considered Off Track.

In Virginia Beach, 15% of schools would be Off Track, and 20% Distinguished. In York County, 50% of its schools would be Distinguished.

Critics of the new system likened assigning descriptors to an A-F system. They also wanted student growth to be weighted higher.

Also on Friday, Youngkin announced that his 2025 budget proposal would include at least an additional \$50 million for schools that need more support under the new system.

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