



What Should Families Know About the New School Quality Profiles?

Virginia's new **School Quality Profiles** give families a fuller **picture of how your school is doing by using multiple measures**, including academic achievement (mastery), growth, readiness, and preparation for the future. Here are some answers to questions families may have that can help you **use this information to support your child and your school**.

What's the difference between accountability and accreditation?

Virginia recently changed the accreditation system and now uses two ways to describe schools. Accountability is focused on student progress and outcomes, while accreditation is focused on whether schools provide an essential foundation of high-quality programs for all students. They serve different purposes but work together to give families a clearer picture.

- **Accountability (School Performance and Support Framework)**
 - This Framework leads to the Performance Categories described below, which show how schools are doing overall and where they can improve. Virginia provides resources based on performance, with prioritized support going to schools that are Off Track or Need Intensive Support.
- **Accreditation:**
 - This shows whether a school meets Virginia's basic standards to operate, with the following categories:
 - **Fully Accredited:** Meets all requirements set by the state.
 - **Conditionally Accredited:** Has some areas to fix to regain full status.
 - **Accreditation Denied:** Has not made the required fixes.
 - **New School:** Temporary status for newly opened schools for one year.
 - **Accreditation Withheld:** Used if there's a serious testing issue and results can't be validated.
 - If your school is not fully accredited, ask your principal or superintendent about their plans for improvement.

What does my school's Performance Category mean?

Every school in Virginia is placed into one of four categories based on student mastery (how students are meeting academic expectations), growth (how students are progressing academically over time), and readiness (how schools are preparing students for what's next) for elementary and middle school, and mastery, readiness, and graduation for high school:

- **Distinguished:** Exceeding expectations.
- **On Track:** Meeting expectations.
- **Off Track:** Not meeting expectations; receives extra state support.
- **Needs Intensive Support:** Significantly below expectations; receives the strongest state support.

If your child's school is Off Track or Needs Intensive Support, it can receive additional help from the state to improve. Some schools will also qualify for [additional federal support](#). You can:

- Ask your principal for more details about your school's strengths and challenges. A school can stand out in one area and struggle in another, and families play a major role in supporting student and school success.
- Learn more about the Performance Categories and how they are measured [here](#).

What does the assessment information mean?

The Assessments tab shows how many students passed the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) state tests in each subject and grade. These scores show where students are right now, while the Performance Categories also include growth, readiness, and graduation to give a fuller picture. When reviewing this tab, look for:

- Whether scores are going up or down over time, and whether your child's progress is on track with the school's. If you notice any gaps, ask your teacher.
- How different groups of students (like English learners or students with disabilities) are doing, to see how well the school is serving all children.

Later this school year, VDOE will launch a new digital version of the School Quality Profiles with more detailed, interactive information and resources for families.

Explore more here: [VDOE Road to Readiness](#)

November 2025