

Joint Committee to Study the Future of Public Elementary and Secondary Education in the Commonwealth

Subcommittee #3: Revisions to the Standards of Accreditation, Standards of Learning, and Standards of Quality

Meeting Summary: July 24, 2017

The Subcommittee on Revisions to the Standards of Accreditation, Standards of Learning, and Standards of Quality held its first meeting of the 2017 interim on Monday July 24, 2017 in House Room 1 at the Capitol. A quorum was present and consisted of Senator Newman, Senator Locke, Delegate Landes, Delegate Bagby, and Ms. Cave. The meeting consisted of one presentation and discussion of bills referred to the subcommittee for consideration:

Presentation: Update from the Assessment Subcommittee of the Standards of Learning Innovation Committee:

Laurie McCullough, Executive Director of VirginiaASCD and chairwoman of the Assessment Subcommittee of the Standards of Learning Innovation Committee, delivered an update of the work of this executive branch subcommittee. She began with a historical overview of the SOL Innovation committee's recommendations related to student assessment and next shared the subcommittee's vision for the Commonwealth's student assessment system: one that strikes the right balance between accountability and instructional value. Based on this vision, the subcommittee constructed a possible assessment system model that focuses on ongoing quality feedback and formative assessment. Subcommittee members expressed concern that the replacement of state assessments with local assessments would make the pendulum swing too far away from accountability. Ms. McCullough responded that regardless of the type of assessment, the goal would always be for assessments to measure student performance.

Discussion of bills referred to subcommittee:

Subcommittee staff gave a brief overview of the three bills referred to the subcommittee - Senate Bill 1089 (Sturtevant), Senate Bill 1556 (Newman), and Senate Bill 1584 (Suetterlein) - all of which deal with the same issue of student assessment and accountability. The subcommittee agreed to defer action on these bills but to continue to examine them as part of the broader discussion of the creation and preservation of a balanced student assessment system in the Commonwealth.