Evaluating School Progress

School progress can be evaluated in several ways and they are the following:

**The Individual School Level** – Schools can be evaluated individually by their principals and teachers. Individual principals and department heads and teachers can review data to know how their specific school is progressing. Data could include benchmark tests, classroom assessments, last year’s testing data and school performance overall. An example would be the Virginia Secondary School Climate Survey (it would look at the data for an individual school based on responses given to identify strengths and weaknesses). The superintendents review this information with the building principal and makes recommendations.

**The Division Level** – Schools can also be evaluated in comparison to other schools in its division by student achievement data. An example would be to review an elementary, middle or high school to others within the same school division by reviewing Standards of Learning (SOLs) scores for Math, Science, Reading, Science, and History. For an example reviewing the overall Writing scores in a county or city level school to determine if interventions are needed to increase learning in this area for a school division or only for a few schools within it that may need improvement. The superintendents and principals look over data together for recommendations and instructional supports to be implemented.

**The State Level** – Schools within a state can be evaluated based on how other schools are performing in various areas of the state. Examples would be the school report card for each school within a division and then a total view of all the schools in Virginia. Schools are evaluated to determine if they stay accredited or if they stand in need of improvement. Recommendations come from the state level, to the superintendent, and then to the individual school.

**The National Level** – The U.S. Department of Education gets an overview of all the schools within the United States as a whole. Data is reported to them from the state level for information and statistical purposes and then compared to other countries in comparison to the United States.