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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1323**

2 Offered January 16, 2026

3 *A BILL to direct the Department of Education to revise the public school accountability system and*
4 *performance framework and submit amendments to its consolidated state plan.*

5 Patron—Reaser

6 Committee Referral Pending

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**8 **1. § 1. That the Department of Education shall revise the public school accountability system adopted**
9 **pursuant to 8-VAC20-132 of the Virginia Administrative Code, in accordance with the federal**
10 **accountability provisions set forth in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (P.L. No. 89-10), as**
11 **amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and its School Performance and Support Framework**
12 **as necessary to:**13 **1. Establish and implement by the 2026–2027 school year a fourth performance level, to be designated as**
14 **"below basic," as an academic achievement indicator for those assessments with only three performance**
15 **levels, including History and Social Science assessments and high school end-of-course assessments;**16 **2. Delay until the 2026–2027 school year the implementation of the fourth performance level for Science**
17 **in grades five and eight;**18 **3. Establish as the preferred accountability measure for history and social science for the purposes of the**
19 **mastery index the exclusive use of performance-based assessments;**20 **4. Prohibit or eliminate the implementation of expanded middle school advance coursework such that**
21 **students in middle school shall not be permitted to take (i) the high school world geography or world history**
22 **I course and the applicable end-of-course assessment or (ii) the high school earth science course and the**
23 **applicable end-of-course assessment;**24 **5. Change from a "B" grade to a "C" grade the minimum grade required to earn 0.5 points in a Junior**
25 **Reserve Officers' Training Corps or equivalent leadership course under the 3E Readiness Framework**
26 **developed as a part of the School Performance and Support Framework;**27 **6. Eliminate the provision providing that any school identified for "targeted support and improvement"**
28 **under the federal accountability system pursuant to ESSA shall have its performance category under the**
29 **School Performance and Support Framework reduced by one level; and**30 **7. Ensure that the refusal of any parent to have his child take any required Standards of Learning**
31 **assessment does not impact the calculations for the mastery index for the purposes of measuring**
32 **achievement, except to the extent necessary to ensure the school meets the required federal participation rate**
33 **pursuant to ESSA.**34 **The Department of Education shall, by September 1, 2026, submit to the U.S. Department of Education**
35 **any amendments to its consolidated state plan under ESSA that are necessary to implement the provisions of**
36 **this act.**37 **§ 2. That the Department of Education shall develop and make available to schools and families by the**
38 **beginning of the 2026–2027 school year clear, timely explanations for and guidance materials on the**
39 **computation methodology for the vertical scaled scores and value tables implemented for use as a growth**
40 **model for student assessments.**

INTRODUCED

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