**Include Workplace Learning**

**in the High School Accountability System**



Current Reality: The Virginia Board of Education updated the Accountability System for schools. The bifurcation of Accreditation from Accountability and the goal of creating a clear and easy-to-understand system is commendable. The considerable complexity of the current system, combined with the rapid pace of building a new system, will require that, as the system is implemented, that it be exceedingly well communicated and improved when it is either not functioning as anticipated or when unintended outcomes are realized.

One oversight observed by Career and Technical Education (CTE) Leaders in Roanoke City Public Schools involves the exclusion of Work-based Learning in the Ready for Life indicator and the 3E Readiness Framework.

It has been well documented the positive impact that hands-on work-based learning has on students, especially in career exploration and preparation and in developing durable skills. It is important for workforce readiness to connect classroom instruction to experiential learning.

In RCPS, some students log over 1,000 hours in their Work-based Learning experiences such as apprenticeships and internships.  An alternate measure for tier level could be based on the number of hours logged during a Work-based Learning experience.

Legislative Recommendation: Direct the Board of Education to include and incentivize Work-based Learning in the Ready for Life indicators and the 3E Readiness Framework.