



ACCREDITATION UPDATE

In Virginia, public school accreditation ratings are determined by student achievement on Standards of Learning (SOL) tests in English, math, history and science. School accreditation ratings for the 2016-2017 school year are based on SOL test results taken by students during the previous school year or a three-year average of achievement.

Since 2012, Newport News students, like their counterparts across the state, have been tested on more rigorous standards adopted by the Virginia Board of Education. As was expected and predicted by the Virginia Department of Education, student achievement on SOL tests declined statewide, creating a new starting point or baseline for future test results. As educators and students become better acquainted with the revised standards and tests, SOL scores are increasing.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR LEE HALL:

Despite an increase in SOL scores in math and science and exceeding the state benchmark in history, Lee Hall Elementary School has received an Accreditation Denied rating for the 2016-2017 school year because the school's SOL test scores did not meet all of the benchmarks established by the Virginia Board of Education.

To be Fully Accredited at least 75% of students must pass SOL tests in English and at least 70% of students must pass SOL tests in math, history and science. To earn Partial Accreditation, student SOL scores must be within a narrow margin of achieving the benchmarks or making acceptable progress as defined by the state department of education.

Under the state accreditation regulations, even if a school increases its SOL scores, accreditation will be denied if the school does not meet all of the state's benchmarks and if the school did not receive a fully accredited rating in the last four years. Last school year, Lee Hall received a Partially Accredited: Warned School rating.

Subject	State Benchmark (pass rate)	Lee Hall Students' Pass Rate
English	75%	60%
Math	70%	65%
History	70%	77%
Science	70%	68%

In addition, Lee Hall fell short of meeting federal Annual Measurable Objectives for increasing student achievement in English and math, and closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Because of the SOL test results and the school's federal funding status, Lee Hall is identified as a "focus school" by the Virginia Department of Education and must employ a state-approved school improvement coach to help develop, implement and monitor intervention strategies to improve the performance of students at risk of not meeting achievement standards.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR STUDENT:

For elementary schools, accreditation is solely based on an average of student SOL test scores by subject. A school's accreditation rating does not personally impact students. Lee Hall's accreditation rating appears on the school's state report card but the rating does not appear on student report cards or any other documents pertaining to the student.

Students attending Lee Hall will continue to receive a quality education from highly-qualified teachers. While SOL tests and scores are important, they do not tell the full story. Newport News Public Schools curriculum is aligned to the newer, rigorous SOLs, but NNPS educators go beyond teaching the minimum state standards. The NNPS curriculum combines the SOLs with the district's *college, career and citizen-ready* skills (information literacy, communication, critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity and innovation, initiative and self-direction, social responsibility and collaboration) to better prepare students for success as learners, future employees and contributing citizens.

To assess student learning, SOLs and *college, career and citizen-ready* skills are integrated within performance assessments or tasks that students engage in to demonstrate their understanding and application of learning goals.

LEE HALL HAS A PLAN FOR PROGRESS:

Lee Hall's academic action plan focuses on increasing literacy and math skills, and giving students more learning time.

An additional 2 hours a week of targeted instruction for students is provided through the use of an intervention/enrichment block. Interventionists provide intensive instruction in reading and mathematics for students in need of increased academic support and additional teacher coaches are focusing on refining instruction in all subjects. In addition, Lee Hall teachers are using reading conferences, authentic reading opportunities and writers' workshops to improve reading instruction and build vocabulary.

Many students will also work cooperatively with staff members to create success plans that set performance goals which will be reviewed quarterly.

Lee Hall students may participate in numerous extended learning opportunities including Saturday academies, afterschool academic programs and SPARK, the Summer Program for Arts, Recreation and Knowledge.

Great Things are Happening at **LEE HALL ELEMENTARY**

Lee Hall Elementary School gives students the opportunity to grow and develop while receiving instruction in English, math, science and history/social science, as well as technology, art, music, and health and physical education. A STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) literacy lab is opening soon. Lee Hall students are gaining valuable leadership skills and becoming involved in their school.

Our school offers a variety of enrichment and youth development opportunities including a flag raiser group with USS Ford sailors, a breakfast crew, a student council association, student ambassadors, a fantasy writing club, a news crew, Odyssey of the Mind and afterschool book clubs

Our students consistently gain recognition in FIRST Lego competitions including earning first place in robot design and second place in robot performance during the most recent match

Our students are involved in several community service projects including disaster relief fundraising and environmental conservation

Our students participated in the Student Art Show at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center

Our students host an annual "Be a Buddy Not a Bully" walk

Our school has an active partnership with Mad Science of Hampton Roads

