Revised 8-7-12
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN – GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

The *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8 VAC 20-131-10 et. seq.) set the minimum standards public schools must meet to be accredited by the Board of Education. Accreditation of public schools is required by the Standards of Quality (§§□ 22.1-253.13:1 et. seq.). The annual accrediting cycle for public schools is July 1 through June 30. This cover sheet, with the supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Department of Education for review and recommendation to the Board at least 90 days prior to August 1 of the school year in which the plan is to be implemented.

8 VAC 20-131-280 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* states (in part):

Subject to the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 . . . schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students as defined by the graduation rate formula adopted by the board may request that the board approve an alternative accreditation plan to meet the graduation and completion index benchmark.

The Board of Education, in its *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia,* states:

In accordance with the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-350 of the standards, local school boards may seek waivers of provisions of the standards to address the unique needs of special purpose schools. Such requests must include documentation of the need for the waiver. Waiver requests for special purpose schools and schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer student will be considered based upon specified criteria. All applications must be submitted to the Board for consideration at least 90 days prior to August 1 of the school year. Requests for consideration must be accompanied by information that documents the need for approval of the request. The chair of the local school board and the division superintendent are requested to be in attendance at the Board of Education meeting when the proposal is considered.

We, the undersigned, submit this request for review and approval by the Board of Education and understand that we are expected to appear before the Board to discuss the program and respond to questions raised.

Date Approved by the Local School Board	Signature – Chairman of the School Board
Submission Date	Signature – Division Superintendent

ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION PLAN TEMPLATE

GRADUATION COHORT OF FIFTY OR FEWER STUDENTS

School Name: Twin Springs High School

Division Name: Scott

School Address: 273 Titan Lane Nickelsville, VA 24271

Contact Person: Sam Parks

Phone Number: 276-479-2185

Email: sam.parks@scottschools.com

Proposed Duration of Plan: Five Years, including 2015-2016 accreditation cycle

Grade Levels Served: 8-12

Number of Students Enrolled by Grade: 8th -55; 9th -54; 10th -61; 11th -58; 12th -45

Rationale:

If this school has a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students and the school does not meet the 85% Graduation Completion Index (GCI) benchmark, the school would like to apply for an alternative accreditation plan as indicated in *8 VAC 20-131-280* of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia.*

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the index. For this reason, the GCI alone is not an appropriate measure for the school; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation.

List the additional performance criteria on which you propose to base the school's accreditation and provide a proposed points award for meeting each criteria. The GCI cannot be changed. Additional criteria proposed must be objective, measurable, and directly address the school's graduation rate. (This will be different for each school. The Virginia Index of Performance may provide useful indicators that may be considered. This information can be found at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/va_index_performance_awards/index.shtml)

Description of Additional Criteria	Points Added to GCI for Meeting Criteria
GCI bonus for 50% of students scoring advanced proficient on SOL assessments	1
GCI bonus for 25% of students enrolled in Dual Enrollment classes	1
GCI bonus for 50% of graduates enrolling in post-secondary education, joining the military, or obtaining full-time employment	1
GCI bonus for 25% of students receiving CTE certifications	1
GCI bonus for 80% of students graduating with an Advanced or Standard diploma	1

The criteria listed above will be applied to the GCI only if: a) the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation, and b) the cohort size for the graduating class is 50 or fewer students

according to the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort formula. If the criteria are applied, the maximum number of GCI points allowable according to cohort size will be:

- No bonus points assigned for 0-14 students. A written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be submitted.
- Maximum of five (5) points for cohorts of 15-20 students.
- Maximum of four (4) points for cohorts of 21-40 students.
- Maximum of three (3) points for cohorts of 41-50 students.

The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the State Superintendent of Instruction for cohort sizes of less than 15 students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

List those individuals who were involved in the development of the proposed plan.
Sam Parks
Lori Flanary

Twin Springs High School

Grade Level	Standard Diploma	Advanced Diploma
Seniors	33%	55%
Juniors	50%	50%
Sophomores	36%	59%
Freshmen	51%	48%

Grade Level	Percent enrolling in post-secondary education	Percent obtaining a full time job
Seniors	71%	15%

Grade Level	Dual Enrollment Courses taken up to current school year
Seniors	44%
Juniors	40%

Grade Level	Percentage of students receiving Career and Technical Certification
Seniors	66%
Juniors	13%

Twin Springs High School
8th Grade

Student Status	Point Value	# of Students	Point Value	GCI Rating
Board Recognized Diploma in SOA	100	53	5300	
Still Enrolled	70	0	0	
GED	75	0	0	
Certificate of Completion	25	2	50	
Drop out	0	0	0	
TOTAL		55	5350	97.2
GCI bonus when 50% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full-time job	+1		1	
GCI bonus for 50% of students earning an advanced or standard diploma	+1		1	
GCI bonus when 25% of students receive CTE certification	+1		0	
GCI BONUS POINT TOTAL			2	
FINAL GCI TOTAL				99.2

Twin Springs High School
Freshmen

Student Status	Point Value	# of Students	Point Value	GCI Rating
Board Recognized Diploma in SOA	100	53	5300	
Still Enrolled	70	0	0	
GED	75	0	0	
Certificate of Completion	25	1	25	
Drop out	0	0	0	
TOTAL		54	5325	98.6
GCI bonus when 50% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full-time job	+1		1	
GCI bonus for 50% of students earning an advanced or standard diploma	+1		1	
GCI bonus when 25% of students receive CTE certification	+1		0	
GCI BONUS POINT TOTAL			3	
FINAL GCI TOTAL				100.6

Twin Springs High School
Sophmores

Student Status	Point Value	# of Students	Point Value	GCI Rating
Board Recognized Diploma in SOA	100	58	5800	
Still Enrolled	70	0	0	
GED	75	0	0	
Certificate of Completion	25	3	75	
Drop out	0	0	0	
TOTAL		61	5875	96.3
GCI bonus when 50% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full-time job	+1		1	
GCI bonus for 50% of students earning an advanced or standard diploma	+1		1	
GCI bonus when 25% of students receive CTE certification	+1		1	
GCI BONUS POINT TOTAL			3	
FINAL GCI TOTAL				100.3

Twin Springs High School
Juniors

Student Status	Point Value	# of Students	Point Value	GCI Rating
Board Recognized Diploma in SOA	100	58	5,800	
Still Enrolled	70	0	0	
GED	75	0	0	
Certificate of Completion	25	2	50	
Drop out	0	0	0	
TOTAL		61	5850	95.9
GCI bonus when 50% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full-time job	+1		1	
GCI bonus for 50% of students earning an advanced or standard diploma	+1		1	
GCI bonus when 40% of students are enrolled in dual enrollment courses	+1		1	
GCI BONUS POINT TOTAL			3	
FINAL GCI TOTAL				98.9

Twin Springs High School
Seniors

Student Status	Point Value	# of Students	Point Value	GCI Rating
Board Recognized Diploma in SOA	100	44	4,400	
Still Enrolled	70	0	0	
GED	75	0	0	
Certificate of Completion	25	1	25	
Drop out	0	0	0	
TOTAL		45	4,425	98.3
GCI bonus when 50% or more graduates enroll in post-secondary education, join the military, or obtain a full-time job	+1		1	
GCI bonus for 50% of students earn an advanced or standard diploma	+1		1	
GCI bonus when 40% of students are enrolled in a dual enrollment course	+1		1	
GCI BONUS POINT TOTAL			3	
FINAL GCI TOTAL				101.3