



# Covington City Public Schools

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Office of the Superintendent

January 23, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you know, Covington City Public Schools is dedicated to ensuring student success. While our school division has always held high expectations for our students, the U.S. Department of Education as well as the Virginia Department of Education, have set more rigorous standards for students to meet in public schools.

Annually, our state releases a report on the progress our schools are making toward achieving proficiency. This report reflects school and division federal Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs), which are designed to reduce proficiency gaps between high and low performing schools and state SOL results.

The ESEA provisions, as well as the State, require that schools that do not meet the AMOs for subgroups or the SOLs, must develop and implement improvement plans. These improvement plans focus on interventions for those students not meeting the cut scores.

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) announced that the percentage of schools meeting state accreditation standards declined for a second consecutive year as a consequence of the growing impact of more rigorous reading, writing, science and mathematics Standard of Learning (SOL) tests introduced since 2011. "The SOL tests students began taking 16 years ago established a uniform floor across the state. Now the floor is being raised so all students – regardless of where they live, who they are, or their family’s income – will have a foundation for success in an increasingly competitive economy," Board of Education President Christina N. Braunlick said. "These new tests represent higher expectations for our students and schools and meeting them will be a multiyear process."

A school’s **state accreditation** rating reflects overall achievement in the four academic areas of English, mathematics, science and history. In addition, high schools must meet a benchmark cut score for graduation and program completion.

### State Accreditation:

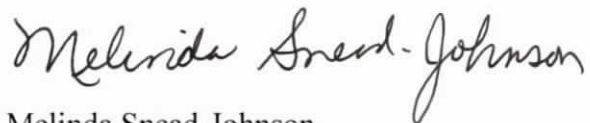
<b>Edgemont Primary School</b>	<b>Jeter-Watson Intermediate</b>	<b>Covington High School</b>
Fully Accredited	Fully Accredited	Fully Accredited

We are firmly committed to achieving our goal of success for every child, and we recognize that we must continually improve. Covington City Public Schools currently has the following programs in place help to Improve scores: Reading First Initiatives, Intervention and Remedial programs, Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant, Early Intervention, Title I and Special Education programs. Covington City Public Schools has four full-day kindergarten and two “at-risk” preschool classes....of which we are very proud. There are also many other quality programs in place to help our students succeed.

We are also very proud to have our schools filled with teachers, principals, and support staff, who regularly update their skills and participate in training to help them meet the needs of all students. Our staff members are committed to excellence in education and ensuring success for all students. We invite you to arrange a visit to any classroom in the school division to see for yourself.

We urge you to examine the results and look closely at the progress our schools are making. Most importantly, we encourage you to join us in addressing our challenges and applauding the great work students and staffs are doing in classrooms throughout our Covington City Public Schools. If you are interested in viewing schools' report cards, go to [www.doe.virginia.gov](http://www.doe.virginia.gov). As always, we welcome your comments, suggestions, and involvement in our schools and in the challenges our students face.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melinda Snead-Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Melinda Snead-Johnson  
Superintendent