



MEMORANDUM

TO: Suffolk City School Board

FROM: Dr. John B. Gordon III, *Superintendent JBG:MG*
Dr. Okema S. Branch, *Chief Academic Officer*
Dr. Maria Lawson-Davenport, *Director of Curriculum and Instruction*

DATE: **September 9, 2021**

RE: **Request for Approval of Waivers for Community Service Graduation Requirements and Midterm and Final Exams**

Due to the Covid-19 closures and limits to access to educational opportunities, the Teaching and Learning Department requests school board approval for the following items:

- Waiver of the community service/service learning local graduation requirement for the **2021-2022** graduating seniors (Student Handbook-Requirements for Graduation)
- Eliminate Midterms and Final Exams for all high school level courses

The recommendation to eliminate midterms and final exams is to ensure the following:

- Encourage a focus on continuous student growth and mastery of skills through smaller common assessments
- Reduce the number of high-stakes testing given that students are required to take multiple standardized tests throughout high school (PSAT, SAT, ASVAB, AP, IB, Industry Credentials)
- Eliminate grade deflation for semester averages as a result of poor performance on exams and finals
- Eliminate the need for multiple instructional days dedicated to midterms and final exams