

The scaled score that a candidate can receive on the *SLLA* ranges from a low of 100 points to a high of 200 points. The recommended passing scaled score values for the principals panel ranged from 156 to 165 scaled score points. For the central office administrators, the recommended passing score values ranged from 159 to 161 scaled score points.

The *SLLA* is a six-hour constructed response assessment organized into the following four sections: 1) **Evaluation of Actions (1 hour)**, based on 10 short vignettes covering situations a principal might encounter. In each case, candidates respond to a question that asks for next steps, factors influencing a decision, or possible consequences of an action; 2) **Evaluation of Actions II (1 hour)**, six longer vignettes, each presenting a dilemma based on typical school issues. Candidates must analyze the circumstances and respond to an analytical question that requires prioritizing action steps or articulating the relevant issues; 3) **Synthesis of Information and Problem Solving (2 hours)**, containing two case studies involving teaching and learning issues. In each case, candidates must propose a course of action to address a complex problem, referring to a set of documents and a short scenario describing a school and its community; and, 4) **Analysis of Information and Decision Making (2 hours)**, focusing on documents that relate to teaching and learning issues. Candidates must answer questions about each document.

Summary of Major Elements:

House Bill 573, Effective July 1, 2004, requires the Board of Education's *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* to require that on and after July 1, 2005, initial licensure for principals and other school leaders, as may be determined by the board, be contingent upon passage of the *SLLA*. On July 21, 2004, the *SLLA* Score Setting Review Panel convened for the purpose of developing a recommended cut-score for the *SLLA* to be presented to the Board of Education for consideration. The panel was composed of nine practicing school administrators with between two and 10 years of experience, and three representatives of higher education institutions with approved leadership preparation programs. Additionally, panel composition was based on regional representation and ethnic diversity.

The score-setting review process included a review and discussion of national performance data and the alignment between Virginia's licensure requirements and the *SLLA*. The national median score for the *SLLA* is 177. Of the nine states currently requiring a passing score, the average passing score is 157. The District of Columbia, Kansas, South Carolina, and Virginia were not included in these data since these states did not require passing scores at the time of data collection.

A report for all examinees taking the *SLLA* in Virginia between January 1, 2000, and January 31, 2004, yielded the following results:

Examinees: 232	Median: 173
High Score: 195	Mean: 172.50
Low Score: 140	St Dev.: 10.40

Panel members were first asked to review independently all materials and respond to the following items: 1) Considering all the information you have reviewed, what passing score do you recommend for Virginia's assessment purpose; and, 2) Briefly describe primary reasons for recommending this score. A group discussion of pre-consensus scores was conducted. Materials provided to the review panel are attached in Appendix A.

Based on this discussion, the panel unanimously recommended a qualifying cut-score of 165 be required in Virginia for passing the *SLLA*.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive for first review ABTEL's recommendation supporting the proposed cut-score of 165 for the *School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA)*, effective July 1, 2005.

Impact on Resources:

Costs associated with the administration of the *School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA)* will be incurred by Educational Testing Services. Prospective school leaders will be required to pay a fee for test administration and reporting results to the Department of Education. Currently, the cost to individuals for test administration is approximately \$480.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Results of the administration and passing rates on the *SLLA* will be included as part of the annual Title II Higher Education Act Report to the U. S. Department of Education.

APPENDIX A

- 1. School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA):
National Performance Data – pp. 1-3**
- 2. School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA):
State of Virginia Performance Data – pp. 4-5**
- 3. Virginia Licensure Regulations for Administration and Supervision
Matched to the School Leadership Licensure Assessment
Specifications – pp. 6-10**