

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: E.

Date: May 25, 2005

Topic: First Review of Recommended Adjustments to Cut Scores for the Reading Subtest of the Stanford English Language Proficiency Test When Used as a Substitute for the Standards of Learning Grade 3 English Test and the Grade 5 and 8 Standards of Learning English: Reading Tests

Presenter: Mrs. Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Assessment and Reporting

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Origin:

Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

Board review required by
 State or federal law or regulation
 Board of Education regulation
 Other: _____

Action requested at this meeting Action requested at future meeting: _____ (date)

Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

Previous review/action
date April 2004
action Adopted cut scores

Background Information

The United States Department of Education (USED) approved Virginia's Accountability Workbook in June 2003. This accountability workbook states in part:

Effective with the 2003-2004 academic year, all limited English proficient (LEP) students will participate in the Virginia state assessment program. LEP students in grades 3-8 at the lower levels (Level 1 and Level 2) of English language proficiency will take the Standards of Learning assessment for English: reading and mathematics, with or without accommodations, or state approved assessments linked to the Standards of Learning.

The Stanford English Language Proficiency (SELP) Test is used to assess the English proficiency of LEP students in Virginia. This test, which measures proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing English, is linked to Virginia's English language proficiency standards and thus to the English Standards of Learning. LEP students at levels 1 and 2 of English language proficiency may take the reading subset of the SELP instead of the SOL English: reading test.

At its April 2004 meeting, the Board of Education approved cut scores for the SELP reading test that would be equivalent to pass/proficient on the SOL grade 3 English test, the grade 5 English: reading

test, and the grade 8 English: reading test.

Following the administration of the SELP test in spring 2004, Virginia educators recommended to Department of Education staff that the reading subtest of the SELP needed to be augmented to more closely match Virginia's Standards of Learning. Department staff worked with committees of Virginia educators and Harcourt staff to augment the SELP reading tests for the spring 2005 administration. Because of the change in content for these tests, new cut scores to represent "pass/proficient" on the SOL grade 3 English test and the English: reading tests at grades 5 and 8 need to be set. Consistent with the process used to set scores on the SOL tests, committees of educators were convened in early May 2005 to recommend to the Board of Education minimum cut scores on the reading subtest of the SELP that would be equivalent to scores of pass/proficient on the SOL grade 3 English test, the grade 5 English: reading test and the grade 8 English: reading test.

Summary of Major Elements: Information about the range of cut scores recommended by the committees for the SELP reading subtest for pass/proficient will be presented. The Board is asked to review this information and to adopt cut scores on the reading subtest of the SELP that would be equivalent to scores of pass/proficient on the SOL grade 3 English test, the grade 5 English: reading test and the grade 8 English: reading test.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board waive first review and adopt cut scores for the SELP test that are equivalent to pass/proficient on the grade 3 English test and the English: reading tests for grade 5 and 8.

Impact on Resources: N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action: N/A