

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ B. _____

Date: July 26, 2006

Topic: First Review of Timeline for Submission of Additional Evidence to the United States Department of Education for Review of Virginia's Assessment System

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 _____

action _____

Background Information:

As part of the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) compliance requirements, states must submit materials to the United States Department of Education (USED) for a peer review of the processes and policies related to the development and implementation of the state's standards and assessments. In November 2005, the Virginia Department of Education submitted available documentation to USED for review under this requirement. Because Virginia implemented new tests in reading and mathematics in grades 3 through 8 in spring 2006 as well as a revised alternate assessment program for students with significant cognitive disabilities, some of the required information was not available at the time of the November 2005 submission.

On March 22, 2006, USED issued a letter to Virginia outlining additional evidence to be submitted after the spring 2006 test administration. On June 13, 2006, Virginia submitted a timeline for providing the additional evidence. On June 28, 2006, USED issued a second letter rating Virginia's assessment system as *Approval Pending*. The letter stated that "Virginia's system has one fundamental component that warrants the designation of *Approval Pending*. Specifically, we cannot approve Virginia's standards and assessment system due to outstanding concerns regarding the validity, comparability, alignment, reporting and approved academic achievement standards for the Stanford English Language Proficiency (SELP) assessment when used as a proxy for the reading Standards of Learning (SOL)

assessments.”

Based on the *Approval Pending* rating Virginia has been placed under mandatory oversight by USED and must provide, within 25 business days from the receipt of the letter, a plan and a detailed timeline for how it will meet the remaining requirements to come into full compliance by the end of the 2006-2007 school year. A second peer review of the additional information will be conducted once all additional evidence has been submitted.

Summary of Major Elements

The Board of Education is asked to approve the timeline for providing additional evidence supporting Virginia’s assessment system to USED so that the timeline may be submitted by the August 4, 2006, deadline.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board waive first review and approve the timeline for providing additional evidence supporting Virginia’s assessment system for submission to USED.

Impact on Resources:

Existing NCLB funding is expected to cover the estimated costs for providing additional information to USED.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

The Department of Education will provide periodic updates to the Board of Education.