

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ G. _____

Date: February 15, 2006

Topic: Final Review of a Proposal to Revise the Accreditation Guidelines to Clarify the Pass Rates Required for the New Reading and Mathematics Tests at Grades 4, 6, and 7 in the 2006-2007 Accreditation Ratings

Presenter: Mrs. Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent for 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: Previous Board Resolution _____

Action requested at this meeting

Action requested at future meeting:

Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

Previous review/action

date: January 11, 2006

action: First Review of a Proposal to Revise the Accreditation Guidelines to Clarify the Pass Rates Required for the New Reading and Mathematics Tests at Grades 4, 6, and 7 in the 2006-2007 Accreditation Ratings

Background Information:

In the 2005-2006 school year new tests in reading and mathematics are being administered in grades 4, 6, and 7 to meet the requirements of the federal *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. As the current *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* do not specifically address the calculation of accreditation ratings using these tests, clarification as to the pass rates that are required for full accreditation is needed.

The *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* require each public school to be accredited based primarily on the performance of students on the Standards of Learning tests or additional tests approved by the Virginia Board of Education.

(8 VAC 20-131-280.C.1) Each school shall be accredited based, primarily, on achievement of the criteria established in 8 VAC 20-131-30 as specified below:

1. All students enrolled in a grade or course in which a SOL test is administered shall take each applicable SOL test unless exempted from participating in all or part of the testing program by one of the following:
 - a. IEP Team;
 - b. LEP committee;
 - c. Use of additional tests for verified credit as outlined in 8 VAC 20-131-110.B.;
 - d. In accordance with 8 VAC 20-131-30. B.

(8 VAC 20-131-280.C.2) In a manner prescribed by the Board, the evaluation of the performance of schools shall take into consideration the percentage of eligible students who achieve a passing score on the prescribed SOL tests....

The *Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* differentiate the pass rates required for full accreditation for the grade 3 and grade 5 English tests as 75% and the grade 3 history/social science and science tests as 50%. The pass rate required for full accreditation for all other content areas is 70%.

(8 VAC 20-131-300 Section C) A school will be rated Fully Accredited when its eligible students meet the pass rate of 70% in each of the four content areas except, effective with ratings earned in the 2003-2004 academic year and beyond, the pass rates required shall be 75% in third and fifth grade English and 50% in third grade science and history/social science. In schools housing grades kindergarten through grade five, the English and mathematics pass rates for accreditation purposes shall be calculated for these grades as single pass rates by combining the scores of all grades three and five SOL tests administered in English and by combining the scores of all grades three and five SOL tests administered in mathematics.

Summary of Major Elements:

The Board of Education is asked to approve revisions to the *Guidelines Governing Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* that 1) clarify that the scores of students who take reading and mathematics tests in grades 4, 6, and 7 are to be included in the accreditation rating of the school in which they took the test, and 2) specify the pass rates that are to be applied to accreditation ratings including results from these tests.

Based on the statement in the *Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8 VAC 20-131-300.C.) that “a school will be rated Fully Accredited when its eligible students meet the pass rate of 70%...,” the pass rates required for the reading and mathematics tests in grades 4, 6, and 7 for full accreditation would be 70%. Alternatively, in schools that include students who have taken a third- or fifth-grade reading test as well as those who have taken a reading test in grades 4, 6, or 7, the scores of all English tests taken in the school may be combined and the resulting pass rate tested against the 75% benchmark. The proposed additions to the accreditation guidelines, which are attached, would apply only to the 2006-2007 accreditation ratings based on

the test results from the 2005-2006 school year.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education adopt the proposed clarification in calculating the 2006-2007 accreditation ratings. The pass rates required for the reading and mathematics tests in grades 4, 6, and 7 for full accreditation will be 70%. Alternatively, in schools that include students who have taken a third-or fifth-grade reading test as well as those who have taken a reading test in grades 4, 6, or 7, the scores of all English tests taken in the school may be combined and the resulting pass rate tested against the 75% benchmark.

Impact on Resources:

The resources needed to modify the computer programs used to calculate accreditation ratings may be absorbed by existing resources at this time.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

NA

Proposed Additions to the *Guidelines Governing Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*

Standard 8 VAC 20-131-300. Application of the standards.

Section C. Accreditation ratings defined.

1. Fully accredited.

a. A school will be rated Fully Accredited when its eligible students meet the pass rate of 70% in each of the four content areas except, effective with ratings earned in the 2003-2004 academic year and beyond, the pass rates required shall be 75% in third- and fifth-grade English and 50% in third grade science and history/social science. In schools housing grades kindergarten through grade five, the English and mathematics pass rates for accreditation purposes shall be calculated for these grades as single pass rates by combining the scores of all grades three and five SOL tests administered in English and by combining the scores of all grades three and five SOL tests administered in mathematics.

Guidelines:

Scores from the reading and mathematics tests administered in grades 4, 6, and 7 will be included in the accreditation ratings of schools administering these tests. The pass rates required for these tests for full accreditation will be 70%. Alternatively, full accreditation may be achieved by combining the scores for the reading tests in grades 4, 6, 7, 8, and end-of-course with the scores for the reading tests at grades 3 and 5 and the writing tests at grades 5, 8, or high school if the resulting combined pass rate meets or exceeds the 75% pass rate required for third- and fifth-grade English.