

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: I.

Date: April 26, 2006

Topic: A Report Clarifying the Determination of the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA) Scaled Scores

Presenters: Dr. Thomas A. Elliott, Assistant Superintendent for Teacher Education, Licensure, and Professional Practice
John Mattar, Senior Area Director, National Evaluation Systems

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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
dates June 22, 2005, February 15, 2006, and March 22, 2006
action June 22, 2005: The Board of Education approved the establishment of the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment.
February 15, 2006: The Board of Education received for first review the recommendation of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure to establish cut scores for the VCLA.
March 22, 2006: The Board approved scaled scores for passing the VCLA.

Background Information:

On March 22, 2006, the Board of Education approved the individual scores of 235 (scaled score) on the reading and writing subtests or meeting the composite scaled score of 470 as minimum passing scores for the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA). The board indicated an interest in reviewing and revising the scaled score, if necessary, after the pool of test-takers increases and additional impact data are available. The department was asked to monitor the passing rates.

Summary of Major Elements:

Prior to releasing any score results for the VCLA, National Evaluation Systems (NES) recalculated the passing rates for the standard-setting study group and noted a difference in the composite passing rate than reported originally. NES reported this discrepancy to the Department of Education immediately upon discovery. Based on the revised calculation by NES, two standard errors of measurement must be taken into account to achieve the intended action of the board at its March 22, 2006, meeting.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept this report clarifying the determination of the VCLA cut scores of 235 (scaled score) on the reading and writing subtests or meeting the composite scaled score of 470.

Impact on Resources: N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action: National Evaluation Systems will complete the VCLA scaled score conversions and issue score reports to all test takers immediately following the board meeting.