

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ J. _____

Date: January 10, 2007

Topic: First Review of a Request to Authorize the Department of Education to Conduct Studies to Determine Factors Contributing to Success in Postsecondary Education

Presenter: Mrs. Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent for Assessment and Reporting
Dr. Linda Wallinger, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Dr. Deborah Jonas, Regional Educational Laboratory, The CNA Corporation

Telephone Number: 804-225-2102 **E-Mail Address:** Shelley.Loving-Ryder@doe.virginia.gov
804-225-2034 Linda.Wallinger@doe.virginia.gov
804-225-2067 Deborah.Jonas@doe.virginia.gov

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:

action:

Background Information:

There is increasing national and state focus on high school students' readiness for postsecondary education. For example, one of the recommended indicators for the National Governors Association honors high school program, of which Virginia is a member, is increasing the percentage of students taking a state assessment or college placement test and earning scores indicating they have met or exceeded a college-readiness level. Further, the Virginia Board of Education emphasis on moving Virginia's students from competence to excellence supports a focus on college readiness. A part of the current discussion on college readiness is a national dialogue about the definition of success in postsecondary education and the factors that comprise

readiness for success with college level work.

Summary of Major Elements:

The Board of Education is asked to authorize the Virginia Department of Education staff to work with institutions of higher education, and local school divisions, researchers, and psychometricians, as well as to conduct studies to identify key indicators of college readiness that may be used to develop measures that identify students as likely prepared for postsecondary work studies. More specifically the proposed studies will address:

1. Systemic policies and practices that affect student achievement in their first year of college; and
2. Key indicators of college readiness, such as Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment scale scores, grade point average, and courses taken, that are associated with college readiness.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and authorize the Department of Education to conduct studies identifying factors related to success in postsecondary education.

Impact on Resources:

The funds needed to conduct the initial studies may be absorbed by existing resources.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

The Department of Education will make periodic reports to the Board on work being done in this area.