

The Board of Education will accept content-based high school end-of-course tests administered as a part of another state's accountability system for the purpose of awarding verified credit to students who transfer to Virginia public schools. When students transfer to a Virginia public school from a state that requires such high school end-of-course tests, the local school division may automatically accept the student's passing score on the test and the corresponding course for the purposes of awarding verified credit.

When students transfer to a Virginia public school from a state that requires a comprehensive subject area examination as a prerequisite for graduation from high school, the Department of Education, at the request of the division superintendent, will review the examination to determine its suitability for use to award verified credit in the same manner as other substitute tests have been reviewed and recommended for approval. In order for a test to be deemed suitable for use, the test must be approved as part of another state's accountability system and approved through the federal standards and assessment peer review process. Such requests shall be submitted by the division superintendent within 30 days of receipt of the student's record.

The Board of Education may delegate the authority for final approval of these tests to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Summary of Major Elements: The resolution presented in this Board item would delegate the final approval of additional tests for the purpose of awarding verified credit to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, under the following specific conditions:

- 1) That the Superintendent report annually to the Board on his exercise of the authority;
- 2) That the Board reserve the right to require the Superintendent to report on the exercise of his authority;
- 3) That the Superintendent conform all actions to Board regulations and laws governing educational programs and policy;
- 4) That the review of the test to determine its suitability for use to award verified credit be conducted in the same manner as other substitute tests have been reviewed and recommended for approval, as set forth in the *Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*. In addition, in order for a test to be deemed suitable for use, the test must be approved as part of another state's accountability system and approved through the federal standards and assessment peer review process;
- 5) That school divisions shall be notified of any such tests that are approved; and
- 6) That the recognition that this delegation is not an abnegation of the Board's power and responsibility.

This delegation of authority shall remain in effect until 8 VAC 20-131-110 is amended by the Board of Education, or until this resolution is amended or rescinded by the Board of Education.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education adopt the resolution to delegate its authority to approve other states' comprehensive tests as substitute tests, subject to the conditions listed above.

Impact on Resources: The impact on resources is expected to be minimal.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: Upon adoption of the resolution, the Department of Education will notify all local school divisions.

Virginia Board of Education Resolution

Delegating Certain Duties to the Superintendent of Public Instruction

Resolution Number 2007-2

May 30, 2007

That the following Board responsibilities, set forth in the cited sections of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8 VAC 20-131-10 et seq.), be delegated to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Under 8 VAC 20-131-110, Standard and Verified Units of Credit, the “Board of Education may from time to time approve additional tests for the purpose of awarding verified credit.” The *Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, approved by the Board of Education in 2006, further states that the Board “may delegate the authority for final approval of these tests to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.”

This delegation of authority shall apply only to those comprehensive subject area examinations approved as part of another state’s accountability system and approved through the federal standards and assessment peer review process.

Such delegation shall also be subject to the following conditions:

- a) That the Superintendent reports annually to the Board on his exercise of the authority and responsibility delegated to him;
- b) That the Board reserves the right to require of the Superintendent a report concerning the exercise of any authority herein delegated;
- c) That the Superintendent’s exercise of the delegated authorities shall conform to all regulations of the Board and laws governing educational programs and policy in Virginia;
- d) That the review of the test to determine its suitability for use to award verified credit be conducted in the same manner as other substitute tests have been reviewed and recommended for approval, as set forth in the *Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*. In addition, in order for a test to be deemed suitable for use, the test must be approved as part of another state’s accountability system and approved through the federal standards and assessment peer review process;
- e) That school divisions shall be notified of any such tests that are approved; and

- f) That this delegation is not an abnegation of the Board's power and responsibility in the areas delegated.

This delegation of authority shall remain in effect until 8 VAC 20-131-110 is amended by the Board of Education, or until this resolution is amended or rescinded by the Board of Education.