Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: L. **Date:** April 24, 2008

Topic: First Review of Recommended Cut Scores for the Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA) in Science

Presenter: Mrs. Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement

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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
_x_ Other: Peer Review Guidance Provided under No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

_x_ Action requested at this meeting __ Action requested at future meeting: ____ (date)

Previous Review/Action:

_x_ No previous board review/action

____ Previous review/action
date _____
action _____

Background Information:
The Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA) was developed initially to assess the achievement of students with disabilities who are unable to demonstrate their attainment of the Standards of Learning through multiple-choice tests. A compilation of student work, called a Collection of Evidence, that represents the student's achievement of the Standards of Learning addressed in the test blueprint is prepared for students participating in VGLA.

The VGLA was first administered in 2004-2005. For 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, the scores required to earn achievement ratings of pass/proficient and pass/advanced on the VGLA were based on the cut scores adopted by the Virginia Board of Education for the associated Standards of Learning tests. However, the peer review guidance provided to Virginia by the United States Department of Education in 2006 stated that this procedure was not an acceptable method of determining the cut scores for the tests used for NCLB and that a separate standard setting process for the reading and mathematics components of VGLA should be conducted. Based on recommendations of committees of Virginia educators, in November 2006, the Virginia Board of Education adopted cut scores representing the achievement levels of fail/basic, pass/proficient, and pass/advanced performance for students in grades 3 through 8 who were submitting Collections of Evidence for the VGLA in the areas of reading and mathematics.

For 2006-2007 the scores required to earn the achievement ratings of pass/proficient and pass/advanced on the VGLA for science continued to be based on the cut scores adopted by the Virginia Board of Education for the associated Standards of Learning tests. Under the requirements of NCLB, by 2007-2008, all states must administer science tests at least once in the elementary school, once at middle school, and once at high school. Because Virginia's science assessments must now comply with NCLB requirements and based on previous guidance supplied by USED for the mathematics and reading VGLA, Virginia Department of Education staff decided that a separate standard setting for the VGLA in science was warranted. On April 1-2, 2008, a committee of educators was convened to recommend cut scores for the achievement levels of pass/proficient and pass/advanced for the science VGLA for grades 3, 5, and 8.

Summary of Major Elements:
A range of recommended cut scores for the achievement levels of pass/proficient and pass/advanced for science for students in grades 3, 5, and 8 will be presented to the Board.

Superintendent's Recommendation:
The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board waive first review and adopt cut scores for the achievement levels of pass/proficient and pass/advanced for the VGLA in science for students in grades 3, 5, and 8.

Impact on Resources:
N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action:
The Board should periodically review the cut scores for the VGLA.

Summary of Analysis Results for VGLA Grade 3 Science

	Proficiency Level					
	Proficient			Advanced		
	Round			Round		
	1	2	3	1	2	3
Cut Score						
75	1					
77		1				
78	1					
80		1	1			
82	1		1			
85	1	1	1			
86	1					
88		1	2			
89	1	1	1			
91		2	2			
95		2	1			
96	1					
98	1					
107	1					
128					1	
130				1	1	2
132					1	1
133				1		
135					1	2
136				1	1	2
137				1	1	
138				3	1	1
139					1	
140				1		
141					1	1
145				1		
N	9	9	9	9	9	9
Average	88.4	87.9	87.7	137.2	135.1	134.8
Median	86.0	89.0	88.0	138.0	136.0	135.0
Std. Deviation	10.26	6.23	4.69	4.21	4.31	3.63
S.E. Mean	3.42	2.08	1.56	1.40	1.44	1.21
S.E. Median	4.29	2.60	1.96	1.76	1.80	1.52

Summary of Analysis Results for VGLA Grade 5 Science

	Proficiency Level					
	Proficient			Advanced		
	Round			Round		
	1	2	3	1	2	3
Cut Score						
41	1					
59	1					
61		1				
64		1				
65	1					
67	1					
70	1	2	1			
71	1					
74		2				
75		1				
76		2				
78	2					
80			3			
83			2			
85	2					
88			1			
90			1			
92		1				
95			1			
99				1		
100			1			
108					1	
110				2		
111				1		
115						1
118				1	1	
120				1	2	1
121					1	
122					1	
123					1	
125				2		1
126				1		
127					3	
128						1
130						4
131				1		
135						1
136						1
N	10	10	10	10	10	10
Mean	69.9	73.2	84.9	117.5	121.3	127.9
Median	70.5	74.0	83.0	119.0	121.5	130.0
Std. Deviation	13.23	8.35	8.61	9.83	5.70	6.42
S.E. Mean	4.18	2.64	2.72	3.11	1.80	2.03
S.E. Median	5.24	3.31	3.41	3.89	2.26	2.54

Summary of Analysis Results for VGLA Grade 8 Science

	Proficiency Level					
	Proficient			Advanced		
	Round			Round		
	1	2	3	1	2	3
Cut Score						
61	1					
69	1					
78		1				
80		1				
82		1				
84	1					
85			2			
90	1	1	3			
91		1				
92	1	1	1			
93	1					
95			1			
96		1				
99		1	1			
102		1	1			
103		1	1			
104	1					
108	1					
109	1					
110	1					
121				1		
139					1	
142						1
143				2		
144					1	
149				1		
150				1	2	5
152						1
153					2	1
154					1	
156				1	2	1
157				1		
159				1		
161					1	1
165				1		
175				1		
N	10	10	10	10	10	10
Mean	92.0	91.3	93.1	151.8	151.6	151.4
Median	92.5	91.5	91.0	153.0	153.0	150.0
Std. Deviation	16.90	8.98	6.47	14.62	6.31	4.88
S.E. Mean	5.35	2.84	2.05	4.62	2.00	1.54
S.E. Median	6.70	3.56	2.56	5.79	2.50	1.93