

# Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_

Date: March 26, 2009

**Topic:** Update on the Web-based Standards of Learning (SOL) Testing Program

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

**Telephone Number:** (804) 225-2102      **E-Mail Address:** [Shelley.Loving-Ryder@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Shelley.Loving-Ryder@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: \_\_\_\_\_

Action requested at this meeting       Action requested at future meeting: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

## Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

Previous review/action  
    date \_\_\_\_\_  
    action \_\_\_\_\_

## Background Information:

In the 2000 session of the General Assembly, legislation was passed that required and funded a statewide Web-based Technology Initiative. The goal of this initiative was for Virginia school divisions to implement online, Web-based SOL instruction, remediation, and testing beginning in Virginia's high schools. The initiative provided funding for school divisions to purchase hardware, purchase software, and to upgrade network and Internet capabilities.

Because the initial focus of the project was Virginia's high schools, the online testing initiative began with the End-of-Course (EOC) SOL tests. The first online EOC tests were administered in fall 2001. Additional EOC tests were phased in to the Web-based delivery system in subsequent administrations so that all EOC tests with the exception of English: Writing were available in the online system by 2003-2004 as specified in the initiative. Following the full implementation of the online EOC tests, SOL tests administered in middle school and elementary school were added to the Web-based system. By 2005-2006 all SOL tests except for the writing tests were available in the online delivery system.

**Summary of Major Elements:**

Since the implementation of the Web-based technology initiative in 2000, Virginia has become a national leader in online testing. An update on the implementation of online testing in Virginia will be provided as well as a brief overview of additional ways in which technology is used to enhance the overall efficiency and effectiveness of Virginia's assessment programs.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the BOE accept the report on the use of technology in Virginia's assessment programs.

**Impact on Resources:**

N/A

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

N/A

