

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: C.

Date: March 18, 2010

Topic: Final Review of a Recommendation of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) to Approve an Option to Meet the Praxis I Reading and Writing Tests for Entry into an Approved Preparation Program

Presenter: Mrs. Patty S. Pitts, Assistant Superintendent for Teacher Education and Licensure

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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
date February 25, 2010
action The Board of Education accepted ABTEL's recommendation for first review.

Background Information:

Section 22.1-298.1 of the *Code of Virginia* requires the Board of Education to prescribe assessments for individuals seeking initial licensure and Section 22.1-298.2 of the *Code* requires that the Board of Education prescribe assessments for individuals seeking entry into an approved education preparation program.

Section 22.1-298.2 (Regulations governing education preparation programs) of the *Code of Virginia*, states, in part, the following:

A. As used in this section:

"Assessment of basic skills" means an assessment prescribed by the Board of Education that an individual must take prior to admission into an approved education preparation program, as prescribed by the Board of Education in its regulations....

- D. The Board shall prescribe an assessment of basic skills for individuals seeking entry into an approved education preparation program and shall establish a minimum passing score for such assessment. The Board also may prescribe other requirements for admission to Virginia's approved education preparation programs in its regulations....

Section 23-9.2:3.6 (Education preparation programs offered by institutions of higher education) of the *Code* states, in part the following:

- A. Education preparation programs shall be required to meet the requirements for accreditation and program approval as prescribed by the Board of Education in its regulations.
- B. As provided in § 22.1-298.2, the Board of Education shall prescribe an assessment of basic skills for individuals seeking entry into an approved education program and shall establish a minimum passing score for such assessment. The Board also may prescribe other requirements for admission to Virginia's approved education programs in its regulations.
- C. Candidates who fail to achieve the minimum score established by the Board of Education may be denied entrance into the relevant education program on the basis of such failure; however, if enrolled in the program, they shall have the opportunity to address any deficiencies.

Effective January 1, 2006, the Board of Education approved the following assessments for individuals seeking initial licensure in Virginia unless an individual meets the exemption criteria as prescribed in the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*:

Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA);
Praxis II (content) Assessments; and
Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA), if applicable.

Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) continued to be the prescribed assessment of basic skills for individuals seeking entry into teacher education programs. The Board of Education also continued to allow the use of a composite score of the Praxis Reading, Writing, and Mathematics tests to meet the Praxis I assessment requirement and the use of the SAT® and ACT® as substitute tests for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics).

Summary of Major Elements

On January 25, 2010, the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure voted to recommend that the Board of Education allow the use of the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA) as an optional test for the Praxis I Reading and Writing tests for individuals seeking entry into teacher education programs. The cut scores for the VCLA prescribed by the Board of Education are as follows:

Writing Sub Test:	235
Reading Sub Test:	235
Composite Score:	470

An individual choosing to use the VCLA (Reading and Writing) as an optional assessment for the Praxis I Reading and Writing tests will be required to meet the Praxis I Mathematics assessment (or equivalent SAT® or ACT® test scores).

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure to approve the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (Reading and Writing) as an optional test for the Praxis I Reading and Writing tests for entry into a teacher preparation program.

Impact on Resources:

The impact on resources is minimal. Costs associated with the test will be incurred by the test taker.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Colleges, universities, and school divisions will be notified of the Board of Education's action.