

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ K. _____

Date: January 13, 2011

Topic: Final Review of Recommended Cut Scores for End-of-Course History Standards of Learning Tests Based on the 2008 History Standards

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
 Other: _____

Action requested at this meeting Action requested at future meeting: _____ (date)

Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

Previous review/action
Date: November 2010

Action: First Review of Recommended Cut Scores for End-of-Course History Standards of Learning Tests Based on the 2008 History Standards

Background Information:

In 2010-2011 new Standards of Learning (SOL) tests measuring the 2008 history content standards will be administered. Because of the changes in the content measured by these tests, new passing scores must be adopted by the Virginia Board of Education. Consistent with the process used in 1998 and in 2003, committees of educators were convened to recommend to the Board of Education (BOE) minimum "cut" scores for the achievement levels of pass/ proficient and pass/advanced for the new tests. Committees for the four end-of-course history tests: World History I, World History II, Virginia and U.S. History, and World Geography met in early November. Standard setting committees for the remaining history tests will be convened in February.

Summary of Major Elements:

Information about the range of cut scores recommended by the committees for the achievement levels of pass/proficient and pass/advanced for the SOL tests in World History I, World History II, Virginia and U.S. History, and World Geography will be presented to the Board. The Board is asked to review this information and to adopt "cut" scores for the World History I, World History II, Virginia and U.S. History, and World Geography SOL tests that represent the achievement levels of pass/proficient and

pass/advanced.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education adopt cut scores representing the achievement levels of pass/proficient and pass/advanced for the end-of-course World History I, World History II, Virginia and U.S. History, and World Geography SOL tests as follows.

- Virginia and U.S. History: 30 for proficient and 53 for advanced as recommended by the Articulation Committee
- World History I: 31 for proficient and 53 for advanced based on the Round 1 results of the standard setting committee
- World History II: 31 for proficient and 52 for advanced based on the Round 1 results of the standard setting committee
- World Geography: 33 for proficient based on Round 1 results of the standard setting committee + 2 standard errors of the median and 54 for advanced based on the Round 1 results of the standard setting committee

Impact on Resources:

N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Following the January 2011 Board of Education meeting, cut scores representing the achievement levels of pass/proficient and pass/advanced for the end-of-course World History I, World History II, Virginia and U.S. History, and World Geography SOL tests will be communicated to school divisions via superintendent's memorandum and to Pearson, Virginia's testing contractor so that scores resulting from the administration of these tests can be reported.