

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: K.

Date: June 23, 2011

Topic: First Review of Recommended Cut Scores for the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program for History and Writing

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 _____

action _____

Background Information:

The Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) is intended to assess the achievement of students with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to participate in the Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment program even with accommodations. A compilation of student work called a Collection of Evidence is prepared for students participating in the alternate assessment program. The VAAP, which is required by the federal *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004* (IDEIA), was first administered in the 2000-2001 school year. VAAP was revised for the 2006-2007 school year based on guidance received from the United States Department of Education as part of the peer review process required under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, and cut scores were adopted by the Virginia Board of Education for mathematics, reading, science, and history.

In 2010-2011 writing was added to the required subject areas to be included in Collections of Evidence for students in grades 5, 8 and high school. This addition was based on the IDEIA requirement that students with disabilities be assessed in the same content areas as their non-disabled peers. In addition, in 2010-2011, the history SOL revised in 2008 were implemented in VAAP. As a part of this implementation, VAAP Collections of Evidence for history for the 2010-2011 school year were prepared using new Aligned Standards of Learning based on the revised 2008 history SOL but reduced

in complexity. In early June 2011 committees of special educators were convened to review VAAP Collections of Evidence for writing and history and to recommend cut scores for pass/proficient and pass/advanced to the Virginia Board of Education.

Summary of Major Elements:

A range of recommended cut scores for the achievement levels of pass/proficient and pass/advanced for the VAAP in writing and history/social sciences for students in grades 3 through 5, 6 through 8, and 9 through 12 will be presented to the Board. Information about the cut scores may be found in Attachment A.

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 VAAP in writing and history/social sciences for students in grades 3 through 5, 6 through 8, and 9 through 12 as follows so that scores can be reported and that Adequate Yearly Progress can be calculated without delay.

VAAP Writing

- Grade 5: 4/8 for pass/proficient as recommended by the Articulation Committee and 7/8 for pass/advanced to ensure adequate rigor in the expectations for a pass/advanced score
- Grade 8: 4/8 for pass/proficient as recommended by the Articulation Committee and 7/8 for pass/advanced to ensure adequate rigor in the expectations for a pass/advanced score
- Grades 9-12: 4/8 for pass/proficient as recommended by the Articulation Committee and 7/8 for pass/advanced to ensure adequate rigor in the expectations for a pass/advanced score

VAAP History

- Grades 3-5: 9/16 for pass/proficient as recommended by the Articulation Committee and 15/16 for pass/advanced to ensure adequate rigor in the expectations for a pass/advanced score
- Grades 6-8: 9/16 for pass/proficient as recommended by the Articulation Committee and 15/16 for pass/advanced to ensure adequate rigor in the expectations for a pass/advanced score
- Grades 9-12: 9/16 for pass/proficient as recommended by the Articulation Committee and 15/16 for pass/advanced to ensure adequate rigor in the expectations for a pass/advanced score

Impact on Resources:

N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Upon approval by the Board of Education, cut scores for VAAP will be disseminated to school divisions via a Superintendent's Memorandum.

Attachment A

**Summary and Background Information on Proposed Cut Scores
for the Writing VAAP Based on 2003 Aligned English Standards of Learning**

	Pass/Proficient			Pass/Advanced		
	Background Information	Standard Setting Summary		Background Information	Standard Setting Summary	
Grade Range	No previous cut scores	Round 3 Median for Proficient	Articulation Committee Recommendation	No previous cut scores	Round 3 Median for Advanced	Articulation Committee Recommendation
Grade 5	N/A	3/8	4/8	N/A	6/8	6/8
Grade 8	N/A	3/8	4/8	N/A	5/8	6/8
High School	N/A	4/8	4/8	N/A	6/8	6/8

**Summary and Background Information on Proposed Cut Scores
for the History VAAP Based on 2008 Aligned History Standards of Learning**

	Pass/Proficient			Pass/Advanced		
	Background Information	Standard Setting Summary		Background Information	Standard Setting Summary	
Grade Range	Pass/Proficient Cut Score for Previous History VAAP **	Round 3 Median for Proficient	Articulation Committee Recommendation	Pass/Advanced Cut Score for Previous Test**	Round 3 Median for Advanced	Articulation Committee Recommendation
Grade 3-5	9/16	8/16	9/16	13/16	13/16	13/16
Grade s 6-8	9/16	8/16	9/16	13/16	12/16	13/16
High School	9/16	9/16	9/16	13/16	13/16	13/16

** Based on the Aligned Standards of Learning for the 2001 History Standards of Learning

