

Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: D

Date: January 12, 2012

Title	Final Review of Recommended Cut Scores for the End-of-Course Standards of Learning Tests in Algebra I and II Based on the 2009 Mathematics Standards		
Presenter	Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent for Student Assessment and School Improvement		
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Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by Board of Education regulation.

Previous Review or Action:

Previous review and action. Specify date and action taken below:

Date: October 1998

Action: Adoption of Cut Scores for the End-of-Course Standards of Learning Tests in Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II

Date: November 17, 2011

Action: First Review of Cut Scores for the End-of-Course Standards of Learning Tests in Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II Based on the 2009 Mathematics Standards

Action Requested:

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

Alignment with Board of Education Goals: Please indicate (X) all that apply:

	Goal 1: Expanded Opportunities to Learn
X	Goal 2: Accountability of Student Learning
	Goal 3: Nurturing Young Learners
X	Goal 4: Strong Literacy and Mathematics Skills
	Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Teachers and Administrators
	Goal 6: Sound Policies for Student Success
	Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools
	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify:

Background Information and Statutory Authority:

In 2011-2012 new Standards of Learning (SOL) tests measuring the 2009 mathematics 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, committees of educators were convened in November 2011 to recommend to the Board of Education (BOE) minimum "cut" scores for the achievement levels of *pass/proficient* and *pass/advanced* for the Algebra I and Geometry tests and *pass/proficient* and *pass/college ready* for the Algebra II test.

Summary of Important Issues:

Information about the range of cut scores recommended by the committees for the achievement levels of *pass/proficient* and *pass/advanced* for the Algebra I and the Geometry tests and *pass/proficient* and *advanced/college path* for the Algebra II test is contained in Attachment A. It is important to note that the *pass/college ready* designation for Algebra II has been changed to *advanced/college path* in response to constituent concerns about potential misinterpretation and based on recommendations from the standard setting committee. The following definition of *advanced/college path* reflects the deliberations of the Algebra II standard setting committee.

A student obtaining an “advanced /college path” score on the Algebra II test should have the necessary knowledge and skills for enrollment, without remediation, in an introductory credit-bearing college mathematics course with Algebra II as the highest prerequisite. Students who achieve an “advanced/college path” score during their high school career are expected to take additional mathematics courses beyond Algebra II as they continue to prepare for college.

The Board is asked to review this information and to adopt "cut" scores for the achievement levels of *pass/proficient* and *pass/advanced* for the Algebra I and Geometry tests and *pass/proficient* and *advanced/college path* for the Algebra II test.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Upon approval by the Board of Education, this information will be disseminated to the school divisions via a Superintendent’s Memorandum.

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 Algebra I and Geometry Standards of Learning Tests and *pass/proficient* and *advanced/college path* for the Algebra II test as follows.

- Algebra I: 25 for proficient and 45 for advanced
- Geometry: 25 for proficient and 44 for advanced
- Algebra II: 27 for proficient and 43 for advanced/college path