

Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: G

Date: May 24, 2012

Title	Final Review of A Recommended Cut Score for the Numeracy Requirement of the Modified Standard Diploma on the Grade 8 Standards of Learning Mathematics Test Based on the 2009 Mathematics Standards		
Presenter	Mrs. Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent, Division of 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: June 26, 2006

Action: Adoption of Cut Scores for the Literacy and Numeracy Assessments Required for the Modified Standard Diploma

Date: April 26, 2012

Action: First Review of a Recommended Cut Score for the Numeracy Requirement of the Modified Standard Diploma on the Grade 8 Standards of Learning Mathematics Test 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:

Goal 2: The approval of a cut score on the new grade 8 mathematics test based on the *2009 Mathematics Standards of Learning (SOL)* to meet the numeracy requirements for the Modified Standard Diploma

will help schools and school divisions increase the academic success of students with disabilities.

Goal 4: The approval of a cut score on the new grade 8 mathematics test based on the *2009 Mathematics Standards of Learning* (SOL) to meet the numeracy requirements for the Modified Standard Diploma will support the development of numeracy skills for students with disabilities.

The *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools* (SOA) effective August 31, 2011, describe the Modified Standard Diploma as “intended for certain students at the secondary level who have a disability and are unlikely to meet the credit requirements for a Standard Diploma. Eligibility and participation in the Modified Standard Diploma shall be determined by the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) team and the student, where appropriate, at any point after the student’s eighth grade year.” The Standards of Accreditation also require students pursuing the Modified Standard Diploma shall pass literacy and numeracy competency assessments prescribed by the Board.

In the *Guidelines for Implementing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, amended by the Board on January 13, 2011, the Board identified the grade 8 Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments in reading and mathematics as the literacy and numeracy assessments for the Modified Standard Diploma. Students may meet the numeracy requirements of the Modified Standard Diploma by achieving an adjusted cut score on the grade 8 SOL mathematics test, passing the Grade 8 Virginia Modified Achievement Standards test in mathematics, or passing an end-of-course mathematics test.

In 2011-2012 new mathematics tests based on the 2009 mathematics SOL were administered. In March 2012 a committee of educators was convened to recommend to the Board of Education a cut score on the new grade 8 SOL mathematics test that would represent the numeracy skills required by the Modified Standard Diploma. This cut score will be used by school divisions solely to verify the numeracy skills of students for the purposes of the Modified Standard Diploma and will have no impact on the scores required to pass the grade 8 mathematics tests.

Summary of Important Issues:

Information about the cut score recommended by the committees for the grade 8 Standards of Learning tests in mathematics as a measure of the numeracy requirements of the Modified Standard Diploma is included in Attachment A. The Board is asked to adopt a cut score for the test for the purpose of verifying the numeracy skills required by the Modified Standard Diploma.

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 a cut score of 25 out of 50 on the grade 8 SOL mathematics test as representing the numeracy requirement of the modified standard diploma.

**Summary and Background Information on Proposed Cut Score
on the Grade 8 Mathematics Test for the Numeracy Requirements of the Modified
Standard Diploma**

	Background Information	Standard Setting Summary	
Test* Name	Pass/Proficient Cut Score for Grade 8 Mathematics Test	Round 3 Median	Superintendent's Recommendation
Grade 8	31 out of 50	25 out of 50	25 out of 50

* Test based on the 2009 Mathematics Standards of Learning