

Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: P

Date: May 24, 2012

Title	First Review of the Work Plan for the Review of the Standards of Quality		
Presenter	Ms. Anne D. Wescott, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communications		
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Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

Action Requested:

Action will be requested at a future meeting. Specify anticipated date below:

Date: June 28, 2012

Action: Final review

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

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

The Standards of Quality is the foundation program for public education in Virginia. Therefore, the review of the Standards of Quality could well address all seven of the Board of Education's goals. The primary goal that the review of the Standards of Quality addresses is that the Board will provide leadership to develop and implement state law in ways that improve and expand opportunities for all of Virginia's schoolchildren to excel academically.

Background Information and Statutory Authority:

Article VIII, § 2 of the *Constitution of Virginia* requires the Board of Education to determine and prescribe Standards of Quality for the public schools in Virginia. The *Constitution* says:

“Standards of quality for the several school divisions shall be determined and prescribed from time to time by the Board of Education, subject to revision only by the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall determine the manner in which funds are to be provided for the cost of maintaining an educational program meeting the prescribed standards

of quality, and shall provide for the apportionment of the cost of such program between the Commonwealth and the local units of government comprising such school divisions. Each unit of local government shall provide its portion of such cost by local taxes or from other available funds.”

The *Code of Virginia* requires the Board of Education to review the Standards of Quality every two years. Section 22.1-18.01 of the *Code* says, in part:

“To ensure the integrity of the standards of quality, the Board of Education shall, in even-numbered years, exercise its constitutional authority to determine and prescribe the standards, subject to revision only by the General Assembly, by reviewing the standards and either (i) proposing amendments to the standards or (ii) making a determination that no changes are necessary....”

The *Code* also requires that the Board’s annual report to the Governor and General Assembly include any recommendations for revisions to the Standards of Quality. Section 22.1-18 of the *Code* says, in part:

“...the Board of Education shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a report on the condition and needs of public education in the Commonwealth and shall identify any school divisions and the specific schools therein which have failed to establish and maintain schools meeting the existing prescribed standards of quality. Such standards of quality shall be subject to revision only by the General Assembly, pursuant to Article VIII, Section 2 of the Constitution of Virginia. Such report shall include a complete listing of the current standards of quality for the Commonwealth's public schools, together with a justification for each particular standard, how long each such standard has been in its current form, and whether the Board recommends any change or addition to the standards of quality.”

On August 7, 1971, the Board of Education adopted the first Standards of Quality (SOQ). They were revised by the General Assembly in 1972 and adopted as uncodified Acts of Assembly. In 1974, they were revised into eight standards. In 1984, they were codified by the General Assembly, and in 1988 they were arranged into their current format.

The Board of Education revised its bylaws in October 2001 to require the Board to “determine the need for a review of the SOQ from time to time but no less than once every two years. The Standing Committee on the Standards of Quality was created by resolution of the Board of Education in November 2001 and held its first meeting in January 2002. It completed its work on its first set of recommendations in June 2003, for consideration by the 2004 General Assembly. Since 2004, it has submitted its recommendations to the General Assembly no less than once every two years.

Summary of Important Issues:

The proposed plan to review the Standards of Quality would include the following actions:

SOQ Committee Meeting – April 25

- Review the provisions of the SOQ (§§ 22.1-253.13:1 through 22.1-253.13:9 of the *Code of Virginia*)
- Determine the questions that will guide the Board’s review of the SOQ
- Review the draft work plan

- Ask stakeholders for input on the guiding questions for the review and the draft work plan (April 27-May 17)

SOQ Committee Meeting – May 23

- Review stakeholder comments on the guiding questions for the review and finalize the guiding questions
- Review stakeholder comments on the work plan and finalize the work plan

Board of Education Meeting – May 24

- First review of the work plan
- Set the public comment period – May 24 through November 15

SOQ Committee Meeting – June 27

- Invite stakeholders to present recommendations to the Board
- Accept public comment

Board of Education Meeting – June 28

- Final review of the work plan

SOQ Committee Meeting – July 25

- Invite stakeholders to present recommendations to the Board
- Accept public comment

SOQ Committee Meeting – September 26

- Discuss draft recommendations to amend the SOQ
- Accept public comment

Board of Education Meeting – September 27

- First review of recommendations to amend the SOQ

Public Hearings – in October

- Northern Virginia
- Tidewater
- Central Virginia
- Southwest Virginia

Board of Education Meeting – November 29

- Final review and approval of recommendations to amend the SOQ

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

The impact on state funds for the review of the Standards of Quality is not expected to be significant and can be absorbed within current resources.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

The Standing Committee on the Standards of Quality will meet in May, June, July, and September. The first review of the proposed revisions to the Standards of Quality is planned for the September 27, 2012 meeting, followed by four public hearings throughout the Commonwealth in October. The final review and approval is planned for the November 29, 2012 meeting.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board accept the work plan for the review of the Standards of Quality for first review.